

# Quenching Your Spiritual Thirst

30 Day Journal



These devotions are taken primarily from two books:

- ***The School of Biblical Evangelism***, by Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort, ISBN 0-88270-971-2, © 2004 Bridge-Logos Publishers, Gainesville, FL.
- ***How to Win Souls and Influence People***, by Ray Comfort, ISBN 0-88207-788-4, © 1999 Bridge-Logos Publishers, Gainesville, FL.

You can purchase these books online through [www.livingwaters.com/store](http://www.livingwaters.com/store) or by calling Living Waters at 1-800-437-1893.

# Welcome

Are you ready to go to a deeper level with God? Are you ready to taste the incredible fulfillment awaiting those who respond to Christ's command with simple obedience? Great! Let's get started.

**"I feel as if I have just taken  
a drink of water from a fire hydrant!"  
– Jason Stewart (CA)**

Day 1 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Listen

***“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.  
And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father,  
and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” JOHN 14:21***

In the Epistle of Paul to Philemon, he says how he continually prays for Philemon, saying that he has heard of the “love and faith” which he has, both toward the Lord and toward his brethren. Then Paul reveals a little understood principle that can change your life and deepen your walk with God in a way you never expected.

Listen to how the Amplified Bible translates Philemon 1:6:

“[And I pray] that the participation in and sharing of your faith may produce and promote full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise knowledge of every good [thing] that is ours in [our identification with] Christ Jesus [and unto His glory].”

The implications are clear. If you want a more full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ . . . you can get it by sharing your faith. The Scriptures say that it actually *produces* that knowledge in you. Those who don't reach out to the lost aren't experiencing God on this deeper level. They've yet to discover the incredible fulfillment awaiting those who respond to Christ's command. Matthew Henry said, “I would think it a greater happiness to gain one soul to Christ than mountains of silver and gold to myself.” Charles Spurgeon said, “To be a soul winner is the happiest thing in this world.”

Consider for a moment the words of Jesus to his disciples shortly after He spoke to the woman at the well: “But He said to them, ‘I have food to eat of which you do not know’” (John 4:32). What was this sustaining food of which Jesus spoke? He told them in His next sentence, “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work’” (John 4:34). He had just done the will of the Father by sharing the words of everlasting life with the woman at the well. Doing that was to Jesus as if He had just eaten life-sustaining food. You can know that same fulfilling joy as you obey the command of the Lord Jesus, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). As you do so, watch the Philemon 1:6 principle begin to take effect in your life. Your understanding and appreciation of every good thing we have in the Lord will deepen. If that's what you want, you've begun the right journey.

Tomorrow's devotional will take longer than any of the others in this journal. That's because tomorrow we're going to explore the “how” of sharing your faith. How can we biblically, simply and effectively, share the life-

giving words of the Gospel? Don't skip tomorrow's devotion because it takes a little longer to do. It is absolutely essential and foundational to the rest of your journey.

## Respond

This area is for you to jot your own personal response. You can use this as a prayer and reflection time on what you've just learned. Use this as a time of conversation between you and the Lord, and be sure you take time to listen to what He's saying through the scriptures.

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Day 2 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Listen

Most of the devotions in this book will take you 20 minutes or less to do. However, this one will take a little over an hour to complete. For this one, you will need to go back online to listen to the free audio message taught by Ray Comfort called "Hell's Best Kept Secret." To find it, go to:

**[www.spiritualthirst.com/listen](http://www.spiritualthirst.com/listen)**

Please don't consider skipping this devotional, it is the most *essential* one in this entire journal. Without this foundational teaching, you really can't continue on this 30 day journey.

While you're listening to the online message, try to catch the answers to these questions:

1. What is it that the Bible says is "perfect, converting the soul"? (See Psalm 19:7.) \_\_\_\_\_
2. According to Romans 3:19,20, Romans 7:7, and Galatians 3:24, what are four functions of the Law?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the biblical definition of sin? (See 1 John 3:4, KJV.) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is the Law designed for? (See 1 Timothy 1:9-10) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are some of the legitimate fruits of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why isn't it legitimate to use these fruits as a "draw card" for salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

*The answers can be found at the end of your journal.*

# Respond

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Day 3 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“Therefore having such a hope,  
we use great boldness in our speech.” 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12***

*Do you find yourself fearful of sharing your faith? Well, you’re not alone... But what can you do to conquer your fear?*

Someone once said, “Keep your fears to yourself. Share your courage with others.” While that is true when it comes to specific fears, it is a consolation to know that heroes do heroic deeds despite their fears. Courage isn’t the absence of fear, but the conquering of it. If a hero didn’t have fear to overcome, then his act of courage wouldn’t truly be an act of courage.

It is a consolation to know that almost every Christian has a battle with the “fear of man” when it comes to reaching out to the lost. Take the time to look at the fears of the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 2:1–4). He said that when he reached out to the Corinthians with the gospel, he did so not with “excellency of speech or of wisdom.” He confided that he had “weakness” (he was not trusting in his own strength or ability) and “fear” (in Greek, *phobos*, “that which is caused by being scared”), resulting in “much trembling” (awareness of his insufficiency). Paul battled the fear of man.

If we want to rescue humanity from the fires of hell, we must take control of our own fears and reject the fears the enemy whispers to our hearts. Don’t let the lies of the enemy penetrate your mind any longer. Remember the command, “Fear not; for I am with you: be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness” (Isaiah 41:10).

There is power in the Word of God. When the light of the Word is spoken, the darkness of the enemy must vanish. Make it a habit to quote God’s Word at fear: “He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust” (Psalm 91:1,2).

