

"GROWING IN FAITH:
DEVOTIONALS FOR
MEN ON GOD'S GRACE
AND LOVE"

Content

Introduction	7
"Men of Valor" (Joshua 24:15)	9
"The power of the word" (Proverbs 18:21)	12
"A sound mind in a sound body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)	15
Devotional 4: The example of Christ Humility in leadership (Philippians 2:5-8)	18
Devotional 5: The heart of man: Guarding our thoughts" (Proverbs 4:23)	21
Devotional 6: "The Danger of Passivity: Taking the Initiative at Home and at Church" (Proverbs 6:6-11)	24
Devotional 7: "The importance of discipline: Training our children in the truth" (Proverbs 22:6)	28
Devotional 8: "The Call to Service: Serving Others as Christ Served Us" (John 13:14-15)	31
Devotional 9: "The importance of prayer: Communicating with our heavenly Father" (Matthew 6:6-8)	34
Devotional 10: The Role of the Father Reflecting the Fatherhood of God (Ephesians 6:4)	37
Devotional 11: True Christ-Shaped Masculinity (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)	41
Devotional 12: "The Importance of Truth: Living an Honest and Upright Life" (Ephesians 4:25)	45
Devotional 13: "The husband's responsibility: To love his wife as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25-33)	49
Devotional 14: "The responsibility of the wife: Submit to her husband as to Christ" (Ephesians 5:22-24)	53
Devotional 15: The role of man in the church Leading with humility and wisdom (1 Timothy 3:1-7)	57
Devotional 16: "The Importance of Purity: Keeping Us Free from Immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)	61

Devotional 17: The Call to Patience Learning to Wait on the Lord (Psalm 27:14)	65
Devotional 18: The importance of integrity Living a life consistent with our faith (1 Timothy 4:12)	68
Devotional 19: The Value of Wisdom Seeking God's Guidance at All Times (Proverbs 2:1-6)	71
Devotional 20: The Importance of Compassion Being Sensitive to the Needs of Others (Matthew 9:36)	75
Devotional 21: The importance of faith We trust in the Lord in the midst of adversity (Hebrews 11:1)	78
Devotional 22: The Importance of Humility Recognizing our need for God (Proverbs 3:34)	81
Devotional 23: "The importance of honesty: Telling the truth at all times" (Colossians 3:9)	85
Devotional 24: "The Importance of Faithfulness: Staying Loyal to God and to Our Family" (Hebrews 13:4)	88
Devotional 25: "The responsibility of the father: Disciplining with love and wisdom" (Proverbs 13:24)	91
Devotional 26: The importance of gratitude Acknowledging God's goodness in our lives (1 Thessalonians 5:18)	95
Devotional 27: The Importance of Forgiveness Freeing Others and Ourselves from Bitterness (Colossians 3:13)	98
Devotional 28: "The value of patience: Waiting on the Lord in difficult times" (James 1:2-4)	102
Devotional 29: "Satisfaction in Christ - Philippians 4:11-13)	105
Devotional 30: "The importance of obedience: Following God's will in our lives" (John 14:15)	109
Devotional 31: "The importance of obedience: Following God's will in our lives" (John 14:15)	113
Devotional 32: The Importance of Unity: Working Together in Harmony" (Ephesians 4:3)	116

Devotional 33: "The importance of evangelism: Sharing the gospel with courage and humility" (Matthew 28:19-20)	120
Devotional 34 "The Importance of Hope: Holding on to God's Promise in Times of Uncertainty" (Romans 15:13)	124
Devotional 35 "The importance of perseverance in prayer: Praying without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)	128
Devotional 36 "The Infinite Provision of God" The Promise of (Philippians 4:19)	132
Devotional 37 "Teaching our children" The word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)	135
Devotional 38: "The importance of patience in teaching Teaching with patience and love" (2 Timothy 4:2)	139
Devotional 39: "Christian Stewardship What does it mean to be a good steward (1 Corinthians 4:2)	142
Devotional 40: The danger of the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10)	145
Devotional 41: Wisdom for Living: Living Wisely with Our Wives (1 Peter 3:7)	148
Devotional 42: Man's call to protect and provide for his family (1 Timothy 5:8)	152
Devotional 43: The importance of gratitude Remembering God's blessings in our lives (Psalm 103:2)	156
Devotional 44: "The importance of teaching our children to love God and His Word" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)	160
Devotional 45: "The importance of teaching our children to love God and His Word" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)	163
Devotional 46: "Avoiding the temptation to follow our own judgment" (Proverbs 3:7)	166
Devotional 47: "The need of the Christian community" (Hebrews 10:24-25)	170
Devotional 48: "Subjecting ourselves to established authority" (Romans 13:1-2)	173

