



Daily Devotionals

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1 JOHN 2:24-27 RESOURCES FOR LIVING

24 See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.

26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

God provides all the resources necessary for living the Christian life. What we provide is the perseverance necessary to assimilate those resources into our lives. Like the man who has inherited a comprehensive collection of carpentry tools from his father does not become a carpenter until he takes the time and makes the effort to learn how to use the tools, one does not grow in his Christian walk without dedicating himself to the use of God's resources.

The Christian life has been thoroughly described in Scripture - that which the people of God have heard from the beginning. However, we need to make sure that it stays within us. For that to happen we must be diligent in prayerfully reading and studying the Bible so that we might come to a greater knowledge of God and his will for how we are to live. Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy when he said that man does not live by bread alone, but by the very word of God (Matthew 4:4). The Word of God is to living a kingdom life as bread is to the sustaining of the physical life. It is not something that we bring into the house and leave unused, but that which must be incorporated daily into our lives. We cannot know the promises of God or realize those promises if we do not open his Word.

But we need more than just the objective presence of Scripture for our Christian growth. In our fallen state and in the midst of a cacophony of voices filling our minds with innovative thoughts, we are like the Ethiopian in the chariot reading Isaiah. When St. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading, he responded by asking St. Philip how he could know what the Prophet was saying if there were no one to interpret for him (Acts 8:30-39). As God supplied St. Philip to the Ethiopian, he has poured out his Spirit upon believers since Pentecost. This anointing is with the revelation and understanding of the Truth of God. The Spirit is like an internal compass that keeps us oriented to the Truth and on course in the living of our lives in obedience to God. Yet without constantly checking his compass and calculating his position the captain of a ship will not arrive at his proper destination. If we ignore the Spirit we will be left adrift in the world and subject to every wave and gust of wind.

God has provided both the internal and external resources necessary for us to know and live according to his will. It is up to us to receive and use these gifts. To do so, means that we have to make the prayerful reading and study of Scripture and an openness to the Spirit the priorities of our lives.

Lord God, without you I cannot know you. Open my heart to the Truth of your Word and to your Spirit of Truth. May they become the sustenance of my life so that I will remain in your will throughout this life and live into your promise of an eternal relationship with you. Amen.

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