

of life and ministry, we become impatient and annoyed with the very ones God has sent us to serve. Rather than exhibiting a gracious, calm, joyous spirit, we become uptight, frazzled, and frenzied, resenting rather than welcoming the people and opportunities God brings into our lives. I know. I've been there again and again.

Is it really possible for us to manifest the same spirit Jesus did when facing pressure? That all depends on whether we are willing to make the same choice He made, to adopt His number one priority as the number one priority of our lives:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. (Mark 1:35 CSB)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Which of the following best describes the condition of your personal devotional life these days?

- For all practical purposes, I have no devotional life.
- My devotional life is inconsistent and sporadic.
- I'm spending time in the Word and prayer on a consistent basis, but I often feel that I'm just going through the motions. My devotions are more a matter of duty than delight.

- I'm meeting alone with the Lord on a daily basis and am cultivating a meaningful, intimate relationship with Him through His Word, prayer, and praise.
2. What are three or four words that would typically describe your spirit when your schedule is full or you're in the midst of pressured circumstances (for example: calm, prayerful, frenzied, demanding)?
 3. Based on the account we've just read in Mark 1, how would you describe the way Jesus responded to pressure?
 4. What do you think accounted for His ability to respond to interruptions, demands, and the incessant needs of those around Him?
 5. Take a few moments to pray and ask God to speak to you through this study. Ask Him to make you like Jesus in your response to the circumstances of life and to give you a deeper desire to make your relationship with Him the most important priority of your life.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Think of someone you know who seems to have a close, personal relationship with the Lord. To what do you attribute his or her nearness to God?
2. Martha was “pulled apart” by all her meal preparations. What are some of the things that pull you apart and keep you from sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to Him?
3. If those closest to you were to look at the way you spend your time, what would they say are the most important priorities in your life?
4. Describe a time in your life when taking time out to “sit at the feet of Jesus” made a noticeable difference in your perspective or your ability to respond to your circumstances.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What are some inferior motivations you have sometimes had for spending time in the Word and prayer?
2. Think of someone with whom you share a particularly close relationship. What are some of the elements that have contributed to developing and maintaining that friendship?
3. How might those elements apply to cultivating a close relationship with the Lord?
4. Record an instance in which God used His Word to cleanse your heart, to restore your soul, or to teach you something of His ways.
5. Write a brief paragraph expressing why you want to cultivate a consistent devotional life.
6. Read aloud the prayer of David in Psalm 25:4–5. Then pray it back to God in your own words.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Have you been resisting God's choices or will in some area of your life? Will you choose to wave the white flag of surrender and submit your will to His? You may wish to bow physically before Him, then express your heart in words something like these: "Yes, Lord; I receive this as from Your hand. Use it to mold and make me into Your likeness."
2. Is there a concern that is pressing in on you? Why not "spread it out" before the Lord, as Hezekiah did with the threatening letter from the king of Assyria? Find some tangible symbol of that problem (for example, a text, photo, bill, journal entry, or marriage license), lay it before the Lord, and ask Him to give you wisdom, direct your steps, meet the need, and bring glory to Himself through the situation.
3. Record the name of a friend or family member who has a significant need. Summarize the situation. Then purpose to intercede on that person's behalf as the Lord brings them to mind in the days ahead.

4. Make a list of qualities in the life of Jesus that you want to be true in your life. Ask God to transform you into His likeness as you behold Him in His Word.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Which of the three elements of a quiet time discussed in this chapter (a consistent practice, in the morning, a solitary place) do you find the most difficult?
2. Have you ever had a season when you found yourself taking shortcuts in your devotional life—living in a spiritual fast-food drive-through? Describe that time and some of the consequences you experienced in your relationship with the Lord and others.
3. What are the greatest barriers you encounter in trying to maintain a consistent time alone with the Lord in the morning?

Ask the Lord what practical steps you could take to overcome those obstacles. Record any insights He gives you.