Devotional 49: "Growing in Sanctification: How to Cultivate the Character of Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-6)	177
Devotional 50: "The need to teach our children to have an eternal perspective and not just a temporal one" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)	181
Devotional 51: "Greed: The Danger of Riches" (Luke 12:15)	185
Devotional 52: "Surprised by suffering, looking at Christ in difficulty" (Romans 8:18)	188

Introduction

In today's society, the role of men in the family and in the church has been distorted, and this has negatively affected the development of both institutions. We find dangerous extremes, passivity on the one hand and excessive dominance on the other. As men of faith, we are called to be leaders in our families and churches, as well as to have an active participation in the formation and education of our children. As husbands, it is our duty to seek to please God in every area of our lives, including our role in the family.

In this book, we have selected 52 devotionals that aim to motivate men to take on their God-appointed role in designing the family. We men are called to direct, guide and train our families, a strenuous but vital role in the formation of sons and daughters for the glory of God. Scripture is our rule of faith and practice, and when used properly it can make an impact in our families.

Each devotional revolves around a biblical quote and uses sound exegesis to extract the original meaning of the words and simple explanations that will help the reader grow in God's grace. Throughout the book, you'll find sound theology, with a strong emphasis on the inerrancy of scripture and quotes from influential theologians, pastors, and teachers throughout history, including John MacArthur, Charles Spurgeon, Thomas Watson, Jonathan Edwards, and many other theologians of a healthy stream.

Each devotional focuses on key aspects of reinforcing biblical masculinity in the context of family and church service. You will find quotes that exalt humility, leadership, protection and provision, as well as examples of great men of faith, discipline, prayer and communion with God in the home.

The plan of this devotional is to cover it week by week for a year, ideal to apply it as a study guide for your congregation and help in the biblical formation of men. We hope that these devotionals are of great edification for your lives and that you can apply them in your congregations. That together, as men of faith, we can fulfill the role that God has entrusted to us in our families and in the church for his glory.

Devotional 1: "Men of Courage: Biblical Leadership in the Family" (Joshua 24:15)

*And if it seems bad to you to serve Jehovah, choose who you serve today; whether to the gods whom your fathers served, when they were on the other side of the river, or to the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but I and my house will serve the Lord.
Joshua 24:15 KJV*

INTRODUCTION

In today's society, many men have lost track of what it means to be a biblical leader in the family. Cultural expectations have led many men to adopt passive roles or even give up their leadership role in the home. However, the Bible calls us to be men of courage, strong and godly leaders in our families. In this devotional, we'll explore Joshua 24:15 and see how we can apply the biblical teaching of male headship in our homes.

ILLUSTRATION

Puritan John Bunyan wrote about the "Big Heart" character in his book "Pilgrim's Progress." Bigheart is a strong and brave man who leads other characters on their way to the Celestial City. Throughout his journey, he displays godly and wise leadership, guiding and encouraging others in their faith.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this verse, Joshua presents a challenge to his people: who will they serve? He reminds them that the Lord had led them through the desert and led them to the promised land, and now he tells them whether they will continue to follow the true God or turn aside to other gods. Joshua himself establishes his position: he and his house will serve the Lord. This is a bold and clear statement of leadership.

Biblical leadership in the family is based on the authority that God has given to the man as head of the home. This authority is not to dominate or abuse others, but to serve and guide in love and humility. A biblical leader is one who submits to God and seeks his will for his family. He leads with integrity, courage, and wisdom, and is not afraid to make tough decisions when necessary.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this verse is "serve." Service is a distinctive mark of biblical leadership. The biblical leader does not seek his own glory or benefit, but submits to God and serves his family. Service is based on love and humility, and is a practical manifestation of God's love in our lives.

*"Christian leadership is not
about being a boss, but
about being a servant." -
Charles Spurgeon.*

APPLICATIONS

- Biblical leadership begins with a personal commitment to God. We must seek God in prayer and in his Word in order to lead with wisdom and love.
- We must lead with integrity and humility, always seeking the glory of God and the well-being of our family.
- We must be willing to make difficult decisions and face challenges along the way, knowing that they must be above our appreciation or opinion, considering God primarily.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Spend time daily praying and reading God's Word to strengthen your relationship with him and grow in your spiritual leadership.
- Identify areas in which you need to grow in your leadership and look for mature brothers to help you.
- Make a list of objectives and goals for your family and work together to achieve them, always seeking God's will in every decision.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What is your biggest challenge in leading your home?

