

Philippians

This is devotional guide, which is designed to help you dig into God's Word, and get something out which will have an effect on your life. Remember, The purpose of devotions is to change your life, not merely to learn more about the Bible. The following diagram illustration illustrates the goals of a regular devotional life:

Be sure to begin and end the time with prayer. You can open just by asking God to speak to you today. Often, there are suggestions for prayer in the questions. This is a guide, so use it with flexibility. The following format is recommended:

1. Read the suggested verses.
2. Write down some thoughts that may be suggested to you on the lines marked "Initial Thoughts."
3. Read the questions.
4. Re-read the verses and mediate on the questions, writing in answers AFTER you have thought them through.
5. Close with a good season of prayer.

The study is on the book of Philippians in the New Testament.

Day # 1:

Read and meditate on Philippians 1:1-5

Initial Thoughts (what it says to you):

1. What should be our attitude and actions toward other Christians?
2. Think of some obstacles in you life, which are preventing these attitudes and actions.
3. Have prayer for a Christian you know. Be as specific as possible. Include thanksgiving.

Day # 2:

Read Psalm 145:1-7. Make a list of reasons why you should praise God. Take time to praise Him.

Read and memorize Philippians 1:

Initial Thoughts:

1. What evidence do you have that He has begun and new work in you?
2. Being as specific as possible, how is God trying to change your life right now?

Day # 3:

Read and meditate on Philippians 1:7-11.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What does Paul's prayer for the Philippians believers include?
2. Take a couple of minutes in quiet mediation and ask: "How does this prayer apply to me?" Jot down your thoughts.
3. Think of a specific way you can express love to someone today. Write it below and be sure to do it.

Day # 4:

Read and meditate on Philippians 1:12-14.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What has been the effect of Paul's trials on himself? Others?
2. What trials are you facing? How are they affection you? Others?
3. Bring these trials to God in prayer, praying over each specific aspect of the trial, and ask that Christ might be glorified in it.

Day # 5:

Read and mediate on Philippians 1:15-18.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What are some motives for preaching the Gospel?
2. Make a list of people who need to hear the Gospel from you.
3. What inhibits you from sharing?
4. Pray for these people one by one, then bring yourself to God asking to be strengthened by His Spirit that you might share with each.

Day # 6:

Read and meditate on Philippians 1:19-20

Initial Thoughts:

1. Meditate on how Christ can "be exalted in my body." Write your thoughts.
2. What are some things that may be stopping you from exalting Christ in your body?
3. Have a time of prayer concerning these things.

Day # 7:

Read and meditate on Philippians 1:21-24.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What is Paul's attitude towards death?
2. How can this be an encouragement to you?
3. Do you have fears of death? Bring these to God in prayer. Perhaps you might wish to study I John 4:11-21 or I Corinthians 15.

Day # 8:

Read and meditate on Philippians 1:22, 25, 26.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What was Paul's attitude toward life?
2. List some ways in which you can be a fruitful laborer for Christ.
3. Pick out one thing from your list, which you can do today. Make a plan to carry it out.

Day # 9:

Read and meditate on Philippians 1:27-30.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What are some things, which Paul is encouraging the Philippian believers to do?
2. Are you experiencing any suffering or conflict? How?
3. How could you "stand firm" in the midst of such conflict?

Day # 10:

Read and meditate on Philippians 2:1-4.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What should be our attitude toward other people?
2. Can you think of some particular people with whom you are having difficulty with this? Why?
3. What are some ways you can show love to them?
4. Have a time of prayer for these, asking God to show you new ways of loving.

Day # 11:

Read and meditate on Philippians 2:5-11

Initial Thoughts:

1. Make a list of all the things you can learn about Christ from this section of scripture
2. What does this mean to you?
3. Meditate on these truths for a couple of minutes, and then have good season of praise to Christ for who He is.

Day # 12:

Read on Philippians 2:5-11 again.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What is the attitude Paul is talking about in verse 5?
2. Why is it that sometimes we don't "have this attitude" in ourselves?
3. How would "this attitude" help us through our regular day?
4. Try to memorize one of these verses to carry with you through the day so that your attitude would be different. Have prayer.

Day # 13:

Read and meditate on Philippians 2:12-16.

Initial Thoughts:

1. Do you ever indulge in the actions outlined in verse 14? When and why?
2. Take a few moments to note what v. 15 has to say to you.
3. Have a time of prayer for the things you have noted above. Ask Him to help you overcome these patterns or give you strength to endure particular persecutions, which come from such a world.

Day # 14:

Read and meditate on Philippians 2:17-18.

Initial Thoughts:

1. Where and when should Christians have joy?
2. What are some ways we can share our joy with others?
3. What joy can you share with others today?
4. Pray that you will be strengthened to share this with one particular person today. Pray for that person.

Day # 15:

Read and meditate on Philippians 2:19-22.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What are some positive characteristics, which Timothy manifested?
2. What are some ways you are seeking after your own interests and not those of Christ?
3. Make this a focus of prayer. Denying self is a life-long process, which takes much prayer (Matthew 16:24).

Day # 16:

Read and meditate on Philippians 2:23-27 again.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What are some positive characteristics of Epaphroditus?
2. He ministered to Paul's needs. Is there someone who has needs you could minister to? Who and how? Make a plan to start
3. Have a time of prayer that God would soften your heart so that you could be more sensitive to the needs around you.
4. On a card, place several names of people God would want you to pray for and place it in your Bible. Make these a focus of prayer.