We are not to fear man, but to fear God—the one who has power to cast into hell (Luke 12:5). This thought may help you get rid of the fear of man and replace it with the fear of God: He executes cowards, deserters, and traitors (see Hebrews 10:26,27; Revelation 21:8). His army is for men and women of faith. Our courage is fueled by our faith in God. If we lack courage, it’s only because we lack faith. If we lack faith, we insult the integrity of Almighty God.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 26, beginning on page 173.

# Respond

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Day 4 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“My eyes anticipate the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word.” PSALM 119:148***

*This is another little understood principle. If you’re interested in this “deeper” experience with God, then read today’s devotion carefully and see if you meet the criteria for the special blessing God outlines in Psalm 1.*

Many years ago, I had a friend named Stan who had a dog named “Circles.” It was so named because it would walk forward two or three steps, and then do a complete circle. Then it would take another two or three steps forward, then another complete circle (it wasn’t a trick, it was just the way the dog go around). As a puppy, it had been locked in a small shed for great lengths of time. It went around in circles seeking a way out, and when it came out, it couldn’t stop.

Many Christians are just like “Circles.” They continue to tread in circles. Each week, they go from the pew to altar to pew to the altar, then back to the pew... wearing out both the pastor and the carpet. If you are like Stan’s dog, pay close attention because I am going to share the biblical key to get you out of the woodshed and onto the straight and narrow path where you are supposed to be walking.

Here is the key:

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in His Law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper” (Psalm 1:1-3).

If we fulfill the stated requirements, the Bible promises we will stand tall and strong, like a tree planted by rivers of water. Our roots will grow deep, and we will produce fruit in season—love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Also, whatever we do will prosper—our vocation, our marriage, our evangelistic endeavors.

I have saved myself hours in counseling time, by simply asking the problem laden, defeated, joyless, circular professors of faith one question. This is the question: “Do you read God’s Word every day, without fail?” The usual answer is “sometimes” or “sort of” or “most days.” The truth is they are not continuing in the Word of Christ, they don’t know the truth, and they are not free. They are not meditating on the Word “day and night,” so they are therefore not like a tree planted by water. Their roots are shallow. When the winds of adversity blow, they topple over and need to seek the pastor to prop them up. Neither does their fruit remain. They lose their peace and joy and begin to wither at the first sign of adversity. Whatever they do, does not prosper.

So, for your own sake and for the sake of those around you who are still in their sins, discipline yourself daily to read and meditate on the Word. Put your Bible before your belly. Say to yourself, “No Bible, no breakfast. No read, no feed.” The biblical priority is to put your spirit before your body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Jesus said that “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” When Peter wrote his epistle and said, “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby, “ he wasn’t particularly writing to babes in Christ. Newborn babies live to drink, because they drink to live. They have an inbuilt instinct to scream for dear life if they don’t drink. We are commanded to do the same. Job summed up the necessity for feeding on the Word with, “I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth *more than my necessary food*” (Job 23:12, italics added).

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 15, beginning on page 182.

## Respond

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Day 5 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Listen

***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment.” MARK 12:30***

*Over the next 10 days, we will take a brief look at each of the Ten Commandments. An understanding of God’s Law is essential not only for self-examination, but also in order to be able to share the gospel biblically.*

Today we will look at the First Commandment: “I am the LORD your God, which has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:2,3). Those who profess to keep this Commandment would do well to run their eyes over the Westminster Confession of Faith. This was penned by godly men in 1646, and expressed their thoughts (based on Scripture) about the essence

of this Commandment:

The duties required in the First Commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God and our God; and to worship and glorify Him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of Him, believing Him, trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in Him, being zealous for Him, calling upon Him, giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to Him with the whole man; being careful in all things to please Him, and sorrowful when in anything He is offended; and walking humbly with Him.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 5, beginning on page 39.

## Respond

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Day 6 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Listen

***“You adulterers and adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” JAMES 4:4***

Today we will look at the Second Commandment: “You shall not make for yourself any graven image . . . You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy to thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments” (Exodus 20:4–6).

Idolatry is perhaps the greatest of all sins because it opens the door to unrestrained evil. It gives sinners license not only to tolerate sin, but to sanction it, fanned by demonic influence. If you make a god in your image, one you feel comfortable with, you can then create your own moral standards to go along with him . . . or her. Take the time to study 1 Corinthians 10:1–14 and see how idolatry leads to sexual sin. So do yourself a big favor: destroy your idols. An idol doesn’t have to be something tangible; anything that takes the place of God in our life serves as an idol, whether it be our job, a person, possessions, etc. Cultivate an understanding of what God is like, as revealed in Scripture. That will put the fear of God in you and cause you to keep your heart free from sin, and at the same time you will have strong motivation to do what He says regarding the Great Commission.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 6, beginning on page 45.

# Respond

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Day 7 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” JOHN 1:12*

Today we will look at the Third Commandment: “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD your God will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain” (Exodus 20:7). God’s glory, His name, and His goodness are synonymous. Moses was told that if he saw God face to face in all of His glory, he would die (Exodus 33:20). How fearful it will be for blasphemous humanity to stand before the unspeakable glory of God, in all of His goodness, and give an account for every idle word. God’s goodness will ensure that His justice is carried out.

It is also interesting to note that when a blasphemer is questioned about why he would do such a thing, his reaction will often confirm the words of Scripture that he is taking God’s name “in vain.” He will say, “I wasn’t really using God’s name as a cuss word. It’s just a word.” In essence, God’s name isn’t anything special and isn’t worthy of any respect. His attempt at justification merely adds to his sin. It is hard to understand how the world can hold the names of God and Jesus Christ in such disdain that they can be used to express disgust. Hitler’s name wasn’t despised enough to be used as a cuss word.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 7, beginning on page 52.

# Respond

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Day 8 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.” ROMANS 14:5,6*

Today we are going to look at the Fourth Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). Are Christians still under this law? The apostles came together on the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7). The collection was taken on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2). Jesus did keep the Sabbath. He had to keep the whole Law to be the perfect sacrifice. The Bible makes it clear that the Law has been satisfied in Christ.