How can you make sure that your leadership is based on God's Word and not on your own ideas or desires?

What changes do you need to make in your life and leadership to be a man of courage who leads in love and humility?

Resources to expand the study:

Ephesians 6:4, Genesis 2:24, Proverbs 20:7, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Ephesians 5:28, Exodus 20:12, Colossians 3:18, Colossians 3:19, 1 Timothy 5:8

Devotional 2: "The power of the word: Effective communication in the home and in the church" (Proverbs 18:21)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and whoever loves it will eat its fruits. Proverbs 18:21 KJV

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*"The human tongue is an
admirable and glorious gift
from God when used well,
but it becomes a wicked and
disastrous instrument of
wickedness when misused."
-Jonathan Edwards.*

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Devotional 3: "A healthy mind in a healthy body: Caring for the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 because you have been bought with a price; Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 KJV

INTRODUCTION

At present, the idea of taking care of our body to maintain good health and a healthy lifestyle is a common practice that has motivations related to physical attractiveness. However, for Christians, the importance of taking care of our bodies goes beyond the physical benefits or attractiveness. As believers, we are called to be a temple of the Holy Spirit, and therefore, we must take care of our body as an act of obedience and worship to God. In this devotional, we will explore the importance of having a healthy body, from a biblical perspective.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a woodcutter who lives in a cabin in the middle of the woods. He has to cut down trees every day to earn a living and take care of his family. One day, he notices that the ax is losing its edge and is not cutting the trees effectively. However, instead of taking the time to sharpen the axe, he continues to hit the trees with the same worn-out tool.

Similarly, our bodies are tools to serve God and others. If we don't take care of it properly, it will wear out and not perform as well as it should. It is important to take the time to rest, eat properly, exercise and

take care of our health, in order to serve God with all our being.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In scripture, we find the importance of taking care of our body and mind as part of our worship of God. This shows that our obedience to God is not limited to what we do with our words and actions within the church or in a religious context, but also extends to the way we care for our bodies. Our physical and mental health affects our ability to serve God and live a holy and pleasing life to Him. Which are a practical demonstration of Christ's lordship over our lives.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this biblical passage is "glorify" (doxázō). God's call is for us to glorify Him in our body and in our spirit. Taking care of our body and mind is not just a matter of health, but it is a way of worshipping God and glorifying his name.

*" The body is the instrument
of the soul, and we must
keep it in the best possible
condition in order to fulfill
God's purpose for our lives."
-Martyn Lloyd-Jones.*

APPLICATIONS

- Find ways to take care of your body and mind, such as exercising, eating healthy, getting enough sleep, and meditating on God's Word.
- Recognize that your body does not belong to you, but is a gift from God and should be treated with respect and gratitude.

- Understands that caring for the body and mind is a way to glorify God and better serve others.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Make a list of ways you can take care of your body and set goals to implement those practices in your daily life.
- Reflect on how caring for your body affects your ability to serve God and others. Is there anything you can do to improve your ability to serve?
- Consider seeking the help of a health professional if you need assistance in caring for your body.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How does your physical and mental health affect your relationship with God?

In what ways can you use your body as a form of worship to God?

Are you being responsible with your body or are you neglecting it?

How can you change your habits to take better care of yourself and glorify God?

Resources to expand the study:

3 John 1:2, Proverbs 17:22, Psalm 127:2, Philippians 4:11-12, Matthew 6:25, 3 John 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Titus 1:12

Devotional 4: The example of Christ Humility in leadership (Philippians 2:5-8)

Let there be in you, then, this feeling that there was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God a thing to cling to, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of servant, made in the likeness of men; 8 and being in the condition of a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient until death, and death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8 KJV

INTRODUCTION

In our current culture, masculinity is often associated with strength, power, and authority. Instead, humility is seen as a sign of weakness or even poverty. However, Scripture shows us that true biblical masculinity is characterized by humility and service, just as Jesus Christ demonstrated in his earthly life. In Philippians 2:5-8, we are presented with the ultimate example of humble leadership, Christ. In this devotional, we will explore how we can apply this example in our lives of male leadership.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a father who works hard to provide for his family's needs, but also realizes that his role goes beyond just being a provider. This father leads his home not only through his words, but also through his actions. He shows humility by admitting his mistakes and asking for forgiveness when he is wrong. In addition, he sacrifices and serves his family by helping around the house and spending quality time with them, even when he is tired after a day's work.