Day # 17:

Read and meditate on Psalm 146 and Philippians 2:28-30.

Initial Thoughts:

1. Make a list of God's attributes for which you can praise Him from this Psalm. Have a time of praise to Him (this is a good practice to get into each day. You might want to begin doing this: starting with Psalm 1 tomorrow, reading a psalm each day).
2. How did Paul urge the people at Philippi to receive Epaphroditus?
3. What are some practical ways we can receive other Christians in this way?
4. Have a time of prayer asking God to show you ways in which you can be hospitable to other Christians.

Day # 18:

Read and meditate on Philippians 3:1-14. You might want to start with a time of praise around Psalm 1.

Initial Thoughts:

1. Summarize what Paul is trying to say in this portion of scripture in a sentence or two.
2. What are some ways this section could apply to you?
3. Have a time of prayer over these things.

Day # 19:

Reread Philippians 3:3-1. One way to get a better grasp on scripture is to read a section and then reread it paragraph by paragraph or sentence by sentence to get a closer view as well as an overview.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What is Paul warning the Philippians about?
2. What are the three ways mentioned in v. 3 to be of the true circumcision?
3. Write a couple of specific ways we could do these things.
4. Have a prayer over these things.

Day # 20:

Read and meditate on Philippians 3:4-7. I hope you are trying to read a psalm a day for praise.

Initial Thoughts:

1. What are some of the things Paul could have relied on to "feel" that he was close to God?
2. Paul realized that his piety did not make him right with God. What are some ways you have relied on to be right with God (good works, Etc.)?
3. What do you have to do with these in order to be right with God? Compare with v. 7, 9?
4. Have prayer, counting these things loss.

Day # 21:

Read and meditate on Philippians 3:8-14.

Initial Thoughts:

1. Where does true righteousness come from (v.9)?
2. Paul has one overriding goal: to gain Christ (v.8) Have you counted everything loss for this goal? What are you holding back?
3. What are some things that come to us when we do count it all loss as mentioned in these verses?
4. Have prayer over the things you have thought about today.

Day # 22:

Read and meditate on Philippians 3:12-14.

Initial Thoughts:

1. How does Paul view his walk with Christ?

2. How does verse 13 give encouragement to someone who may feel like a failure in the Christian walk?
3. What are some practical things God is calling you to leave behind?
4. What would He have you put in their place? Have prayer over these things.

Day # 23:

Read and meditate on Philippians 3:15-21.

Initial Thoughts:

1. In one sentence, summarize what Paul is trying to say.
2. What are some ways that what Paul is saying applies to you?
3. Have prayer over these things.
4. If you have not done so, read a psalm and have a time of praise around it.

Day # 24:

Read and meditate on Philippians 3:15-21.

Initial Thoughts:

1. Two walks are described here. What are they?
2. What characterizes each?
3. Which describes your walk most accurately?
4. Write down one specific way you believe God has been speaking to you in which He wants your walk (life) to change.

Have a time of prayer around this and ask Him to give you a plan you can begin to implement today.

Day # 25:

Read and meditate on Philippians 4:1-3.

Initial Thoughts:

1. In a sentence or two, summarize what Paul is trying to say in this chapter.
2. What are some things, which apply to you (promises, instructions, sins, practices)?
3. Have a time of prayer over these things.

Day # 26:

Read and meditate on Philippians 4:1-4.

Initial Thoughts:

1. Paul gives four instructions in these four verses. What are they?
2. Pick out one of these to work on. What would hinder you from carrying it out?
3. Practically, what are some things you could do to carry out this instruction?
4. Have prayer, asking God to enable you to incorporate this into your life.

Day # 27:

Read and meditate on Philippians 4:5-7.

Initial Thoughts:

1. List specific things, which should be included when we pray.
2. How are we to avoid anxiety? Do you? Are there areas where you are failing? Where?
3. What is the result of an effective prayer life?
4. Have a time of prayer. Carefully plan each part of it so it includes all the things you listed in #1 above.

Update your prayer card for intercession.

Day # 28:

Read and meditate on Philippians 4:8-9.

1. How is our thought life related to our emotional stability?
2. Negative attitudes and thoughts lead to sin. What does Paul say our thought life should be like?
3. Take a couple of moments to think about each instruction in v. 8 and write some specific ways each instruction could be fulfilled in your life (i.e. if you have difficulty with a person, you could concentrate on their positive traits). Pray about these things.

Day # 29:

Read and meditate on Philippians 4:10-17.

Initial Thoughts:

1. The Philippians have sent Paul a gift of money. How does Paul say it will help the Philippians (v.17)?
2. In what ways do Christians have a responsibility to share in giving to others and the church (you might also look at II Corinthians 9:6-12)?
3. Examine your own practice of giving. Would God have anything here to change?
4. Have a time of prayer over this aspect of your life.

Day # 30:

Read and meditate on Philippians 4:11-13, 19.

Initial Thoughts:

1. How did Paul view His circumstances?
2. What was the key to Paul's contentment?
3. Are there some areas of your life where you are discontent (complaining, etc.)?
4. Make these a focus of prayer and give them in a definite way to God. Ask Him to show you any sin involved here or what you can do in these things.