Romans 14:5–10 tells us that one man esteems one day of the week above another; another esteems every day alike. Then Scripture tells us that everyone should be fully persuaded in his own mind. We are not to judge each other regarding the day on which we worship. There isn’t even one command in the New Testament for Christians to keep the Sabbath holy. In fact, we are told not to let others judge us regarding Sabbaths (Colossians 2:16), and that man was not made for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath for man (Mark 2:27). The Sabbath was given as a sign to Israel (Exodus 31:13–17); nowhere is it given as a sign to the church. Thousands of years after the Commandment was given, we can still see the sign that separates Israel from the world—they continue to keep the Sabbath holy.

Charles Spurgeon said, “I am no preacher of the old legal Sabbath. I am a preacher of the gospel. The Sabbath of the Jew is to him a task; the Lord’s Day of the Christian, the first day of the week, is to him a joy, a day of rest, of peace, and of thanksgiving. And if you Christian men can earnestly drive away all distractions, so that you can really rest today, it will be good for your bodies, good for your souls, good mentally, good spiritually, good temporally, and good eternally.”

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 8, beginning on page 59.

# Respond

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Day 9 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*

*The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.” PSALM 34:14,15*

Today we are going to look at the Fifth Commandment: “Honor your father and your mother: that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God gives you” (Exodus 20:12).

This Commandment is unique, because it is “the first commandment with promise” (Ephesians 6:2). To honor our parents is to esteem them, show them respect, and obey them. The New Testament instructs children to “obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1) and “obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing to the Lord” (Colossians 3:20). Are children to obey only the things they want to, or that sound reasonable to them? No; in order to please the Lord, they are to obey “in all things.” That doesn’t mean their parents will always make wise decisions or treat their children as they should, but God will hold the parents accountable for their own actions. Regardless of the parents’ parenting skills, the children are to obey—that is their role for which God will hold them accountable.

Again, the lawful use of the Law is to show us how far we have fallen short of God’s perfect standard. The Law brings the knowledge of sin. The best of us haven’t honored our parents as we should.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 9, beginning on page 65.

# Respond

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Day 10 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer: and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” 1 JOHN 3:15*

Today we will look at the Sixth Commandment, and what it means in light of New Testament revelation: “You shall not kill” (Exodus 20:13).

In the dim light of their ignorance, the world looks at the Sixth Commandment and proclaims itself “not guilty.”

However, God requires truth in the inward parts (Psalm 51:6). In other words, He sees the thought life — the intent, the innermost motive of every human being. If civil law can prove that you are planning to assassinate the President, you can be prosecuted and severely punished. That law, however, is limited in its search for evidence—it can't see what a man thinks. Not so with the all seeing eye of our Creator. His Law searches the heart, and He sees “evil thoughts.” To even think hatred is to transgress the Sixth Commandment.

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say to you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment” (Matthew 5:21,22). The Bible further adds that if we hate someone, we are murderers (1 John 3:15). There are many who would like to kill, but refrain because of fear of punishment. God counts them guilty of murder.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 10, beginning on page 70.

# Respond

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Day 11 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not commit adultery: But I say to you, That whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.” MATTHEW 5:27,28*

Today we will look at the Seventh Commandment and what it means in light of New Testament revelation: “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).

The Bible said that the Messiah would magnify the Law and make it honorable (Isaiah 42:21). The Pharisees had dishonored the Law by teaching that God required only an outward show of piety. However, Jesus explained that God judges even the thought-life. He said, “You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not commit adultery: But I say to you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:27,28). In doing so He touched the apple of the eye of humanity. Men live for and will die because of lust. For them it is life’s greatest pleasure, and they would rather be damned than let it go. If salvation were the work of man, no one would be saved. The evangelistic endeavor would be hopeless. But thank God it is He who gives us repentance leading us to the knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 2:25). It is God who brings us to our senses and shows us the end of our transgressions. This Commandment is perhaps the most powerful of the mighty cannons of God and therefore must be used often to awaken sinners to their plight.

Realize that when you give yourself to lust, you are committing adultery (Matthew 5:27,28). Grasp the serious nature of your sin. Jesus said that it would be better for you to be blind and go to heaven than for your eye to cause you to sin and end up in hell (Matthew 5:29). Those who profess to be Christians yet drool over pornographic material evidently lack the fear of God (Proverbs 16:6). Cultivate the fear of the Lord by reading Proverbs 2:1–5. Think of where lust led King David. He opened himself to many other sins, including murder, and brought misery and shame to his family name. Read Psalm 51 and make it your own prayer.

Memorize James 1:14,15 and 1 Corinthians 10:13. Follow Jesus' example (Matthew 4:3–11) and quote the Word of God when you are tempted (see Ephesians 6:12–20).

Make no provision for your flesh (Romans 13:14; 1 Peter 2:11). Get rid of every access to pornographic material—the Internet, printed literature, TV, videos, and movies. Stop feeding the fire. Instead, guard your heart with all diligence (Proverbs 4:23). Don't let the demonic realm have access to your thought-life. If you give yourself to it, you will become its slave (Romans 6:16).

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 11, beginning on page 76.

## Respond

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Day 12 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Listen

***“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?  
Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” MARK 8:36,37***

Today we will look at the Eighth Commandment: “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).