This father also leads his family spiritually, teaching and modeling the truth of Scripture. He takes time to pray and read the Bible with his family, and he takes

them to church to worship together. In doing so, you show humility by acknowledging that you do not have all the answers, and you are depending on God to guide you in the leadership of your home.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, the humility of Christ is presented to us as an example to us in our leadership. First of all, we are told that Christ, despite being God, did not grasp the fact of being equal to God as something to which he should hold. In other words, he did not view his position of power and authority as something to be defended or maintained at all costs. Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant and making a conscious choice to live in humility.

EXPLANATION

The key word in this passage is "humility." In the Greek, the word used for "humility" is "tapeinophrosune", which means "lowliness of mind" or "humility in the sense of having a modest concept of oneself". This humility refers to an attitude of mind and heart that recognizes one's true position in relation to God and others. It is an attitude that is characterized by the absence of pride and the willingness to serve others.

***"Humility is the foundation of
Christian leadership and
supreme humility is found in
the life and example of Jesus
Christ." –John MacArthur.***

APPLICATIONS

- Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and consider biblical principles in decision making, not rely on our own wisdom or leadership position.

- Accept correction and advice from other church leaders and members with humility, rather than defend our own opinions or decisions.
- Model humility and service to others in all areas of our lives, not just in our leadership position.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Be honest with yourself and identify areas where we may be trusting our own wisdom instead of God's.
- Seek correction and advice from the pastor or mature fellow believers and church members in a specific area of our lives.
- Seek opportunities to serve others in our church and community, without seeking recognition or reward for it.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can I grow in my humility and service to others?

Am I willing to accept the correction and advice of the pastor or mature brothers in the faith? Why or why not?

How can I model humility and service

Resources to expand the study:

Philippians 2:3, Philippians 2:4, Matthew 20:28, John 13:14-15, Romans 12:16, Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:12, James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5-6

Devotional 5: The heart of man: Guarding our thoughts" (Proverbs 4:23)

Above all else, guard your heart; Because life flows from him. Proverbs 4:23 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Biblical masculinity is about much more than just acting like a man in society. It is about having a heart that cares about the things of God and that seeks to live according to his principles. In Proverbs 4:23, we are told to guard our heart above all else, because it is from it that the most important issues of life flow. In this devotional, we'll explore what it means to guard our hearts in the context of biblical masculinity.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine that you have a beautiful garden, this garden has reached this state, thanks to the maintenance you have provided, you have kept pests, insects, weeds and even extreme weather conditions away. You have provided the necessary water for the plants to grow healthily. You have spent time, effort, dedication. To get to that point, our thoughts must be protected in the same way so that we can live biblical principles that help us develop our leadership effectively in our families.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Guarding our heart means protecting it from negative influences and filling it with the good and true things of God. we must guard our hearts and doing this is like protecting a fortified city, protecting it from any influence that might enter and corrupt it. If we strive to guard our hearts then we must keep a firm mind on God's truth, protecting it from the lies of the world and the influence of satan.

The Bible tells us that our thoughts are important, and this is reflected in the teachings of Jesus. In Matthew 15:18-19, He says, "But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and that defiles a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimonies and slander." In other words, our thoughts and actions are directly related to the state of our hearts.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Hebrew of Proverbs 4:23 is "natsar", which means "to keep, preserve, protect, take care of". It is a strong word that denotes an active and constant action, not something that is done only from time to time. Guarding our heart is a call to protect it from negative influences and feed it with good things and the truths about God.

"If you want to mortify any sin, you must first feed your heart with the truth that opposes it." -John Owen.

APPLICATIONS

- Spend time in prayer and Bible reading each day. Set a schedule and make it a habit. Remember that it is important to feed your mind and heart with God's truth in order to have a renewed mind.
- Look for God's truth in the Bible and meditate on it daily. Fill your mind with God's truth so you can discern
- Don't believe the lie about being led by your heart, your heart is not designed to be a guide. But to be guided.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- If you struggle with reading, then look up videos or audios of God's word.
- Constantly evaluate your thoughts and attitudes. If you detect any negative thoughts, replace them with a biblical truth. If you feel a wrong attitude, ask God to help you change it.
- Do a review of the things you see, read or hear. If you discover that something is causing you to have impure or negative thoughts, eliminate it from your life.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Am I guarding my heart correctly? What can I do to protect it more?

