

appnotes

DAY 1

READ PSALM 1

Some of us couldn't keep a plastic plant alive. You won't even find a green pinky on these people. But even they know that a plant needs sunlight, water, and good soil to grow. The same is true in your spiritual life. Who you grow into is the result of where you plant yourself. That's what Psalm 1 is all about. When we put ourselves in a place to listen to what God says and go where He leads our lives grow in happiness and influence. It's not just for our benefit either! As you grow so does your capacity to assist others on their journey. If you want that kind of life, you need to ask yourself: What am I doing to make sure I am hearing from God on a regular basis?

DAY 2

READ JAMES 1:19-26

We've all seen really smart people make stupid mistakes. Maybe you've even been that really smart person! The truth is, we've all done it. It's always easier to know better than to do better. James, the brother of Jesus, warns us about fooling ourselves into thinking we are doing alright in life just because we know what is right. In reality, we know we are on the right path when we do something with the direction God has given. Author Larry Osborne calls this the "Dimmer Switch Principle" in his book *Spirituality for the Rest of Us*. Larry writes, "When we respond to the light we have, God gives us more. When we don't, He takes away the light we already have." What are you doing with what God has already shown you?

DAY 3

READ TITUS 2:11-14

Teachers powerfully shape the way we see the world. A passionate teacher can pass on a hunger for learning. A dry instructor can cripple a child's curiosity. In the same way, many kinds of teachers can shape our view of God. For good or for evil, our homes, denominations, pastors or priests, and circumstances shape the way we see God. We all end up with a mixed bag of ideas about who God is and how life is really supposed to work. Today's passage seeks to clarify things for those who are followers of Jesus. The thing is, no matter what classroom you grew up in, grace is your teacher now. And grace is a game changer. It tosses out the guilt, removes the performance reviews, celebrates the small steps, loves the unlovely, gives second chances, and breathes life into the tired soul. Now grace gets the run of the place—for everything else, class is dismissed.

DAY READ 2 PETER 1:1-11

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God loves you just the way you are, but He loves you too much to leave you there. When God rescues a sinner He is just getting started. God did not just save us from something - He saved us for something. As we see in today's reading, as our character grows so does our effectiveness. We need to develop our personal integrity, understanding, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love. If that sounds tough, you're right! That's why it's so incredible that God has already given us "everything we need for a godly life." How does it work? As you chase Jesus, practice putting on the character that would make Him pleased.

DAY READ GALATIANS 5:16-25

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It's always comical when adults jump in to help the kids play tug-of-war! The big people are moving the line back and forth while the little people bounce back and forth, their little faces scrunched with fierce determination. Everyone knows that there is no chance the kids will win on their own—they don't have the strength. But if they are pulling with an adult they might just walk away with a victory. That's the picture in Galatians 5:16-25. There is a tug-of-war in your soul between your desire to do good and your propensity to mess it up. There is no way the giant of our old ways will go down if we pull alone—but when we pull with the Spirit we walk away with a victory.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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