Most people don't think that God considers theft to be theft until the value of what is taken impresses Him. However, if I open your wallet and take just one dollar, I'm a thief, and the Bible says that thieves will not enter the kingdom of God. What would be worth stealing for the loss of your soul? Jesus asked, “What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

A sinner will often admit to stealing but say that it was just a bar of candy when he was young. Or he will say that he has stolen once, but has since reformed. He must be told that time doesn't forgive sin, and that God still sees the sins of yesterday as if they were committed today. Stop his mouth using the Law (Romans 3:19). Show him that the only way to escape the terrible consequences of his sin is the Door of the Savior. Let the hurricane of the wrath of the Law of God blow far from him the scanty leaves of self-righteousness. Have him

admit his transgression by name—that he is a thief. Then point to (and have him read) 1 Corinthians 6:9,10.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 12, beginning on page 84.

# Respond

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Day 13 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaks lies shall not escape.” PROVERBS 19:5***

Today we will look at the Ninth Commandment: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16). Should a Christian ever tell a lie? There are times when we may find ourselves in the difficult position of realizing that telling the truth may have dire repercussions. For example, you are asked by a Nazi if you are hiding any Jews in your home. Should you tell him there are two under your bed? To do so would result in their sure death. Your choice is to lie and save lives, or tell the truth and be a party to murder. Another example is putting “tourist” rather than “Bible smuggler” on your visa into China, or not telling the police in a persecuted country the names of other members of your underground church. Perhaps the answer is that it is the motive that matters. However, the issue depends on the conscience of each individual.

The dictionary defines a lie as a false statement deliberately presented as being true; a falsehood; something intended to deceive or give a wrong impression. People often claim that they have told only a “white lie.” But there is no difference between a white lie, a half-truth, a fib, or an exaggeration. All are lies in the sight of God. How many murders does one have to commit to be a murderer? Just one. In the same way, if they have told even one lie, no matter what color or size, that makes them a liar.

The Ninth Commandment requires the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. God is a God of truth and His Law demands absolute honesty from the heart. Yet the human heart is deceitful above all things.

This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 13, beginning on page 90.

# Respond

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Day 14 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” 1 JOHN 2:15***

Today we will look at the Tenth Commandment: “You shall not covet . . . anything that is your neighbor’s (Exodus 20:17). Covetousness is perhaps the most subtle of sins. It seems minor compared to adultery, theft, or rape. However, before a man steals, he covets. Before he rapes or commits adultery, he covets. Covetousness is the spark that sets off the fuse of sin. It is a sin that lies close to the surface of every human being. Few children are content with ten pieces of candy when the child next to him gets eleven. Covetousness is the bed-fellow of jealousy, greed, and lust. It was this quiet sin that found a place in the heart of King David, rich and blessed though he was. His covetous eye roamed toward another man’s wife, and opened the door to a multitude of sins.

Who of us can stand guiltless and say that we have never jealously desired something that belongs to someone else? Whether we long for another’s house, car, income, or lifestyle, our covetousness reveals a lack of gratitude for what God has already given us. That’s why Scripture admonishes us to “be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have” (Hebrews 13:5). Learn to pray along with the psalmist, “Incline my heart unto your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from beholding vanity. . .” (Psalm 119:36,37).

**This devotion was excerpted from *The School of Biblical Evangelism*, chapter 14, beginning on page 96.**

# Respond

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Day 15 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” MATT. 28:19-20*

*“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” JOHN 14:15*

*Now that you understand the principles, how are you doing practically? It’s been two weeks since you started this journey, you’re almost half-way through this devotional... how many people have you shared your faith with since you began? This is a challenge we all need...*

Over the years, I have asked churches, “How many of you can say before God that you have witnessed verbally to more than 12 people over the past 12 months? That is, at least every 30 days or so, somebody who is sitting in the shadow of death has heard the Gospel of everlasting life from your lips?” I have found that only 8-12 percent will raise their hands. Where is the zeal? Jesus said, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; *and you shall be my witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, italics added). The Holy Spirit wasn’t given without purpose in mind. He was given so that we might have power for the purpose of being witnesses of Christ. So many profess to possess the power, but where is the lifestyle that confirms what the profess to possess?

*Are we hot for God?* Can we say that we have witnessed to more than 12 people in the last 12 months? Do we have the testimony, “to live means opportunities for Christ?” Is there a zeal to witness burning in our bones? It doesn’t matter how much we pray, tithe, fellowship... Jesus said “Go.” Obedience is better than sacrifice. Sure those things are the basics of the Christian faith, but if we are not sharing the faith we are not fulfilling our commission. We are like survivors of the Titanic singing songs as we polish the brass in the lifeboat, when there is room for many who are drowning around us. There is nothing wrong with polishing brass... *but not while people are drowning around us.* We are *commissioned* soldiers. True Christianity is not a pleasure-cruiser on its way to Heaven, but a battleship stationed at the very gates of Hell!

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 1, beginning on page 5.**

# Respond

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Day 16 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.” 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4***

*We're going to spend a little time now going through the armor that every Christian soldier needs to be wearing. Examine yourself and see how you measure up. You won't feel prepared to go into the battle of winning souls if you aren't well armed.*

Christianity isn't for wimps. God put the heat of tribulation on Jesus in the desert (see Luke 4:1)— “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things that He suffered...” (Hebrews 5:8). How much more will you and I be tried if we want to walk in the footsteps of the Savior? If we want to rescue humanity from the fires of Hell, we must take control, both of our own fears and of the demonic restraints placed in front of us.

We need to know what our weapons are, and we need to have expertise in their use so that we might be effective in penetrating enemy territory. Ephesians 6:10-18 lists some of our basic inventories, where seven standard items are listed. First we are told to have our loins, “gird about with truth.” So our first preparation for battle is to determine to speak the truth, the whole truth , and nothing but the truth... from the heart, *without compromise*.

When we are gird about with truth, the world will hate us. If we would just say that Jesus isn't the *only* way to God, or that you can sin and love God, or that the Bible is only *one* revelation of God to man, then we would have the world's smile. The unyielding truth may cause us to have to pay the ultimate price for our faith.