4. If you have not already established a consistent habit of meeting alone with the Lord, would you purpose to spend some time in the Word and prayer each morning for the next seven days? Share your commitment with a friend.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Which of the obstacles discussed in this chapter do you most identify with? What suggestions would you make to a friend who was struggling with the same obstacles?
2. Think through your current schedule and identify any activities that may be hindering you from adequately prioritizing your relationship with the Lord.
3. What steps do you need to take to ensure that your relationship with the Lord is the most important priority in your life? Share those steps with a friend who will help hold you accountable.
4. Who do you know with a consistent devotional life? Ask one or more of those individuals to share with you how they've dealt with the specific obstacles you've encountered.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Plan a time into your schedule when you can read through Psalm 119 aloud in one sitting. You may want to do this alone or as a family or with a group of friends. The psalm is divided into twenty-two eight-verse stanzas. If you're with others, take turns reading the stanzas until you've read through the entire Psalm.
2. Now look back over Psalm 119 and make a list of the characteristics of God's Word and the benefits and blessings it is intended to bring to our lives.
3. Write a prayer thanking the Lord for His Word and for what it has meant in your life.
4. Record two or three practical steps you could take to better prepare your heart to receive the Word each day.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Record several specific blessings you've received from reading (or hearing) God's Word.

2. The Word of God is to the soul what food is to the body. Based on your intake of the Word in recent months, how well-nourished are you spiritually?

3. Evaluate your current approach to reading Scripture.
 - Do you read *prayerfully*? Are you conscious of your dependence on the Holy Spirit to give you understanding? Do you read the Word with the intent to obey whatever God shows you?
 - Do you read *thoughtfully*? Do you take time to meditate on the meaning of what you're reading? Do you "store God's Word up in your heart" by memorizing Scripture (see Ps. 119:11)?
 - Do you read *systematically*? Are you getting a balanced spiritual diet by taking in the whole of God's Word? Do you have a plan for reading the Bible to help you avoid overlooking certain portions?

4. If you don't already have a plan for regular Bible reading, ask the Lord to help you determine where and how to start. Record what He puts on your heart.

When will you set aside time in the next twenty-four hours to begin reading?

5. If you're already in the habit of reading Scripture, are you just going through an intellectual exercise (as the Pharisees did), or are you truly getting to know the Lord through His Word? If this aspect of your study is lacking, what changes might you need to make?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

The “Make It Personal” section for this chapter is longer than usual. It’s intended to help you put into practice what you’ve learned in this chapter by guiding you as you meditate on a specific passage from God’s Word. You may want to set aside some extended time over the next several days in order to get the most out of this section.

1. Read Psalm 19. Ask God to speak to you through this familiar passage and to make it fresh to your heart.
 - a. In your journal, write out the entire psalm, word for word.
 - b. Record *observations* about this passage (“What does it *say*?”). Here are some suggestions you may want to use:
 - *Summarize.* What title would you give to this selection of Scripture? Divide the psalm into two or more sections and suggest a title for each. Write a one-paragraph summary or overview of the passage.
 - *Paraphrase.* Write out the psalm in your own words.
 - *Ask questions.* Who wrote this psalm? Why did he write it? What is the connection

between “the heavens” (vv. 1–6) and “the law of the Lord” (vv. 7–11)? How are they alike? What synonyms are used in this passage for the Word of God? What adjectives does the author use to describe the Word of God? What benefits and blessings does the Word bring to our lives? What two kinds of sins does the author pray to be delivered from (vv. 12–13)? What does the psalmist want the Word of God to accomplish in his life?

- *Look for patterns.* What pattern do you see in the four parallel lines of vv. 7–8?
 - *Look for cross-references.* Using a concordance, the references in the margin of your Bible, or your memory, list four Scripture references that relate to specific phrases in Psalm 19. (For example, relate Prov. 8:19 to Ps. 19:10.)
 - *Use study tools.* Select a word or phrase from this psalm that you would like to understand better. Use one of the tools recommended in this chapter (English dictionary, alternate translation(s), a concordance, a Bible dictionary, or commentary) to gain further insight on that word or phrase.
- c. Record some of the *implications* of this passage (“What does it *mean*?”). Consider the following types of questions:

- Why is the Word of God so vital and valuable to the child of God?
 - What are some consequences we may experience if the Word of God is not kept central in our daily lives?
 - Why does the Word of God not produce the desired results in the life of every believer?
 - God promises “great reward” to those who keep His Word (v. 11). What does it mean to keep His Word? What might some of those rewards be?
 - How does the Word of God help protect us from sin?
- d. Record specific, practical *applications* that the Holy Spirit helps you make from this passage (“What should I *do*?”). Seek to engraft this passage into your life using one or more of the following suggestions:
- Which of the benefits and blessings in verses 7–11 would you like to experience in a greater measure? The Word of God is designed to accomplish these results in our lives. What practical steps can you take to make the Word a higher priority in your life?
 - Are you aware of anything in the Word of God that you are not currently obeying? What do you need to do to repent of going your own way and to begin walking in obedience to His Word?

