

TOP PRIORITY
MANNA

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Holy Bible

Top Priority: Manna 2

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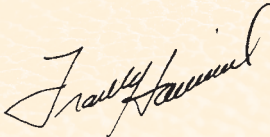
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FOR CHRIST

FOREWORD

You cannot consider the greatness of God and what He has done for you without soon coming to the conclusion that He must have the first claim on your life. In fact, Christ, on the basis of His person and His work on the cross, must have first claim to your time, your life, your affections, your income, and your mind.

This generation needs teens that are willing to give God their prime time. If you give God your prime time, He will honor and bless you much more than you can receive. He has made you His top priority. Have you made Him your top priority?



Frank Hamrick
President, Positive Action For Christ

PREFACE

Psalm 119:97 "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day."

How can I make my devotions more meaningful? Both young and old ask this question. Often teens read because they know they should, but they have no definite direction for a daily reading schedule.

Devotions become vital as particular needs are met in the passages studied. In this devotional book, it is hoped that guidelines will be given that meet the most typical needs of Christians, and that your time with the Lord each day will be more meaningful as you make His Word your Top Priority each day.



Les Ollila
Chancellor, Northland Baptist Bible College

AN EXPLANATION...

Psalm 119:97 "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day."

The purpose of the Top Priority devotional manual is to help you make the Lord your top priority in life. This is done by providing you with a daily devotional plan through which you meet with the Lord and get daily direction for your life.

Top Priority consists of two sections: 1) The reading and probe questions arranged by months. Here you will find daily passages to be read and two questions for each day that you are to answer. The first question helps you ponder a key truth in the passage, and the second question directs you to consider your own life and how you can apply the truth of the passage. 2) The devotional form where you will record your daily responses.

Each day you will first read the questions and the passage assigned. You will then ponder the passage (meditate) and record your answer to the first question. Finally, you will apply the truth learned to your life that day by responding to the personalization question. For example...

Friday: Date October 12, 2004 _____

Passage: Proverbs 6:1-11 _____

Ponder: What can I learn from an ant? The ant does not have a supervisor. No one tells her what to do or when to do it, but she works daily to fill her storehouse in preparation for the winter. She doesn't waste her time by always sleeping.

Personalize: In what areas of my life do I need to be more like an ant? I put off important responsibilities until the last minute when it is too late to do my best (I procrastinate). I start projects, but I don't see them through to the end. Many evenings and weekends when I am home, I waste time when I could be helping out at home, studying, or spending time in God's Word.

SEPTEMBER

“O HOW LOVE I THY LAW! IT IS MY MEDITATION ALL THE DAY.” PSALM 119:97

1. Daniel 1:1–21
These young Jewish men were in Babylon because of Judah's idolatry. What does God's activity in their lives show about His character?
In what areas of my life am I making hard decisions because I want to be faithful to my God?
2. Daniel 2:1–23
How does Daniel demonstrate spiritual leadership?
In what areas of my life have I failed to praise God for His provision?
3. Daniel 2:24–49
What might have been God's purpose in revealing the dream to Daniel?
How can I demonstrate the kind of confidence in God that Daniel had?
4. Daniel 3:1–30
What does the young men's answer to Nebuchadnezzar in verses 16–19 indicate about their priorities?
How is my view of God similar to or different from Nebuchadnezzar's?
5. Daniel 4:1–37
How would I describe the change in Nebuchadnezzar's view of God?
How do I actively give God credit for my accomplishments?
6. Daniel 5:1–31
What specific fact in verses 17–23 offers a likely reason for why Belshazzar was found wanting?
In what areas of my life do I know the truth but not practice it?
7. Daniel 6:1–28
How might Daniel's excellent spirit (vs. 3) have been visible to the people around him?
As I examine my own faith in God, what might I have done differently if I were in Daniel's situation?
8. Matthew 13:1–23
The one factor that determines the outcome of the sown seed is the condition of what?
What kind of soil is my heart?
9. Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43
What makes the tares so difficult to deal with?
How am I living my life in light of the fact that I know how the world's story ends?
10. Matthew 13:31–34, 44–46
Why did Jesus speak in parables? (Consider verses 10–17, also.)
Does my life demonstrate that I understand the value of the kingdom of heaven?

11. Matthew 13:47–58
Why might the people in Jesus’ hometown have rejected His power?
How am I demonstrating faith so as not to drive away God’s power from my life?
12. Matthew 14:1–21
Why might John have confronted Herod’s sin, knowing how it might bring an end to his preceding ministry?
If I were one of the 5,000, what would I have left this scene thinking about Jesus?
13. Matthew 14:22–36
Describe the change and development of Peter’s faith in the passage.
How can I make special arrangements for prayer time like Jesus did?
14. Matthew 15:1–20
What does the passage teach about the Pharisees’ priorities?
How in my life am I pure externally but filthy in my heart?
15. Matthew 15:21–39
How does the woman demonstrate her faith?
How have I inconvenienced myself to meet someone else’s needs?
16. Matthew 16:1–20
What was the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees about which Jesus warned His disciples?
Gates are defensive structures. How am I as part of the church helping attack the gates of Hell?
17. Matthew 16:21–28
How were Peter’s priorities earthly-focused in his not wanting Jesus to die?
What does my lifestyle show is more valuable to me than my soul?
18. Matthew 17:1–13
Why might disciples not have been afraid before the voice but terrified after it?
Do my priorities show that I think of Jesus as an ordinary man or as the God-Man?
19. Matthew 17:14–27
What matters more—the quantity of faith, or the object of the faith (what one believes in) Why?
What will I do today to cultivate faith that will see God do great things?
20. Matthew 18:1–14
What do verses 7–9 suggest about the order of earthly and eternal values?
How am I like a little child in my relationship with Jesus?
21. Matthew 18:15–35
What is the purpose of confronting a sinning Christian brother?
How does my attitude toward other people’s faults reflect an understanding of my own sinfulness?

22. Matthew 19:1–30
What is the cause of divorce?
What in my life is more important to me than obeying Christ?
23. Matthew 20:1–16
What does this passage tell us about God’s prerogatives?
Do I recognize God’s grace and mercy to me, or do I compare myself with others?
24. Matthew 20:17–34
Who did the blind men think Jesus was? (The title they used for Him gives a clue.)
Should I be critical of James and John (sons of Zebedee) and their mother? Why?
25. Matthew 21:1–16
What does the fact that Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey suggest about Him?
Do I get angry about the same kinds of things about which Jesus was angry?
26. Matthew 21:17–27
What does Jesus mean by the word “faith”?
What does the way I live my life suggest about who I really believe my authority is?
27. Matthew 21:28–46
Explain what verse 44 means. Is it better to be broken in pieces or crushed? Why?
Which of the two sons (vs. 28–32) am I more like? What does this suggest about how I can change to honor God?
28. Matthew 22:1–14
If the original invitees to the wedding represent the Jews and God’s covenant to provide salvation for them, who are the guests invited later?
How have I responded to God’s invitation? Have I “changed garments” to prepare for the feast?
29. Matthew 22:15–46
Why would Jesus’ antagonists not have believed in Him, even though He silenced them through the authority of His teaching?
How does my life show that I keep the two great commandments?
30. Matthew 23:1–12
Why is humility such an important element of Christian character?
What in my life do I do for men’s eyes?

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Ponder: What truth does today's passage teach me?
Personalize: How can I apply this passage to my life?

Weekly Goals: _____

Sunday: Date _____

Passage: _____

Ponder: _____

Personalize: _____

SAMPLE

"O HOW LOVE I THY LAW! IT IS MY MEDITATION ALL THE DAY." PSALM 119:97