

DISCOVERING GOD



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365 Daily Devotions

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Discovering God: 365 Daily Devotions

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When we think of the early explorers who left their homes and their comfortable lives to discover the New World beyond their horizons, we often think of Christopher Columbus, who sought to find the East Indies by traveling west. Interestingly enough, what he sought and what he found were quite opposite. Instead of reaching the riches of the spice trade in Asia, he opened up subsequent voyages to the American continents and the exploration of the Western Hemisphere. While Columbus's navigational projections were wrong, he was able to make a great contribution to the world. But isn't that typical of life? What we seek and what we ultimately discover are often two different things.

Looking to God each day for direction and purpose is also a time of exploration and discovery. We go to the Word of God seeking to know more about the One who created our world and everything in it. And there we find treasures that were never sought but become so precious to us. Peace, comfort, hope, consolation in disappointments, and solace in loss—all of these and more are found in a daily devotional time. This 365-day devotional—*Discovering God*—is designed to give you a starting point each day with God. It contains a Scripture, a heartwarming devotional thought, and a quote to take you through the day. Make *Discovering God* a habit—and allow God to open new horizons to you as you seek His Word daily.

Dr. David Jeremiah

Fall 2015




JANUARY

January 1

ATTENTION

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

PSALM 90:12



Ever since God issued the Ten Commandments, we've understood there's something special about that number. It serves as the foundation for our numerical system. Ten is the sum of the first four numbers (1 + 2 + 3 + 4) and the first two-digit number. It brings us full circle. We view ten as complete and perfect, which is why we often say, "On a scale from one to ten . . ."

Ten years make a decade. And since we only have about seven of those, we should pay attention. Verse 10 of Psalm 90 says that our current earthly lives are zipping by. Our years are "soon cut off, and we fly away." But God is our "dwelling place in all generations," from "everlasting to everlasting" (verses 1-2).

Starting the year *without* Christ is like jumping into a dark, unknown patch of the future. But *with* our Lord, it's like taking a step with the One who holds the future.

Lord, remind us to turn our attention to the importance of each day, each year, and each decade. Help us to make our lives count for Christ.

O Father, let Thy watchful eye still look on us in love, that we may praise Thee, year by year, with angel hosts above.


MEAUX BREVIARY

January 2

TRADING STRESS FOR A SONG

Let us go into His tabernacle; let us worship at His footstool.

PSALM 132:7



A Netherlands-based electronics firm created a bracelet that senses a person's emotional state and alerts the wearer when emotions rise to unhealthy levels. The product was developed chiefly for stock traders on European exchanges. When trading becomes too intense and the trader's blood pressure rises, the device issues a warning to the wearer to "take a time-out, wind down, or reconsider his actions," according to the manufacturer. The results are, hopefully, beneficial to both stockbrokers and investors.

If everyone on earth were wearing such a bracelet right now, how many devices would be sensing stress? Would yours?

The greatest antidote to stress is worship. Worship is recognizing God's greatness and glory and, in response, expressing our pleasure and praise. It's not about us, how we feel, or the kind of music we enjoy. It's about the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It's about who He is and what He has done.

To control stress, we don't need a bracelet on our wrists, but simply a heart of worship that adores and praises the greatness of God's glory.

*God wants worshippers before workers; indeed
the only acceptable workers are those who
have learned the lost art of worship.*


A. W. TOZER

January 3

DIVINE DELAYS

Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.”

EXODUS 13:17



Not a day goes by when our plans aren't changed by circumstances beyond our control. Natural disasters, house repairs or car trouble, unexpected illness, traffic jams on the freeway, a friend or neighbor with an emergency need—the list goes on. The question is, Can we trust that God is in those unforeseen challenges?

A rarely read verse in Exodus (13:17) tells how God led the newly freed Hebrew nation into the Sinai Desert instead of along the south-east coast of the Mediterranean Sea into the Promised Land. Why? So the Hebrews wouldn't encounter the Philistines who inhabited that region, be attacked, and return to Egypt for safety. The Hebrews grumbled loud and long about the Sinai sand and sun, but at least they were alive. If they had met the Philistines, many of them might have been slaughtered.

The next time your path is changed unexpectedly, trust by faith that God is in it and that the change was for a good reason (Romans 8:28).