- Pray aloud the prayer of the psalmist in verses 12–13. Then express the same prayer in your own words.
- Select one key verse from this psalm; memorize that verse and meditate on it over the next twenty-four hours.
- Write a prayer expressing to God your desire to feast on His Word and to have it engrafted into your life.
- Share with a friend or family member what God has said to you through this passage. Ask that individual to hold you accountable for any specific steps of action the Lord has laid on your heart.

2. Choose one of the following exercises to record milestones in your spiritual pilgrimage:
 - a. Name some of the individuals who have had the greatest influence on your walk with God. How have they impacted your life? Record your answers in your journal.
 - b. Record the spiritual highlights of the past year. What major events or circumstances have you walked through? What have you learned from each about the heart and ways of God?
 - c. Choose three or four attributes of God and record a specific instance in your life in which God has demonstrated each of those qualities.

- d. Write a three- to five-page “spiritual autobiography,” summarizing how you came to faith in Christ and highlighting key stages of your spiritual pilgrimage and growth.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Of the various expressions of praise referred to in this chapter, which ones are you most accustomed to? Which ones are you least comfortable with? Why?
2. What are some of the obstacles you have experienced that have made it difficult to praise the Lord with all your heart?

What have you learned in this chapter that has motivated you to cultivate a lifestyle of praise and worship?

3. Read Psalm 145 aloud.
 - What does this passage reveal about what God is like and what He has done? Make a list.
 - Pray this psalm back to God, personalizing it and praising Him for each of His attributes and blessings (for example, in verse 8: “Lord, I praise You for the grace and compassion that You have poured out on me. You have given me so much more than I deserve; Your love toward me is greater than any other love I have ever known . . .”).

4. Write your own psalm of praise, thanking God for His character, for His works on your behalf, and for physical and spiritual blessings you have received from Him. Say or sing it out loud.
5. Sing a psalm or hymn to the Lord each day for the next week. You may want to sing along with an online video or a music streaming app. Or try singing out of a hymnal, making up a tune for one of your favorite psalms, or even composing your own lyrics and singing them to the Lord.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What are the biggest battles you face in your prayer life? What keeps you from approaching His throne to make your petitions?
2. What are you asking God for that only He can do?
3. Read Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14–21.
Now make this your prayer. Pray these words on behalf of a family member, a friend, or a pastor or Christian leader.
4. If Jesus were to say to you, as He did to the blind beggar in Luke 18:41, "What do you want me to do for you?" how would you answer Him? What would you like to believe God to do in your life? In your family? In your church? In your community and nation?

prayer, faith, grace, humility, and more. The time you spend with Him will bear fruit in your life. The result is beauty that blesses you and the others in your life.

But that blessing is simply incidental. It is a side blessing.

Because the beauty that you cultivate as you tend your devotional garden is, ultimately, all for the Beloved.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Write a love letter to Jesus. Thank Him for how He brought you to Himself and for the difference His love has made in your life. Express to Him your desire for your life to be a “garden” that brings pleasure to Him.
2. Take time to think through and record two or three of the most important things God has taught you through your reading of this book. (You may wish to refresh your memory by paging back through the book or reviewing the “Make It Personal” sections.)
3. Go back and review your answer to the first question on page 33. How has the quality of your personal devotional life changed since you began reading this book?

4. What further changes would you like to see take place in your devotional life in the days ahead?



APPENDIX:

Recommended Devotional Books

The following list is a sampling of many resources that have enriched my daily devotional times over the years. Some of them are classics and in the public domain, which means that you may find multiple publishers or editions from them. Older copies may still be available from online dealers, and the text of some classics may be downloadable as PDFs online. These older gems are definitely worth a little effort to locate.

Alcorn, Randy. *Ninety Days of God's Goodness: Daily Reflections That Shine Light on Personal Darkness*. Multnomah, 2011.

Arnold, Duane W. H., comp. and trans. *Martyrs' Prayers: Seeking God in the Midst of Suffering*. 3rd ed. Reader Hill, 2018.