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 2, beginning on page 14.**

# Respond

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Day 17 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.” ISAIAH 59:17***

The second item which we are commanded to put on as soldiers of the Lord, is the “breastplate of righteous-

ness.” Jesus Christ, the Lord of Righteousness, loves righteousness. He has a vehement fervor for justice. The soldier who has been taught and trained by the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead will not only *have* righteousness, but will *do* righteousness. He should love what is right and hate what is wrong. The child of God longs for a new earth “wherein dwells righteousness.” He “hungers and thirsts for righteousness.” If we haven’t that testimony, then we haven’t seen an answer to the cry, “Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a *right* spirit in me,” or perhaps that has never been our plea...

The breastplate keeps the heart clean, for out of the heart come the issues of life. How could we approach the King with soiled garments? Righteousness breeds holy boldness! If we had an audience with an earthly king, we would groom every hair on our heads. We would go over our clothes with a fine-toothed comb, and go over our teeth with a fine-bristled brush. We would check the mirror with the eye of a prosecuting attorney, looking for the finest of flaws. We would shine our shoes until they mirrored our face. The king’s position commands such respect. How much more then should we cleanse our hearts and minds daily through the water of the Word, so that we might have a bold confidence before the King of Righteousness.

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 2, beginning on page 18.

## Respond

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Day 18 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Listen

***“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! ISAIAH 52:7***

The next part of our apparel is often not seen as being a necessary part of our armor. Paul goes on to say, “And having your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.”

Soldiers who have a fight within their spirit, a keenness, and a smell for the battle, make the best fighters. They are prepared within their heart: “The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.” Their boots are on. Their bayonets are fixed. One word from the Commander and they are into the thick of the battle.

The Christian soldier has studied how to be effective as a witness of the Gospel. He knows that he who wins souls is wise. He has ordered his priorities, and knows that there is no higher calling than to lead a sinner to Christ. Like Philip, he will leave a revival to lead a sinner to the Savior. He “must” go through Samaria to speak to one woman at a well. He seeks that which the Son of Man came to seek... that which is lost. He knows what

pleases Headquarters — that Heaven rejoices when one sinner repents.

The Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace...” Do you know what that means? It means that if you will obey the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, it so pleases God that He considers even your feet to be beautiful. If you can, slip off one of your shoes right now and have an objective look at your bare foot. With all vanity aside, you must admit that your foot is a little unbecoming. The small toe looks like a reject jelly bean, yet God says that if you preach His glorious Gospel, He considers that lowly, unattractive (even ugly) foot to be beautiful.

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 2, beginning on page 22.**

# Respond

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Day 19 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” HEBREWS 11:1***

This next piece of armor is worthy of close inspection... this is a life preserver. The Scriptures say, “Above all taking the shield of faith. This part of defense is fundamentally, ultra-vitally essential. This is that which extinguishes all the “flaming arrows of the evil one.” In other words, if you don’t use this portion of your armor you will be wounded, perhaps fatally, but the flaming arrows of the enemy.

Faith is spiritually what oxygen is naturally. If the life of this flesh is in the blood, the life of the blood is in the oxygen. Without faith, the Christian gasps, writhes, and then dies. We know that without faith it is impossible to please God. Without faith, the sharks will devour us. With faith, it is not only possible to please Him, but to float above the infested waters of this world. It is also possible to move mountains, subdue kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtain promises, and stop the mouths of lions.

God has even given us an honor roll of soldiers who have gone before us in battle. Hebrews Chapter 11 lists those who through faith did exploits for their God, and were afterward promoted to Headquarters. They exercised faith in attack and in defense, proving its worth. It’s now up to us to follow their example. These soldiers of the Cross found that faith in God gave them the ability to be “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might,” to be “more than conquerors,” because they knew that God was for the, that He always caused them to triumph... through faith.

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 3, beginning on page 26.

# Respond

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Day 20 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back;  
This I know; for God is for me.” PSALM 56:9***

No armor would be complete if provision is not made for the most vulnerable part of the body, the head. Once again, Paul admonishes us to “take” the helmet. If we will not take it and put it on, we will suffer the consequences. The helmet speaks of guarding the mind, using particularly the knowledge of God’s coming deliverance. This use of the helmet is made clear in 1 Thessalonians 5:8, “... and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.” The word “hope” comes from a Greek word *elpis*, which means more than the contemporary definition of the word hope. It means a “confident expectation.” David’s hope in God was clearly evident in the opening scripture of this devotion. He knew that God was for him, and that the Lord would fit on his behalf. David was wearing his head-gear.

In the opening verse of Isaiah Chapter 42, the prophet speaks of the office of the Messiah. In verse 4 we are told that Jesus was never discouraged. It also tells us why: “He shall not fail nor be discouraged...” Jesus never lost his courage *because he knew that He would not fail!* How could he when the Father was with Him? Here lies the key to not only the courage of the Son of God, but of Stephen, and every other hero of the Cross who laughed in the face of the enemy’s greatest weapon, death. Our brethren were valiant in battle because they knew that they could not fail. They had bolted down the helmet of salvation. They knew that death could not touch them—*it could only graduate them.* It was merely a doormat on which they wiped their feet as they entered the joy of Heaven.

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 4, beginning on page 37.

# Respond

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Day 21 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” HEBREWS 4:12*

C. H. Spurgeon said, “We must thrust the sword of the Spirit into the hearts of men.” The enemy has particular loathing for this part of our armor. This is the weapon he wants kept in its sheath. He doesn’t want Christians to see the point of the sword of the Lord.

The sword was to the soldier of Paul’s day, what ammunition is to the soldier today. The Scriptures say, “And take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” This is the mighty weapon which God has issued to all who enlist for service. The Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It effectively cuts into the heart of all who oppose its gleaming blade. When Satan attacked the Son of God in the wilderness, Jesus did not react carnally. He picked up the glistening razor-edge of the Word of God and said, “It is written...” He used the two-edged sword and it was effective.

