

Daily Devotional Guide

Thursday April 2, 2020

A - Approaching God – Start with Prayer

Take a moment to settle in before the Lord - reflect on, and even write down, your thoughts regarding this truth: That the awesome creator God fights for you, loves you, and guides you by His strength.

B - Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

John 15:1–8 (ESV) — 1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Look in God's Word

What are 2-3 things this text tells me about God? (The Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit)

Are there any words, phrases, or themes that stand out as important or are repeated?

What do you think is meant by each of the elements in this metaphor? (The vine, the vinedresser, the branches, the fruit?)

Look in Our Own Lives

How would the truth in this passage change my life if I took it seriously? What attitudes, behaviors, emotions, or idols comes alive in me when I forget this truth?

Look Outward Toward Others

What is one particular spiritual fruit you need to be producing more of in your life in order to be a blessing to those around you? (See Gal 5:22-23 for some ideas)

<u>C</u> - Close in Prayer

Read this excerpt from the hymn below and try to turn it into your own prayer for today: "O, Jesus, make thyself to me, a living, bright reality. More present to Faith's vision keen than any outward object see. More near, more intimately nigh, than e'en the sweetest earthly tie."

- Charlotte Elliot hymn