Note: You may also be able to find the earlier editions of this book: *Prayers of the Martyrs* (Zondervan, 1991) and *Beyond Belief* (Zondervan, 2002).

- Bennett, Arthur, ed. *The Valley of Vision*. The Banner of Truth Trust, 1975.
- Bonar, Andrew A. *Heavenly Springs*. The Banner of Truth Trust, 1986.
- Carson, D. A. *For the Love of God: A Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word*. 2 vols. Crossway, 1998–99.
Note: This two-volume devotional offers reflections based on the classic M'Cheyne Bible reading plan that takes readers through the New Testament and Psalms twice a year and through the rest of the Old Testament once each year.
- Cowman, L. B. (Mrs. Charles E. Cowman), comp. *Streams in the Desert*. Zondervan, 1996 (orig. pub. 1925 by Cowman Publications).
- Elliot, Elisabeth. *Keep a Quiet Heart*. Fleming H. Revell, 2004.
- Elliot, Elisabeth. *A Lamp unto My Feet: The Bible's Light for Your Daily Walk*. Regal, 2004.
- Gurnall, William. *The Christian in Complete Armour*. Reprint edition. Hendrickson, 2010.
- Gurnall, William. *Gleanings from William Gurnall*. Edited by Hamilton Smith. Soli Deo Gloria, 1996.
- Kelderman, Donna, comp. *Seasons of the Heart: A Year of Devotions from One Generation of Women to Another*. Reformation Heritage, 2013.
- Piper, John. *A Godward Life: Savoring the Supremacy of God in All of Life*. Revised edition. Multnomah, 2015.
- Spurgeon, C. H. *The Cheque Book of the Bank of Faith: Daily Readings by C. H. Spurgeon*. Rev. ed. Christian Heritage, 2014.
- Watson, Thomas. *Gleanings from Thomas Watson*. Edited by Hamilton Smith. Soli Deo Gloria, 1995.



Notes

Dedication

1. Song of Solomon 5:10, 16 and 8:13 (NKJV).

From My Heart to Yours

1. This term comes from a poem of the same name by the English poet Francis Thompson (1859–1907), which depicts God’s relentlessly pursuing love.

Part One: The Priority of a Devotional Life

Epigraph: Andrew Murray, *The Secret of Fellowship* (CLC Publications, 2019), Introduction.

Chapter 2: Made for Intimacy

1. Charles F. Pfeiffer and Everett F. Harrison, eds., *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* (Moody, 1990), 1047.

Part Two: The Purpose of a Devotional Life

Epigraph: Andrew Murray, *The Secret of Fellowship* (CLC Publications, 2019), Introduction.

Chapter 3: The Inner Life

1. Mary A. Lathbury (1841–1913), “Break Thou the Bread of Life,” *Baptist Hymnal 2008*, #407, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/BH2008/407>, emphasis added.
2. Warren Patrick Baker, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament*, Word Study Series (AMG, 1994), 2372.

Chapter 4: The Outer Walk

1. Joseph M. Scriven (1819–1896), “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” *Baptist Hymnal 2008*, #154, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/BH2008/154>.
2. Andrew Murray, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, 139.
3. “Lexicon: Strong’s G3339 *metamorphōō*,” *Blue Letter Bible*, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=esv&strongs=g3339>.
4. “Lexicon: Strong’s G3345 *metaschēmatisō*,” *Blue Letter Bible*, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=ESV&strongs=g3345>.
5. William D. Longstaff (1822–1894), “Take Time to Be Holy,” *Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*, #440, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/HWC1986/441>.

Part Three: The Pattern of a Devotional Life

Epigraph: L. B. Cowman (Mrs. Charles E. Cowman), comp., *Streams in the Desert, March 2*, *Crosswalk.com*, <https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/desert/streams-in-the-desert-march-2nd.html>.

Chapter 5: Getting Started

1. Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, rev. ed. (Navpress, 2015), 113.
2. John Blanchard, *How to Enjoy Your Bible* (Evangelical, 1984), 104, quoted in Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines*, 28.
3. This quote is attributed to J. Hudson Taylor.
4. Charles H. Spurgeon, “Morning and Evening Songs,” Sermon No. 1138, delivered at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, UK, from *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Volume 19* (1873), Spurgeon Gems (website), <https://www.spurgeongems.org/chsbm19.pdf>.
5. Thomas Watson, *Gleanings from Thomas Watson*, comp. Hamilton Smith (Soli Deo Gloria, 1995), 105–106.
6. Ralph Spaulding Cushman, “The Secret,” *Spiritual Hilltops* (Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1932), cited in James Dalton Morrison, ed., *Masterpieces of Religious Verse* (Harper and Brothers, 1948), 408–409. Available online at <https://archive.org/details/masterpiecesofre002909mbp/page/n425>.
7. L. B. Cowman, *Streams in the Desert*, December 4, *Crosswalk.com*, <https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/desert/streams-in-the-desert-december-4th.html>.