The book of Revelation describes the glorified Jesus by saying, “...and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.” Soldier of Christ, throw away your sheath, it’s not part of your armor. Strap the two-edged sword firmly in your hand. The way to keep the sword on hand is to have it in your mouth. In Jeremiah Chapter 1, God told the prophet not to speak words of fear. God then put His words in the mouth of Jeremiah, and in Chapter 5 we are given a development report of his transformation: “...thus says the Lord God of Hosts: ‘Because you speak this word, behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.’” God wants us to *speak* His word. Remain silent no longer.

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 4, beginning on page 40.**

# Respond

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Day 22 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” ACTS 2:42*

The last of the weapons which accompany the armor of God, mentioned in Ephesians Chapter 6 is the power of prayer. This is referred to in the KJV as “all prayer.” Prayer is the line of communication we have with Headquarters. It is by that line that we send for supplies for the troops—ammunition, food, medical aid, etc. This is why it is essential to keep the communication line open, free from interference, and from Satanic static. Sin interferes with earth-to-Heaven communication.

It has been said that he who is a stranger to prayer, will also be a stranger to power. We need to seek God to break the hard hearts of Hell-bound sinners. Hardly a day goes by when I don't beseech God for wisdom. I need the wisdom of God. The Scriptures say, “He that begets wisdom loves his own soul.” If you have wisdom from above, you will seek to save souls. If you have wisdom, you will see all the traps set by the enemy, you will encourage other Christians with insights from the Word, and you will cut sinners to the heart with the wisdom of God.

Let us never face a day in battle until we have faced the Father in prayer. John Bunyan said, “Prayer is a shield to the soul, a delight to God, and a scourge to Satan.” Someone once said that Satan trembles when he sees the feeblest Christian on his knees. How utterly convicting are the words of Martin Luther: “I have so much to do (today) that I should spend the first three hours in prayer.” Martin was a monk, and therefore had the time to spend in prayer, but we can see the principle of what he was saying—“Seek first the Kingdom of God.”

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 4, beginning on page 43.**

# Respond

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Day 23 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.” ROMANS 6:22*

*Holiness is essential in a Christian's life, but it's something that seems to rarely be talked about today. Spend some time*

*reflecting on God's standards of holiness...*

The Apostle Paul never laid down his arms for a moment. He had a zeal that drove him to witness of his faith in Christ, even while in bonds. Can you imagine the boldness needed to witness to Roman guards, to men who were hardened to cruelty? Yet Paul begged, "Pray for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make know the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." Instead of the attitude, "Oh no, here I am chained to two guards," his was, "Thank you Lord, I have two guards chained to me." He looked for an opportunity to witness, because the zeal of God's house had eaten him up. He had surrendered to the will of his Creator.

Paul's enthusiasm for the Kingdom of God remained steadfast because it was fed by the Spirit of Holiness. He was separated from the world to the God of holiness. This is the difference between the contemporary Church and the fiery and military army of the Church of the book of Acts. The tanks of evangelism of the Army of God have become rusted to a standstill by the influence of the world. What is needed is an unprecedented outpouring of the oil of God's Holy Spirit to get mobile and into action, and that power will come when the Church becomes holy.

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 5, beginning on page 49.**

# Respond

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Day 24 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." MARK 16:15***

*Charles Spurgeon has a wonderful quote regarding evangelism, he said, "Do something! Do something! Do something!" 150,000 people will die today... have you shared the gospel with any of them?*

If you are a sleeping saint, Satan will gladly rock your cradle. Oh, for a strong-sounding trumpet blast in the ear of those who would sleep, "Awake, awake, put on strength, O Zion..." If we sleep on our own domain, it won't be long before we are asleep on enemy territory. He will take what we don't defend. We haven't moved, it's just that the ground we are on has become occupied. Some of our churches are so dead, the only thing keeping many awake is the sound of snoring.

Soldier, what are you doing for the Kingdom of God? Are you waiting for a "word from God?" Then here it is—

“Go” (Mark 16:15). What are you waiting for? Go somewhere, do something, say something to somebody somewhere, somehow. One day you will be dead, and then it will be too late. While you can think, speak, move your hands and feet, do something for God. Are you content to sit in the barracks while the battle rages? Form a platoon. Give out tracts everywhere, speak for your God. Do something before the dust of apathy covers you.

There is no neutral ground. You are either gathering or you are scattering for the Kingdom of God. We have been given our battle orders through the Word of God. He who reads them cannot but hear the “sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.” When I had been a Christian for 12 years, I figured out that I had sat under the sound of 1,800 sermons. Work out how many sermons you have listened to, and then ask how many should you take in before you give out. How much training do we need? Many have become so fat in God they have rocked themselves to sleep trying to get out of the pews.

We must run to the battle. Our aim is not to kill, but to make alive. Men have rushed into battle merely to obtain dirt. They gave their lives to get back a hill in Vietnam, Korea or Israel, a hill which may be returned to the enemy through peace negotiations twenty years later. Their costly efforts may prove to be futile. But our labor for the saving of souls is never in vain.

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 5, beginning on page 53.

# Respond

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Day 25 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.” MATTHEW 11:19***

Are you afraid to get your “hands dirty?” Are you hesitant to roll up your sleeves in order to see the lost come to salvation?

In the eighties, I would often go frog and tadpole hunting with my children. On one occasion, I had made a drag-net which I would throw into the pond, being careful to avoid the weeds which sat in the center. A normal haul was five or six tadpoles and perhaps a small frog or two. After some time, I accidentally threw the net right onto a large piece of weed and pulled it to the shore. I was a little dismayed that this was going to be a rather messy haul, but to our delight, that one haul netted 86 tadpoles. I had been avoiding their place of habitation.

