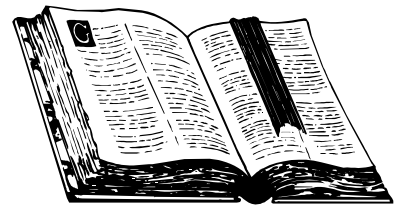


# Delight from Devotions

Does the time you spend reading your Bible ever feel like a drudgery? Have you ever wondered if you would ever actually enjoy your devotions? Have you maybe even quit spending time with the Lord altogether because it felt like such a bore? In this section of *Stepping in the Light* are practical tips and ideas for your “quiet time” with the Lord. God truly does want you to find delight in your devotions as you spend time with Him. - M.B.



## From Duty to Delight

by Michele Bass (22), Armington, IL



For many people, spending daily time with the Lord is like taking medicine—they’ve heard it’s good for them, but it sure is disagreeable. Our Lord, however, has so much more in store for us than we realize. He doesn’t want us to simply fill a religious duty. Rather, He wants to lovingly transform our lives with the power of His Word. Following are five principles that have radically changed my devotions from a duty to a delight over the past seven years. It is my prayer that these principles will be a help to you, too.

### #1 Desire to Hear Jesus’ Voice

What a revelation it was to me when I finally grasped the fact that my daily devotions could be so much more than a duty—it is a glorious privilege in that Jesus chooses to speak to me! This practice of truly listening for Christ’s voice dramatically changed my approach to private devotions. No longer was I merely filling a spiritual obligation, but I was communing with the One Who loved me and gave Himself for me. So, start your devotions by pouring out your heart to Jesus, telling Him every joy and sorrow, triumph and struggle. Ask Him to speak to you, reveal Himself to you, and fill you with His Word.

### #2 Read Slowly, With Comprehension

If you want to hear the Saviour’s voice you have to take the time to listen. Don’t rush through the motions of reading your Bible just for the sake of being able to say you read it, but rather slow down and read with understanding.

### #3 Look for Specifics

As you read with comprehension, be looking for promises, commands, principles, and different aspects of the character of Jesus. You have already poured out your heart to Him, so now you are ready to look for His answer to your need. He promised, “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” Sometimes the answer might be different than you expected, so be listening closely.

### #4 Ask for an Application

When you do find a promise, command, principle, or aspect of Christ’s character, stop and pray over it. Ask the Lord to give you ideas of practical ways you can apply His Word to your heart TODAY. For example, if I discover an aspect of Christ’s character, such as His gentleness, I would stop and thank Him for His gentleness, thinking of different times He has been gentle with me.

Then I would ask Him to help me think of specific ways to demonstrate His gentleness to specific people with whom I will come in contact TODAY. I would ask Him to help me meditate on His gentleness throughout the day so that it will be reflected in my life.

### #5 Record Insights and Applications

This last step is vital in learning how to consistently gain delight in spending time with Jesus. Record your promise, command, principle, or aspect

of Christ’s character, and write down the passage or the reference in which you found it. Then list what the Lord taught you from it and the applications He gave you for TODAY. (You may also find that you have questions—if you write them down you’ll be more likely to recognize the answers when you find them.) Finally, I like to write out a prayer, praising the Lord for what He taught me, telling Him how much I need Him, and asking Him to work His character in my life.

You can record as much or as little of these details as you choose, but writing down these specifics (especially of Christ’s character) helps solidify them in your own heart, and it also provides you with a valuable record of how the Lord is working in your life. If you journal faithfully, one day you will find your record to be a precious help in discipling others (in fact, most of my articles come from expanding on my devotions), and you will cherish it as tangible evidence of how the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, taught you to truly know Him.

If you struggle with having a consistent walk with Jesus, why don’t you try these principles and see if applying them at the beginning of your day helps you delight in Jesus all throughout the day? 🌸



“Thumb prints in the Bible are more beneficial than footprints on the moon.”