Part Four: The Problems of a Devotional Life

Epigraph: John Donne, “Sermon LXXX,” preached at the Funerals of Sir William Cokayne, Knt. Alderman of London, December 12, 1626, from *The Works of John Donne Volume 3*, Bible Study Tools, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/classics/the-works-of-john-donne-vol-3/sermon-lxxx.html>.

Chapter 6: “The Hard Thing for Me Is . . .”

1. William Gurnall, *Gleanings from William Gurnall*, comp. Hamilton Smith (Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1996), 104–105.
2. Lewis Bayly, *The Practice of Piety: Directing a Christian to Walk, That He May Please God* (Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1995), 107.
3. John Piper (@JohnPiper), “One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time,” Twitter, October 20, 2009, 5:02pm, <https://x.com/JohnPiper/status/5027319857>.
4. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *God’s Ultimate Purpose: An Exposition of Ephesians 1:1 to 2:3* (Baker, 1995), 330.
5. John Donne, “Sermon LXXX,” preached at the Funerals of Sir William Cokayne, Knt. Alderman of London, December 12, 1626, from *The Works of John Donne Volume 3*, on Bible Study Tools, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/classics/the-works-of-john-donne-vol-3/sermon-lxxx.html>.
6. C. I. Scofield, *Scofield Reference Notes (1917 Edition)*, *Genesis 17:1*, Bible Study Tools, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/scofield-reference-notes/genesis/genesis-17.html>. See also Charles H. Spurgeon, “Consecration to God—Illustrated

by Abraham's Circumcision," Sermon No. 845, from *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Volume 14 (1868)*, delivered December 13, 1868 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, UK, from *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Volume 14*, Spurgeon Gems (website), <https://www.spurgeongems.org/chsbm14.pdf>.

7. Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Salt-Cellars: Being a Collection of Proverbs Together with Homely Notes Theron, Vol. 1—A to L* (Passmore and Alabaster, 1889), 58. Note: this quote is one of Spurgeon's "homely notes" in his collected proverbs and is found, strangely, in the "A" section of the book.

Part Five: The Practice of a Devotional Life

Epigraph: Oswald J. Smith, *The Man God Uses* (Welch, 1984), 91.

Part Five: Section One: Receiving His Word

Epigraph: George Müller, in *Spiritual Secrets of George Müller*, ed. Roger Steer (Harold Shaw, 1985), 60–61.

Chapter 7: The Wonder of the Word

1. This story is recounted in Mary Emily Rope, *Mary Jones and Her Bible, Classic Stories, repr. ed.* (Christian Focus/CF4Kids, 2015, orig. pub. 1882). Charles Thomas's encounter with Mary Jones deeply impressed him and led to the establishment in 1804 of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a society dedicated to publishing and distributing the Word of God throughout the world.
2. In Kevin Miller, ed., *Christian History*, vol. 11, no. 2 (1992), 2–51, quoted by Amanda Duke, "Martin Luther: The Man, the Myth, the Legend," LITS blog, Asbury Seminary Library Resources, October 30, 2017, <https://guides.asburyseminary.edu/blog/martin-luther-the-man-the-myth-the-legend.33>
3. Augustine, *The City of God*, 3.8–11, tr. David S. Wiesten (Harvard University Press, 1968), quoted in Steven Lawson, *The Moment of Truth* (Reformation Trust/Ligonier, 2018), 35. This quote by Augustine was famously repeated by John Calvin and later reiterated by B. B. Warfield.
4. John Burton (1773–1822), "Holy Bible, Book Divine," *Baptist Hymnal 2008*, #345, accessed at Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/BH2008/345>.
5. Lewis Bayly, *The Practice of Piety: Directing a Christian How to Walk, That He May Please God*, ed. Anthony Uyl (Devoted Publishing, 2018, orig. pub. 1842), 81.
6. Emily May Grimes [Crawford] (1868–1927), "The Quiet Hour," *The Cyber Hymnal* (<http://www.hymntime.com/tch>), #5720, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/CYBER/5720>.
7. Clara H. Scott (1841–1897), "Open My Eyes, That I May See," *Baptist Hymnal 2008*, #443, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/BH2008/443>.