What negative or impure thoughts have been occupying my mind recently? How can I replace them with Biblical truths?

Am I positively influencing the minds of those around me? What can I do to be a more positive influence?

Resources to expand the study:

Matthew 12:35, Mark 7:21, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Galatians 6:8.

Devotional 6: "The Danger of Passivity: Taking the Initiative at Home and at Church" (Proverbs 6:6-11)

Go to the ant, oh sloth, See his ways, and be wise; 7 Which, having no captain, nor governor, nor lord, 8 prepares its food in the summer, and collects its maintenance in the time of harvest. 9 lazy, how long do you have to sleep? When will you wake up? 10 a little sleep, a little doze, And cross your hands for a little to rest; 11 so your need will come like a walker, And your poverty like an armed man. Proverbs 6:6-11 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Passivity is a danger that can affect men in their role as leaders in the home and in the church. Passivity is often mistaken as a way to be peaceful and avoid conflict, but in reality, it can be a way to evade responsibility and leadership. Men must take the initiative to lead and guide their families and churches. In this devotional, we will explore the importance of taking the initiative and avoiding passivity, in the context of biblical masculinity.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a man who has been coming to church recently. This man's name is Juan, he has believed in Christ and has met the Lord for a short time, he begins to get involved in the church, participates in discipleship, he is attending regularly on Sundays, but he hopes that the men of the church will be a model to follow, on how to lead or be diligent, but he finds men who evade their responsibilities in the family or in the church. Juan decides to address the situation with the pastor, about the brothers who are passive in the church, so that he talks with the passive

brothers in the church, but instead the pastor of the church invites Juan to look for active brothers in the church. church, that they can develop an intimate and personal discipleship, in how to learn how to lead in the family and be diligent, honoring the Lord.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

This passage from Proverbs shows us the importance of taking the initiative and avoiding passivity. The ant is an example of diligence and hard work, without the need for a boss or supervisor to motivate it. Men are to be like the ant, preparing and working diligently in their role as leaders in the home and in the church. Passivity is an enemy that can make men negligent in their duty and responsibility. It is important to take the initiative and lead with courage and wisdom.

EXPLANATION

The key word in this passage is "lazy," which in Hebrew is "atzel." This word refers to someone who is indolent, negligent, lazy, or lazy in their duty or responsibility. Passivity is a form of spiritual laziness that can negatively affect a man's life and ministry. The teaching of this passage is that men should avoid passivity and take the initiative in their role as leaders in the home and in the church.

*No insect is more
industrious, not even the bee
itself; and none are more
attached or affectionate to
their young than the ant –
Adam Clarke*

APPLICATIONS

- Take the initiative in leading the family spiritually you can develop; devotionals, prayers, telling the children a bedtime story, teaching practical doctrine, training your wife in a deeper understanding of gospel truths.
- Approach your pastor, ask in which areas you can serve in the church.
- Make a diligent study habit, look for mature brothers who can help you find books that help you in your spiritual growth.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Spend some time in prayer and then sincerely reflect on what areas you have been passive, avoiding, or avoiding.
- Look for the possibility that someone can help you do a Bible study or if a brother has a Bible study, to help you further expand this topic.
- Make a personal commitment and habit to study scripture and pray in this direction.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What areas of my life have I been becoming passive?

What are my main arguments, to take a passive role?

How can I grow in diligence and hard work in my life, in order to grow spiritually?

What commitments can I make to myself to enhance my spiritual life?

Resources to expand the study:

1 Corinthians 15:58, Colossians 3:23-24, Ephesians 5:15-16, Proverbs 12:24, Proverbs

*13:4, Galatians 6:9, 2 Timothy 2:15, Colossians
3:17, 1 Peter 4: 10-11.*

Devotional 7: "The importance of discipline: Training our children in the truth" (Proverbs 22:6)

Instruct the child in his way, And even when he is old he will not depart from him. Proverbs 22:6 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Discipline is a fundamental issue when raising children. In a proverb we read "instruct a child in his way, and even when he is old he will not turn away from him" This verse shows us the importance of being guides for children at an early age, not only in terms of daily activities, but also in regarding values and principles that they must follow to guide their own lives. Discipline is a crucial aspect for the education of our children, since it helps us to shape their character and their way of seeing life.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a man who works a lot and has little time to spend with his children. He believes that work is the most important thing for the family and that is part of his fundamental role as a father. However, their children seek attention from other men, relatives, uncles or acquaintances. The children feel that they cannot ask their father for advice, since he is always busy.