Hope is the foundation of patience.


JOHN CALVIN

January 4

LIFE ON PURPOSE

Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience
by the things which He suffered.

HEBREWS 5:8



If John 3:16 is the most recognizable verse in the entire Bible, then Romans 8:28 is surely next: “We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Christians love this verse because it says that everything—the good and the bad—that happens in our lives will be used by God for a good purpose.

While that is comforting, Romans 8:28 doesn’t tell us what the good purpose is, but we are told in the next verse: “Whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” God’s purpose is to make us look more like His Son. Our lives follow the same pattern of testing that Jesus followed: “He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8). Our purpose is to obey God, as Jesus did. As we trust and obey Him, we will begin to look more and more like His Son.

Whether this day is “good” or “bad” in your sight, it has moved you closer to the image of Jesus.

*God is working out his eternal purpose, not only in spite
of human and satanic opposition, but by means of them.*


A. W. PINK

January 5

GREATER AND LESSER LIGHTS

[Jesus said,] “You are the light of the world.
A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

MATTHEW 5:14



Most lights get their power from another source. A fire is lit in a fireplace with a match, an ancient oil lamp was set alight by a flame from another source, and a modern lamp gets its power from an electric current. The Bible says there are two sources of spiritual light in this world—the greater source giving light to the lesser.

In one of His “I am” statements, Jesus said He was the “light of the world.” So Jesus is *the* light of the world, but He also told His disciples, “You are the light of the world.” In fact, He compared us to a lamp that is given light by another source. Jesus is the greater light, and as His followers we are the lesser lights. We have light in us because He lives in us. We have light to offer the world when we allow His light—the light of His glory and grace—to shine through us and push back the darkness.

Like a lamp that needs to be lit each night, make sure you connect with your spiritual Light Source every morning, through prayer or reading His Word, so that His light will shine through you to the world.

It's not necessary to blow out your neighbor's light to let your own shine.


M. R. DEHAAN

January 6

SALTY SAINTS

[Jesus said,] “Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?”

LUKE 14:34



Salt is essential to life. Without it, our cardiovascular and nervous systems would stop working. Long before refrigeration was invented, salt was used as a preservative to keep meat from spoiling—and to provide flavor for foods. Salt gives life, preserves life, and flavors life—it is one of the most important minerals found on planet Earth.

Jesus told His disciples that they were the “salt of the earth.” They were to have a saving, preserving, and flavoring influence wherever they went and with whomever they interacted. Interestingly, much of the salt used in Israel was from the Dead Sea and was mixed with noxious minerals that spoiled its purity and flavor. In such a case, the salt was good for nothing; it was rendered useless and had to be thrown out. If our lives become polluted by the things of this world, our ability to save, preserve, and flavor life will be diluted and weakened accordingly. Our mission is not just to be salt, but to be *pure* salt.

In whose life are you serving as a saving, preserving, and flavoring influence? Don't lose your power by becoming mixed with the spoiled salts of this world.


We are the salt of the earth, mind you, not the sugar. Our ministry is truly to cleanse and not just to change the taste.

VANCE HAVNER

January 7
WALK WORTHY

Walk worthy of God who calls you into
His own kingdom and glory.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:12



For months, a runner prepared for her marathon. She exercised, ate right, and got adequate sleep. The day of the race, she started out strong, but a little over halfway to her goal, she began to doubt. Did she have the strength to finish? She slowed her pace. People along the marathon route encouraged her to continue. “Go! Go! Go!” they shouted. She ran on with her heart pounding and her breath coming in gasps until she finished the race.

We prepare ourselves for our spiritual walks by reading the Bible, praying, and fellowshiping with other believers. When we are faithful, God empowers us to live for Him. Sometimes, though, we walk through difficult places, and we can begin to doubt. That’s when we need fellow Christians to come alongside and remind us that we already have the strength to walk worthy of God.

You may be struggling today. You may be wondering if you can make it. You can. Like the runner, you’ve prepared yourself. Don’t let doubts creep in. You can finish the race. God has already given you the strength and ability to walk worthy of Him. Go! Go! Go!

You don't win on emotion. You win on execution.

TONY DUNGY