Chapter 8: Getting into the Word

1. Attributed to David F. Nygren in Bill Bradfield, ed., *On Reading the Bible: Thoughts and Reflections of Over 500 Men and Women, from St. Augustine to Oprah Winfrey* (Dover, 2005), 90.
2. Oswald Chambers, *Approved unto God*, in *The Complete Works of Oswald Chambers* (Discovery House, 2000, orig. pub. 1936), 5, accessed online at <https://vdocuments.mx/complete-works-oswald-chambers-fv162.html>.

3. William Gurnall, *Gleanings from William Gurnall*, comp. Hamilton Smith (Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1996), 104–105.
4. Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879), “Master Speak! Thy Servant Heareth,” *The Cyber Hymnal* (<http://www.hymntime.com/tch>), #4174, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/CYBER/4174>.
5. Thomas Watson in *Gleanings from Thomas Watson*, comp. Hamilton Smith (Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1995), 106, 112.
6. Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, rev. ed. (Navpress, 2015), 38.
7. Darlene Deibler Rose, *Evidence Not Seen* (Harper & Row, 1988), 143.
8. John Bunyan, “The Conclusion,” *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, in a Faithful Account of the Life and Death of John Bunyan*, in *The Works of That Eminent Servant of Christ, John Bunyan*, vol. 1 (James Locken, 1832), 43.
9. Oswald Chambers, *Disciples Indeed*, in *Our Brilliant Heritage / If You Will Be Perfect / Disciples Indeed: The Inheritance of God’s Transforming Mind and Heart* (Discovery House, 2015, *Disciples Indeed* orig. pub 1955), chapter entitled “The Bible.”
10. Richard Cecil, *The Remains of the Rev. Richard Cecil* (Eliot Stock, 1876), 16.
11. Bibleplan.org is an excellent place to start in locating some of these.
12. The lyrics to this beloved gospel song were penned by Florence Horton and first published in 1906.
13. Oswald Chambers, *As He Walked*, in *Our Brilliant Heritage / If You Will Be Perfect / Disciples Indeed: The Inheritance of God’s Transforming Mind and Heart* (Discovery House, 2015, *As He Walked* orig. pub. 1930), chapter/section entitled “Pull Yourself Together . . . By the Habit of Constantly Remembering.”

Chapter 9: Getting the Word into You

1. Charles H. Spurgeon, “The Swiftly Running Word,” Sermon No. 1607, delivered July 3, 1881 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, UK, from *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Volume 27* (1881), Spurgeon Gems (website), <https://www.spurgeongems.org/chsbm27.pdf>.
2. *CSB Notetaking Bible* (Holman Bible Publishers, 2017). The *Revive Our Hearts* edition of the *Notetaking Bible* (2025) includes suggestions for Bible journaling as well as 150 prayers based on my personal meditation on Scripture.
3. Martin Luther, quoted in *The Westminster Collection of Christian Quotations*, ed. Martin H. Manser (Westminster John Knox, 2001), 363.
4. Noah Webster’s *Dictionary of the American Language* is available online at <http://webstersdictionary1828.com/>. If you prefer to own your own hardcover, you can purchase either a “compact edition” or a full facsimile edition of the first edition, published by the Foundation for American Christian Education. At the time of this publication, both were available from Amazon.com, and the facsimile edition can be purchased directly from F.A.C.E. at <https://face.net/noah-websters-1828-dictionary/>.
5. A useful resource for comparing translations of specific phrases is BibleGateway.com.
6. If you’re not familiar with the Hebrew and Greek dictionaries at the back of *Strong’s*, ask your pastor or another experienced student of the Word to show you how to use them.