Most Christians stay clear of bars and other weedy places, yet that is where the fish gather. Throw your net

into the dregs of humanity and you will gloat at the results. The unsaved flock to bars, not church buildings. We have as much chance of getting sinners to visit church building as we have of criminals visiting a police station. If we were policemen and business was down, we could chrome-plate the bars, put in carpet and air conditioning with a notice on the front of our jail saying, “Tonight—7:00 p.m.—all welcome,” but few criminals would visit the police station. If business is down we have to go and apprehend lawbreakers, and the same applies to evangelism. Our light shines most in the dark places.

Organize a combat battalion and go into the field of the world. Why stay as Private Barracks, when you can be a Field Marshall. Promotion does not come from the east or the west, but from the Lord. If you prove fearless and faithful, you will be honored with promotion. Pull out the pin of self-will, then place yourself as an evangelistic hand-grenade into the hand of God.

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 5, beginning on page 56.

# Respond

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Day 26 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“Therefore do not be unwise,  
but understand what the will of the Lord is.”  
EPHESIANS 5:17***

*Sometimes even if you have good intentions to be involved in evangelism, we let things in that block our path. Today’s devotion will help you identify some of those potential hazards before you encounter them.*

What a disaster it would be to have troops in the heat of battle, unclear about their mission! How can any soldier apply himself to combat if he isn’t sure what his orders are? Our directive is crystal clear. The charge to assault the enemy and bring back those who will desert sin and the world, rings in the ears of those who are truly born of the Spirit. They hear His voice and run to do His will.

How much do you want to break out of the comfort of the barracks and fight on the front line? If you desire it above all else, then set your sights on it, and don’t let anything deter you from that goal. Set your face “as a flint toward Jerusalem.” You have a large crowd to push through, and some won’t move out of the way as quickly as others. Self-will will be your biggest obstacle. He will take some prodding with your case. Directly behind him is his best friend, the never satisfied and overweight Self-indulgence. He is more interested in eating a donut than he is in moving out of your way. Just beside him is Laziness, and his two bedfellows, Apathy

and Hard-heart. Pride will stand arrogantly in front of you, and will persist in keeping his position. He will be wearing the disguise of the “fear of man,” so he may be hard to recognize.

Condemnation, Doubt and Discouragement will whisper lies in your ear and try to take your eyes off your goal. They can be dealt with through faith in God’s promises. Watch them though, because they will be wanting to return the moment you push them aside.

Then you have to maneuver past the attractive subtleties of Legitimate Pleasure, Entertainment and Leisure. They will want you to stop and talk for a while.

The fundamental principle to getting each hindrance to move back, is the authority you and I have in Christ. It is your blood-bought right to break out of the barracks of mediocrity, obscurity, mundane and defeatist Christianity, and live on the cutting edge of the will of the Living God.

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 6, beginning on page 61.**

# Respond

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Day 27 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 PETER 3:9***

*Has God given you a new heart with new desires? Are you letting anything get between you, and obedience to your Lord?*

I’m sure few of us have failed to underline Psalm 37:4 in our Bibles: “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” But what are our desires? What do we want most in life? Do we desire above all things to have a better paying job, a bigger house, thicker carpet, a superior car, and more money? Are we controlled by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life? Or have we been transformed from the way of this world by “the renewing of (our) mind,” that we may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God? Are our desires now in line with God’s desires? Are we above all things “not willing that any should perish,” and that all men come to the knowledge of the truth? If that is our testimony, it is because we have the same Spirit in us as the Apostle Paul, who said, “For it is God who works in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Look at this verse in the *Amplified Bible*:

“(Not in your own strength) for it is God who is all the while effectually at work in you—energizing and creating in you the power and desire—both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.”

Scripture tells me that the reason I get desires to do exploits for God, is because He is in me “energizing and creating in me the power an desire to work for His pleasure.” When I get aspirations to do things to reach the unsaved, it is because my desires have become His desires, and His desires have become my desires. I can pursue my aspirations, trusting that they are in the will of God, and therefore I can confidently expect Him to honor them. Remember, this is not presumption, “an arrogant taking for granted,” but a pure, unadulterated desire to do the right thing by reaching out to the lost.

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 7, beginning on page 74.

## Respond

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Day 28 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Listen

*“Blessed be the Lord my rock, who trains my hands for war,  
and my fingers for battle.” PSALM 144:1*

What is your “calling?” Has God called you?

God is calling for each soldier in His army to become personally involved in the battle, to win this world for Christ. No longer can we rely solely upon great preachers to do our fighting for us. Billy Graham said, “Mass crusades, to which I have devoted y life, will never finish the job... but one to one will.” The answer to the dilemma of how to reach the unsaved is for each of us to do battle right in our workplace, to rub shoulders with those held captive by the enemy.

I am often asked if I was specifically “called” to preach the Gospel. I have been called, along with every other Christian. If we are following Jesus, it should be because He has called us to be “fishers of men.” If we are not preaching the Word in season and out of season, it is probably because we are following at too great a distance. We can neither see His example nor hear His voice. Those who follow close to the Master will know His voice. They will obey it and be true and faithful witnesses.

This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 13, beginning on page 137.

# Respond

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Day 29 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

*“...looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.” HEBREWS 12:2*

*What is our motivation for sharing the gospel with the lost world? What can keep us continually “on-fire” for God?*

In previous devotions we have established that it is very clear from Scripture that God doesn't want sinners to perish. His will is for the world to be saved. It is also clear from Scripture that we should be seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. How then can we continually motivate ourselves to do so? That is what we will look at today.

