

Set Apart: Effort

Day 1 Choice

We can make every effort to increase our faith in Christ Jesus and become active participants in our holiness. One of the first things to do in working toward this goal is to spend more time in the word of God. Here are some helpful suggestions for doing that:

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/suggestions-for-spending-daily-time-with-god/>

Verses: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:105

Prayer Topics: Dedication, Consistency, Purpose

Day 2

Obedience and Love

In order to make progress towards holiness, faith is required. That faith should increase our obedience as we are confident in the commands of God. Is this obedience dry and legalistic? Not necessarily, as this article discusses:

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/obedience-the-key-that-opens-all-doors/>

Verses: Acts 5:27-31, 1 John 5:1-5, Isaiah 1:19

Prayer Topics: Submission, Joy, Hope

Day 3

The Heart of the Matter

Having faith in God will not just place us in the realm of obedience to Him, it will dictate the attitude and heart of that obedience. Check out this article to learn more:

<https://www.ccu.edu/blogs/cags/category/devotionals/how-obedience-shows-our-love-for-god-through-joyful-devotion/>

Verses: 2 Peter 1:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Ephesians 2:8-9

Prayer Topics: Peace, Trust, Truth

Day 4

Belong

When we are holy, we come to belong to God. How is this belonging expressed in our day to day lives? Check out this article to learn more:

<https://thecove.org/blog/obeying-gods-word-is-the-heart-of-worship/>

Verses: Ephesians 1:11, Isaiah 43:1, John 15:5

Prayer Topics: Ownership, Relationship, Respect

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

I often wonder how many people professing to being Christian in America would rejoice for being counted worthy for suffering shame for the name of Jesus and continue daily teaching and preaching His name knowing you'll be persecuted because you've already been beaten, Acts 5:40-42; 1Peter 4:12-16. In America, there's a great deal of noise in the air about Christians being persecuted and that's the furthest thing from the truth. The fact of the matter is people are being called into accountability for their actions while they're claiming to be Christians as if their claim to be Christian gives them a license to continue their actions without accountability. If, in fact, people truly understood what The Word of God teaches they'll know that God's judgment begins in His house not the world court or popular opinion, 1 Peter 4:17. Even Zacharias and the apostles thought and asked about Israel being restored as a kingdom from under the oppressive weight of Rome, Luke 1: 67-74; Acts 1:6. If you think suffering is wrong as a follower of Christ Jesus then you have no clue about the gospel and God's work of redemption and how the gospel is against the god of this world order, 2 Tim. 2:3-5; 2 Cor. 10:3-6. Suffering as a disciple of Christ Jesus is redemptive because it leads people to the cross to Christ Jesus. It's in suffering for the things of Christ Jesus we're made strong because suffering teaches us dependency on God for all things and our

dependency teaches us thanksgiving, how to rejoice, how to serve with joy, hospitality, how to love our neighbors as ourselves and above all how to worship the God of our salvation knowing He is The Good Shepherd and no man or anything can snatch us out of His hands. God has allowed me, the least of these, to hear testimonies of and meet people who have had family members executed in front of them because they wouldn't deny Christ Jesus who stated their loved ones last words with a smile and hope in their eyes were I'll see you on the other side.