DESTINY TRAINING LEVEL 1
MODULE 1
CLASS 02

CULTIVATING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Biblical Reference: He makes me lie down in green pastures (Psalm 23:2a).

I. CLASS OBJECTIVES

1. To know what a devotional is.
2. To understand some practical keys to developing a devotional life.
3. To understand the basics of prayer.

III. INTRODUCTION

A. David was Committed to Keeping His Devotional Life with God

1. **He loved God's house.** *"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple."* (Psalm 27:4 NKJV)
2. **He prayed daily.** ***1*** *"O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.* ***2*** *So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.* ***3*** *Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.* ***4*** *Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name."* (Psalm 63:1-4 NKJV)
3. **He was always aware of God's presence.** *"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."* (Psalm 145:18 NKJV)

B. David's Devotional Life was Built on His Relationship with God

David didn't follow a schedule, nor did he follow any rules and regulations in his devotions. His devotions were born out of his relationship with God.

1. God was a real person to David
2. He didn't have to do his devotions but he wanted to spend that time with God. He hungered for God and out of that hunger a beautiful relationship developed.

IV. LESSON: CULTIVATING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A. What is a Devotional?

1. We communicate with God through prayer. We must set aside a specific time every day to be alone with God in order to develop and intimate relationship with Him. As we establish a habit of spending time with Him, this is what we call a devotional.

2. During this time we can share what is in our hearts with Him and He reveals His will to us and expresses His great love for us.

3. To have an effective devotional, it is important to:
   a. Set a time frame.
   b. Look for a private place where you may share your heart with God.
   c. Be sincere with yourself and God.
   d. Have a Bible, notebook, pen / pencil to write down all the things God will speak to you through His Word.
   e. Make a list of all your requests that you will bring to the Lord in prayer.

B. Four Things To Know When You Do Your Devotional

1. **Start to pray with joy and thanksgiving.** Nothing can cause greater joy in our hearts than being in the presence of the Lord. The attitude of our hearts determines the success of our prayer life. A grateful heart knows how to acknowledge God's work in every aspect of life.

   Psalm 100:2, 4 (NKJV)
   2 Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.
   4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

2. **Having an attitude of praise.** When God gave Jonah a mission to preach to the city of Nineveh, his heart wasn't in it. So Jonah ran from his mission. Because Jonah ran in the opposite direction trouble soon followed him and eventually he ended up on the belly of a great fish. In the darkest of times he admitted his sin and asked for God's forgiveness. Jonah's words were:

   Jonah 2:9-10 (NKJV)
   9 But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'" **10** And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3. **Understanding God's Word.** Faith is spiritual and cannot be obtain intellectually therefore it is received in our spirit. The Word of God can only penetrate the deepest part of our being when we open our hearts with child-like innocence.

Psalm 32:8 (NLT)
The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

4. **When we understand God's Word, our heart will be on fire!** So we need to receive God's Word like a child and He will reveal it to our hearts.

   Luke 24:32 (NKJV)
   And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

C. Jesus Taught His Disciples To Pray

1. Prayer is the key that allows you to relate to God. When you enter your home you need the correct key to unlock your door. In like manner, prayer is the key that leads us to communicate with God.

2. Prayer is always answered. God delights in listening to every word that comes out of your mouths.

   Mark 11:24 (NKJV)
   Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them,* and you will have *them.*

3. We pray in the Name of Jesus.

   John 14:13-14 (NKJV)
   13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it.*

4. Jesus is the only Mediator. When you come to God in prayer, you should pray in the powerful Name of Jesus. When you do He becomes a bridge, the mediator, between you and God.

   1 Timothy 2:5
   For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,

5. Jesus said, "yes" to all the promises God made to you.

   2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)
   For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

D. Have a Journal for Your Prayer Requests (A Book of Dreams)

1. Keeping a journal is a great way to record what the Lord is speaking to you.

2. In your journaling you should have an entry for your prayer request to the Lord. Then when your prayers are answered you will be amazed at how good the Lord is in confirming His Word in your life.

V. CONCLUSION

A personal relationship with God is an extraordinary source of life.

Decide to begin a new stage in your life where you follow these simple truths. They will allow you to walk along a path of success and fulfillment where you will experience God's greatest in your life.

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