

LIFEFAITHFUSION DEVOTIONAL

Enjoying God's Guidance

LIFEFAITHFUSION DEVOTIONAL DAY FOUR

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Proverbs 3:6
1 Chronicles 28:9-10
Romans 8:38-39
Ephesians 1:13-14
Philippians 1:6
Hebrews 8:10-12

DIGGING DEEPER

The Hebrew word *yada* means “to know” on many different levels. Solomon uses *yada* in the context of “acknowledging” God. God commands His people to experience His blessing by acknowledging Him.

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
Help me to acknowledge You by surrendering to Your will and making You the focus of my thoughts. I long to know You more. Reveal Yourself to me. In Jesus' name, Amen.”



ACKNOWLEDGE GOD

The third phrase of this beautiful Proverb, (“...in all your ways acknowledge Him...” Proverbs 3:6a NIV) paints a picture of a man or woman who walks with God intimately in every aspect of life. Genesis 5:24 describes the life of Enoch. Enoch walked with God closely for 365 years. God enjoyed communion with his follower so much that Enoch was ushered into heaven without experiencing death:

“Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.” (Genesis 5:23-24 NIV)

King Solomon was given the command to acknowledge God by his father David when the aging monarch was on his deathbed. The words of a dying man are reserved for only the most significant communication. David obviously felt that these words would shape the rest of his young son's life:

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.” (1 Chronicles 28:9-10 NIV)

David's exhortation to Solomon reveals much about the concept of acknowledging God. A person who walks closely with his Creator will naturally serve God with complete devotion. Passionate discipleship also implies a willing mind—a continual posture of obedience. When a soldier stands before his commander, he has taken a vow to serve and protect his country. In that moment he is poised and ready for his captain's command. David tells his heir that God is not fooled by lip service. Jehovah searches every thought and every motive. The shepherd-king encouraged Solomon to seek after God. Solomon clearly understood such a command, because he had watched David seek God, and he had read his psalms. The warning was equally clear: to fail to acknowledge God, to turn from following Him, would be disastrous for his life and the lives of his offspring.

- What does “seeking God” look like in your life? Is it difficult to spend time alone with God? What are the greatest challenges you face in this regard?
- Spend a few moments meditating on Romans 8:38-39. Paul the apostle paints a picture of God whose love is greater than we can imagine.
- Can you remember a time when you felt really close to God? What were you feeling and thinking when you had this experience? Think further about the circumstances that surrounded that precious time in your life. What were they?

SOLOMON'S SNARE

Solomon's latter reign was a pathetic picture of compromise and apostasy. He failed to acknowledge God and built altars to false deities. Josephus, the Jewish historian who lived in the first century A.D. paints a sad portrait of a man who rejected his spiritual roots and found himself adrift in a sea of bitterness and cynicism:

“He grew mad in his love of women, and laid no restraint on himself in his lusts; nor was he satisfied with the women of his country alone, but he married many wives out of foreign nations; Sidonians, and Tyrians, and Ammonites, and Edomites; and he transgressed the laws of Moses, which forbade Jews to marry any but those that were of their own people. He also began to *worship their gods*, which he did in order to the gratification of his wives, and out of his affection for them. This very thing our legislator suspected, and so admonished us beforehand, that we should not marry women of other countries, lest we should be entangled with foreign customs, and apostatize from our own; lest we should leave off to honor our own God, and should worship their gods...And as he grew into years, and his reason became weaker by length of time, it was not sufficient to recall to his mind the institutions of his own country; so he still showed contempt for his own God, and continued to regard the gods that his marriages had introduced nay, before this happened, he sinned, and fell into an error about the observation of the laws, when he made the images of brazen oxen that supported the brazen sea, and the images of lions about his own throne; for these he made, although it was not agreeable to piety so to do; and this he did, notwithstanding that he had his father as a most excellent and domestic pattern of virtue, and knew what a glorious character he had left behind him, because of his piety towards God. Nor did he imitate David, although God had twice appeared to him in his sleep, and exhorted him to imitate his father. So he died ingloriously.” Josephus: *Antiquities of the Jews*, chapter seven.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Lest we live in fear that we will turn our backs upon God, remember that as believers we have the indwelling Holy Spirit to seal our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14). Paul also promises that the same God who began a good work in us will bring it to completion until Christ returns (Philippians 1:6). The writer to the Hebrews promises that God Himself will put His laws in our minds and write them on our hearts:

“This is the covenant I will make...I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know; from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” (Hebrews 8:10-12 NIV)

- How does it make you feel to know that God through His Holy Spirit will provide you with the grace and the passion to follow Him all of your life?
- As you meditate upon the verses above, take some time to picture the God who has His outstretched arms around you to guard your soul and protect you from all enemies. Give Him thanks for that reassurance.
- Spend some time praying about your walk with God. Read 1 John 1:9 and confess your sin as you picture yourself standing before the cross of Jesus. See Jesus saying these wonderful words to you: “It is finished!” His blood has purchased your forgiveness.

Walking intimately with God everyday was not King Solomon’s strength. His father, King David, knew it was a key to Solomon’s success in life, but Solomon was not able to follow the guidance of either his father’s instructions or God’s commands. Tomorrow we will learn about “God’s Promise to Guide Us.”

APPLYING THE TRUTH

Read: Genesis 5:23-24; 1 Chronicles 28:9-10; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14;
Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 8:10-12

In the area below, write out the Scripture(s), thought(s), and question(s) from today’s devotional that you want to spend more time thinking about. What will you apply to your life?