One day, the man is dissatisfied with his children, he believes that his behavior is inappropriate and expects his children to behave in a way that he expects, the problem is that the man does not spend time training his children. He realizes and initiates changes to spend more time with his children, he begins to teach principles, important values and as time passes with his children, he begins to see that his children behave as he would expect and so he realizes that their fundamental role is much more than simply providing money and shelter for the family

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Discipline in parenting is not just about punishments and rules, but goes beyond that. Discipline also involves teaching our children to be responsible, to have self-

control, to be diligent in their work, and to have a kind and generous heart. Discipline is not an easy thing, as it requires time and effort on the part of the parents. However, it is a valuable investment that will have a lasting impact on the lives of our children.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this verse in Hebrew is "kjanák", which means "to train", "train" or "instruct". The idea behind this term is that parents should be actively involved in their children's education, devoting time and effort to teach them God's truths and mold their character. This teaching must be constant and consistent, not just at specific times of the day or week, but throughout the child's entire life.

*“According to his way”,
which apparently implies
respect for his individuality
and vocation, although not
for his own free will.”*

APPLICATIONS

- We must be constant in teaching our children about the truths of God, not only in words, but also in actions.
- Patience is a fundamental role and perseverance, remembering that it is a long-term process. Therefore, it requires time, effort, dedication.
- We must take care of making children dependent on us, but rather we must guide them to be responsible for themselves, learn to have self-control and generate habits that improve their dedication to their daily tasks.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Regularly teach the Bible and Biblical principles to live by; make decisions, have criteria.

- Look for biblical principles that help improve the discipline you exercise over your children.
- Strive to first model your life to values and principles that you want your children to follow.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Am I aware of the need to discipline my children?

Am I spending too much time and effort on other things, above my children?

Am I taking an active role in modeling the principles and values that I want my children to adopt for their lives?

Am I training them to lead fulfilling lives or am I raising them to be dependent on me?

Resources to expand the study:

Proverbs 13:24, Proverbs 29:15, Hebrews 12:11, Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 8:5, Proverbs 19:18, Proverbs 23:13-14, Psalm 94:12-13, Proverbs 3:11-12, Proverbs 29:17, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Colossians 3:21, Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 4:1, Proverbs 23:26, Isaiah 54:13, 2 Timothy 3:15,

Devotional 8: "The Call to Service: Serving Others as Christ Served Us" (John 13:14–15)

For if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet, 15 because I have given you an example so that, as I have done to you, you also should do. John 13:14–15 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Service is a fundamental and inescapable mark of every Christian, it is one of the most important marks that we can identify in the Bible. Service is not only a way of showing love in a practical sense, but it is also a way of doing as Christ did. He himself taught us this principle when he knelt down and washed the feet of his disciples, showing an evident example of humility and love. In this devotional we will explore the meaning of service and how we can apply this principle in our daily lives.

ILLUSTRATION

In the Protestant Reformation and in the following years, all theologians concluded in one of the most important points for the theology of the following centuries: "Soli deo gloria" This is a Latin phrase, which reflects that we must do everything for the glory of God, a phrase that can summarize many of the most relevant theologians would be "The duty of every Christian is to do everything for the glory of God" this includes everything we do, mainly in acts of service.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, Jesus is teaching his disciples the importance of humble service. He, being the Master and Lord, knelt down and washed the feet of his disciples as a demonstration of love and humility. He taught them that if he, the Master, could do this, then they too should be willing to serve others with humility and love.

In the context of biblical masculinity, this teaching is especially important. We are often taught that to be a man

is to be strong and dominant, but Jesus shows us that true masculinity is humility and service. Being a godly, biblical man means being willing to serve others with love and humility, even if it means putting our own needs and desires on the back burner.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "washed" in Greek, which is "niptō." This verb refers to washing parts of the body, such as the feet, hands, or face. In the context of this passage, Jesus is showing humility by performing a task that would normally be performed by servants. He was showing his disciples that being a leader means being a servant.

We can understand that service is a way to imitate Christ and show love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Service is a way to display the image of God in us, and it is a way to glorify God by doing his will on earth.

"If there is any act of love or kindness that can be done by the meanest and strangest of God's people, we must be willing to do it—to be servants of God's servants."
Charles Spurgeon

APPLICATIONS

- We must be willing to serve others with humility and love, even if it means putting our own needs and desires on the back burner.
- Talk to the pastor of your church, offer your time for the work of the Lord, to serve the other brothers in the congregation.
- Pray in the direction of humility, recognize that you are not better than anyone else and that we always need God's help to live a godly life.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Make an appointment with your pastor and tell him in which areas you are available to serve in the church.
- Look for those you can serve in your environment, family, relatives, church.
- Reflect sincerely, if you are having a humble attitude in daily life and look for instances to improve humility.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can I apply this principle in my practical life?