7. If you are using the *English Standard Version* as your basic study Bible, try *The ESV Exhaustive Concordance*, comp. Drayton C. Benner (Crossway, 2018). Similarly, the *Zondervan NASB Exhaustive Concordance*, ed. Reuben A. Olsen, Robert L. Thomas, et al. (Zondervan, 2000), will be useful if you use the NASB. You can also find these resources online at study sites such as Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org) and Bible Hub (biblehub.com).
8. A few commentaries and study Bibles I have found helpful: *The ESV Study Bible* (Crossway); *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Crossway, Thomas Nelson); *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Victor Books); and *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, ed. Charles F. Pfeiffer and Everett F. Harrison (Moody). A useful online resource is “The Enduring Word Commentary” with study notes and teaching videos by Pastor David Guzik: www.EnduringWord.com.
9. Quoted in “Rodney ‘Gipsy’ Smith Quotes,” AZQuotes, https://www.azquotes.com/author/50640-Rodney_Gipsy_Smith.
10. Charles H. Spurgeon, “Prayer 22: The Presence of God,” *C. H. Spurgeon’s Prayers*, Spurgeon Gems (website), http://www.spurgeongems.org/chs_prayers.htm.

Part Five: Section Two: Responding to His Word

Epigraph: George Müller, in *Spiritual Secrets of George Müller*, ed. Roger Steer (Harold Shaw, 1985), 61.

Chapter 10: The Perfume of Praise

1. Many commentators believe that Mary of Bethany is the woman referred to in Matthew 26:6–13, Mark 14:3–9, and John 12:1–8. Others believe that the accounts in Matthew and Mark refer to a different woman. A case can be made for either conclusion. I have taken the first position in this chapter. (A similar account found in Luke 7:36–50 clearly refers to a woman other than Mary.)
2. Edward Perronet (1726–1792), “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name,” *Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*, ed. Joyce Borger, Martin Tel, John D. Witvliet (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013), #601, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/LUYH2013/601>.
3. “Lexicon: Strong’s H1984 halal,” *Blue Letter Bible*, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?page=2&strongs=h3034&t=esv#lexResults>.
4. “Lexicon: Strong’s H1288 barak,” *Blue Letter Bible*, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?page=5&strongs=h1288&t=esv#lexResults>.
5. James Montgomery (1771–1854), “Stand Up and Bless the Lord,” *Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*, #21, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/HWC1986/21>.
6. “Lexicon: Strong’s H3034 yadab,” *Blue Letter Bible*, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?page=2&strongs=h3034&t=esv#lexResults>.
7. Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926–2024), “Tell Out, My Soul,” *Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*, #27, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/HWC1986/27>. Copyright © 1962 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
8. *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*.
9. *Ibid*.

10. These seven rules were first included in the 1761 publication *Select Hymns*, a hymnbook for early Methodists. <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpgclefindmkaj/https://archives.gcah.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/62c561cb-4aa2-4f3c-973a-6c02975c5bb7/content>.
11. Henry F. Lyte (1793–1847), “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven,” *Hymnal for Worship and Celebration*, #3, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/HWC1986/3>.

Chapter 11: The Privilege of Prayer

1. William Gurnall, *Gleanings from William Gurnall*, comp. Hamilton Smith (Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1996), 104.
2. Andrew Bonar, *Heavenly Springs: Portions for the Sabbaths of a Year* (Titus Books, 2014), chapter 48, Kindle.
3. Ibid., chapter 42.
4. Edward Mote (1797–1874), “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less,” *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* (MorningStar, 1996), #197, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/ELH1996/197>. Note: This phrase from the fourth stanza of the hymn is based on Isaiah 61:10.
5. John Newton (1725–1807), “Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare” *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, #381, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/ELH1996/381>.

Part Six: The Product of a Devotional Life

Epigraph: Emily May Grimes [Crawford] (1868–1927), “The Quiet Hour,” *The Cyber Hymnal* (<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/>), #5720, accessed on Hymnary.org, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/CYBER/5720>.

Chapter Twelve: Cultivating the Garden of the Heart

1. C. Austin Miles (1868–1946), “In the Garden,” *Baptist Hymnal 2008*, #476, accessed on Hymnary.com, <https://hymnary.org/hymn/BH2008/476>.
2. S. D. Gordon, *Quiet Talks on Prayer, updated and abridged ed.*, *Faith Classics* (Barbour, 2015), 174.
3. F. W. Farrar, quoted in Cowman, *Streams in the Desert*, September 13, Crosswalk.com, <https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/desert/streams-in-the-desert-september-13th.html>.
4. Joseph S. Carroll, *How to Worship Jesus Christ: Experiencing His Manifest Presence Daily* (Moody Publishers, 2013), 30–31.