I wonder if you are happy with your reaction to the word “evangelism?” Does it produce a feeling of guilt or joy? Do you run to your evangelistic responsibility as Philip to the Ethiopian in Acts Chapter 8, or do you run from your evangelistic responsibility as did Jonah? The answer will more than likely be, “A little of both.” The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. You can identify with me when I speak of fears I have, when I'm about to speak to someone about the Kingdom of God. Our heart wants to seek and save that which is lost, but our Adamic nature would rather stay tucked in the bed of indifference. A major motivation comes from the knowledge that, if I *really* care about the person who sits next to me, I will make every effort to witness to him.

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 14, beginning on page 163.**

# Respond

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Day 30 — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

***“The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.” DEUTERONOMY 28:7***

*How are you doing at crucifying your own selfish desires and plunging ahead in obedience to God?*

Two drunks walked along a wharf one dark night, climbed into a small boat, and determined to row to the other side of the lake. The first drunk rowed for one and a half hours. Sweat poured from his brow, until he collapsed. The second drunk took the oars and rowed for three hours. He finally collapsed, exhausted. When they awoke at sunrise, they found that they had made only one mistake. *They were still tied to the wharf.*

Sadly, many professing Christians are still tied to the wharf of self-will. The yolk of Christ is not easy, and His burden is not light. The Christian life is one of labor and sorrow. It is one of struggle, sweat and misery. Their problem is that they have never cut the ropes from the wharf of self-will. They have never abandoned themselves to a faithful Creator. If they would feed daily on the Word, they would find that it produces faith (see Romans 10:17), and faith is what Satan hates. Faith moves mountains. I have seen the most miserable of Christians rise up in victory, once they grasped the “Psalm One” principle of feeding daily on the Scriptures.

The Bible is a supernatural book. When it’s pages are read with faith in the heart, that faith produces more faith, and from confidence issues joy. Joy yields a “continual feast” for the soul, so that the soldier of Christ can live in victory over every circumstance the enemy puts in front of him.

Don’t wait any longer! Pull out the pin of self-will, then place yourself as a grenade into the Hand of Almighty God. Stand firmly on the blood-bought promises of God.

**This devotion was excerpted from *How to Win Souls and Influence People*, chapter 15, beginning on page 185.**

# Respond

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BONUS DEVOTION — Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Listen

Listen online to the free audio taught by Ray Comfort called “True and False Conversion” that you will find at:  
[www.spiritualthirst.com/listen](http://www.spiritualthirst.com/listen)

Listening to this teaching will take a little less than an hour. If you have ever wondered why so much of the Church looks and acts just like the world, you will love this teaching.

While you’re listening, try to catch the answers to these questions:

1. What did Jesus say to His disciples when they questioned Him about the Parable of the Sower?

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2. In the Parable of the Sower, what are the six characteristics of a false convert?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

3. What light does James 2:19 shed on the sixth characteristic of a false convert?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the five fruits of a true convert?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the three things that happen here on earth to expose false converts?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

*The answers can be found at the end of your journal.*

# Respond

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## Day 2 – ANSWERS

1. The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul. Matthew Henry says, "Nothing is to be added to it nor taken from it. It is of use to convert the soul, to bring us back to ourselves, to our God, to our duty; for it shows us our sinfulness and misery in our departures from God and the indispensable necessity of our return to him."
2. The four functions of God's Law for humanity are as follows: (1.) It stops the sinner's mouth from justifying itself; (2.) helps the whole world realize that they are guilty; (3.) brings the knowledge of sin; and (4.) acts as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.
3. The biblical definition of sin is transgression of the Law. This is the definition of sin in general. The Greek word "sin" (*hamartia*) is literally "a missing of the mark" (God's perfect Law is the mark that we must aim for). Romans 3:20 tells us, "By the law is the knowledge of sin." The straightedge of a ruler shows the crookedness of a line.
4. The Law is designed for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine. See 1 Timothy 1:8-10.
5. Some of the legitimate fruits of salvation are joy (Acts 16:34) and peace (Romans 15:13).
6. Because the sinner will respond with an impure motive, lacking repentance, without which they will perish on the day of Judgment. See Luke 13:3, 5.

## BONUS – ANSWERS

1. Jesus said to His disciples when they questioned Him about the Parable of the Sower, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all parables?" (Mark 4:13). In other words, the Parable of the Sower is the key to unlocking the mysteries of all the other parables.
2. In the Parable of the Sower, what are the six characteristics of a false convert?
  1. Immediate results (Mark 4:5)
  2. Lack of moisture (Luke 8:6)
  3. No root (Matthew 13:6)
  4. Receive the word with gladness (Mark 4:16)
  5. Receive the word with joy (Matthew 13:20)
  6. They do "believe" for a season (Luke 8:13)
3. James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils also believe, and tremble." This verse reveals that mere belief – when not accompanied by repentance (Luke 13:3) and placing one's faith in Christ (Acts 20:21) – is not sufficient for salvation.
4. What are the five fruits of a true convert?
  1. Fruit of Repentance (Matthew 3:8)
  2. Fruit of Thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15)
  3. Fruit of Good Works (Colossians 1:10)
  4. Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
  5. Fruit of Righteousness (Philippians 1:11)
5. Tribulation, temptation, and persecution.

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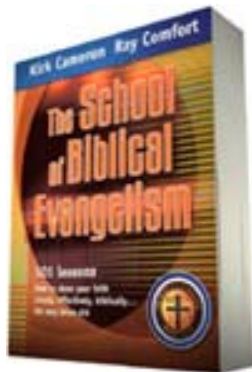
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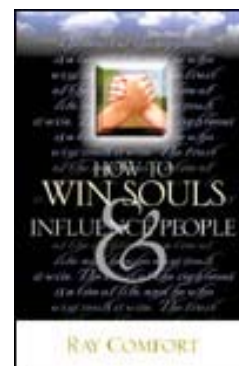
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