Aren't you humble? What prevents you from being humble?

What changes should I make so that my life is more characterized by humility?

Resources to expand the study:

Philippians 2:3-4, Galatians 5:13, Romans 12:10, 1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 20:28, Luke 22:26, Ephesians 5:21, 1 John 3:16, James 1:27, John 15:12-13.

Devotional 9: "The importance of prayer: Communicating with our heavenly Father" (Matthew 6:6-8)

But you, when you pray, enter your room, and closed the door, pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you in public. 7 And when praying, do not use vain repetitions, like the Gentiles, who think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 So do not become like them; for your Father knows what things you need, before you ask him. John 13:14-15 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a very important discipline for Christians. It is the means by which we communicate with our heavenly father and express our worship, needs and dependence on him. Matthew 6:6-8 shows us the importance of prayer in the believer's life and how we should approach God in prayer. For biblical masculinity, prayer is essential to strengthen our relationship with God and lead our families and churches with wisdom and humility.

ILLUSTRATION

I had a mother, who, in my childhood, despite not regularly attending a specific church, prayed a lot. Perhaps one of my mother's most distinctive marks was prayer. We got sick, she prayed, we had difficulties, she prayed. As time passed we began to serve in the church and prayer was one of the main characteristics in his life, he had an hour to dedicate to prayer. She always resorted to prayer as a fundamental part of her life in devotion to God.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, Jesus teaches us the importance of sincere and humble prayer. He calls us to pray in secret, rather than to be seen by others. Prayer is not a way to show our mercy to others, but the instance that God has given us to communicate with our heavenly Father in private. Furthermore, Jesus warns us against using vain repetitions

in our prayers, indicating that prayer is not a mere ritual, but a genuine expression of our dependence on God.

A prayer that is simply a ritual is a prayer that has no effect on us, if someone prays, but is not humble, his prayer is in vain.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "ora", which in Greek is "proseuchomai". This verb has a deep meaning that goes beyond simply talking to God. It implies an attitude of worship, humility, dependence and faith in the will of God. This emphasizes the need for a deep personal relationship with God, which is achieved through constant and sincere prayer.

*Prayer is amazement before
an infinite force and at the
same time it is intimacy with
a personal friend. Tim
Keller.*

APPLICATIONS

- Spend time in private for prayer and fellowship with God.
- Prayer must be completely honest, sincere, express your concerns, fears and desires.
- Pray from a humble position, understanding that you are a sinner and God is holy.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- If you have difficulty praying, you can create a prayer list, including your needs.
- Learn to spend moments alone with God, avoid distractions.

- Pray for your family, friends, brothers in faith, who do not know the gospel, pray for God to bring people so that you can evangelize.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

If you are praying, have you seen an attitude of greater humility and dependence on God?

Is it part of my priorities to pray?

Am I praying to God to be more conformed to the character of Christ or am I just asking according to my needs?

Resources to expand the study:

Proverbs 16:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 John 5:14, John 15:7, Matthew 7:7-8, Luke 18:1, Philipians 4:6-7, Colossians 4:2, Ephesians 6:18 , James 5:16, Mark 1:35.

Devotional 10: The Role of the Father Reflecting the Fatherhood of God (Ephesians 6:4)

Devotional 10: The Role of the Father Reflecting the Fatherhood of God (Ephesians 6:4)

INTRODUCTION

The stability of the family is achieved by the fundamental role of the father. As parents, we have a responsibility to reflect God's fatherhood in our actions and decisions. This task is extremely important in the current context, where biblical masculinity is being questioned and even ridiculed.

ILLUSTRATION

Thomas Watson, a 17th century Puritan, spoke many times about the father's role in the family and how it should reflect God's fatherhood. On one occasion he stated the following

“The father is a priest of his family and must offer sacrifices of prayer and praise. He is a prophet and must teach his children the word of God, he is a king and must rule his house with justice and love.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In the context of biblical masculinity, the father has the role of leadership and provider for his family. However, it is not just about providing financially, but about providing love, discipline and spiritual teaching. The father is the priest of his home, in charge of guiding his family in faith and teaching them the Word of God. Furthermore, he is responsible for modeling biblical masculinity in his behavior and attitudes, being an example of integrity, humility and love.

