

Short Bible Devotions

Here's a handful of short Bible studies written to help you shape your prayers. Try as many as you can make time for!

Devotion 1: Living in the love of Jesus

Read Ephesians 3 verses 14-21, and then pray for God's help!

1. In v16-17, where is Paul praying that Jesus Christ would be, by his Spirit?
2. *Reflect.* In the Bible, the "heart" controls all of human thoughts, desires and actions. Why is it good to pray that the Spirit of Jesus is in your heart?
3. Paul knows the Ephesians already know the gracious love of Jesus. Yet how does he want this knowledge to increase, in v18-19?
4. *Reflect.* **Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)** Paul is praying that Christians know and live in the depth of Jesus' gracious, forgiving and powerful love in every corner of their lives. In which corners of your life do you need or want to know the love of Jesus today?

Why not pray that Jesus and his love would fill and direct your life today, in every corner? Bring to him the corners you have just named in question 4.

Devotion 2: Persistent in Prayer

Read Luke 18 verses 1-8, and then pray for God's help!

1. In v1, why is Jesus teaching this parable?
2. In v2-5, we are shown a widow and a judge. What does the widow know the judge has the power to do, and why does he eventually help her?

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

3. *Reflect.* What makes the judge like God, in our verses in Luke? Compared to the verses above from 1 Peter, how is the judge a poor picture for God?
4. In v6-8, what do Christians, the "chosen ones" of God, need to do and keep doing, as an expression of faith until Jesus comes again? How is this like the widow?
5. *Reflect.* What have you stopped praying about? Or never started praying about?

Why not pray about your answers to question 5 right now? Ask God to hear and answer your prayer, and ask for help to be persistent in prayer.

Devotion 3: How long, O LORD?

Read Psalm 13, verses 1-6, and then pray for God's help!

1. In v1-4, what does David's current experience of life feel like? Where do the pressures he is facing appear to come from and how permanent are they?
2. *Reflect.* The Psalms are in the Bible to help us pray in our own experiences. What is discouraging for our lives about this experience of David being in the Bible? What is encouraging for us that this prayer is in the Bible?
3. What requests does David make of God in v3?
4. What does David believe about God, even in these incredibly hard times? (v3, v5, v6)?
5. *Reflect.* How does this Psalm help you pray today? How does it prepare you to pray in hard times ahead?
Pray to God with all honesty about your troubles. Ask for his light to guide the way ahead, and help to trust in his unfailing love, whatever your situation.