EXPLANATION

In Ephesians 6:4, the central verb is "nurture them," which in Greek is "ektrephe." This verb implies

raising a child carefully, nurturing and training him. In this context, it refers to raising children in the discipline and admonition of the Lord, which implies an active and dedicated approach to parenting.

From a biblical perspective, this approach to parenting is crucial to the spiritual and emotional formation of children. It is the responsibility of the father to guide and protect his family in the path of faith and to be a model of biblical masculinity for his children.

If a father neglects his responsibility, then someone else will take it, therefore, the son or daughters will be at the mercy of the influence of culture, feminism, masculine deconstruction, etc.. Therefore, the man must have an active, conscious, constant and patient participation in being a model of fatherhood for children.

If a father neglects his responsibility, then someone else will take it, therefore, the son or daughters will be at the mercy of the influence of culture, feminism, masculine deconstruction, etc.. Therefore, the man must have an active, conscious, constant and patient participation in being a model of fatherhood for children.

*“When you discipline a child,
you should have controlled
yourself first… What right
do you have to tell your
child that he needs discipline
when you obviously need
it?”*

Mr Martyn Lloyd-Jones

APPLICATIONS

- As parents, we must be aware of spending time with our children on the path of faith.
- Our behavior and attitudes must be an example of integrity, love, humility, wisdom.
- The Bible calls us men to be the greatest source of love for our families.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Take time to study these truths carefully.
- Understand the urgency of teaching your children about God and his word.
- If you have daughters, treat your wife as you would like your daughter to be treated. In the future, you will be the model that your daughter will look for a husband, therefore, if your attitude is abusive, then she will see abuse as something common and normal in family life.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Have you stopped to think how much time you are dedicating to your children?

How can you strengthen your spiritual formation towards your children?

In your house, are you characterized by love or by being hard and inflexible?

Have you thought that when we are called to our attention about being present with our children, the first thing we do is play... But does the biblical worldview conform to the fact that a father should only play with his children?

Resources to expand the study:

*Colossians 3:21, Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 23:24,
Proverbs 27:10, Proverbs 3:12, Proverbs 15:20,
Proverbs 29:15.*

Devotional 11: True Christ-Shaped Masculinity (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

Watch, stand firm in the faith; behave manly, and strive. 14 all your things be done with love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Today's society is in a cultural war against masculinity, it has distorted, trampled and is even trying to deconstruct it, social networks are the ideal accelerator to propagate their ideas in the midst of a society, each day more a slave to the trends of the moment. It seeks to cause confusion and a lack of clarity as to the role that men should play. In this sense, the Bible is clear and the best resource to understand what it means to be a man according to God's standard. In 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, we find God's call to; Being strong, courageous, determined, but also loving, kind and molding our masculinity according to the character of Christ.

ILLUSTRATION

Let's imagine a young father who has just had his first child. He is full of emotions; joy, fear, uncertainty, but above all a deep love for his son and a strong desire to be the best father possible. Over time, he realizes that being a good father is not as easy as he expected and involves much more than simply providing for his son and taking care of him physically. He realizes that he must be a model of true masculinity, chivalry, education and courtesy. Therefore, you must teach your child to be brave, determined in the defense of truth and justice, but you must also teach him to be loving and kind in his treatment of others. The father realizes that, as a man, he must be committed to strengthening his life with the character of God and thus be a good example for his little son.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

This passage presents us with a clear description of what it means to be a true man, who does not give up in the face of difficulties and who acts with courage and determination in defense of what is right and just. But at the same time, this man must be loving, kind and compassionate, imitating the character of Christ at all times.

True masculinity is not about being arrogant, domineering, or violent, but about being strong in faith, determined in truth, and loving at all times. The Christian man must be alert and vigilant, remaining firm in his faith, facing with courage and courage the difficulties that come his way.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "be brave" which in Greek is translated as "andrizomai" which means "to act like a man." This expression does not refer to the idea of machismo or arrogant and arrogant masculinity, but to the need for men to behave with determination and courage in defense of truth and justice. That he be brave and not give up easily, the man must be willing to suffer, cry, get frustrated, but despite all the difficulties that may want to lead him to back down, he must insist, insist and insist. Knowing that God has called you to be an image of Christ in the family.

*"Don't compare yourself to
others who call themselves
'Christians' Compare
yourself to scripture – Paul
Washer*

APPLICATIONS

- A true man must be firm in his faith and convictions, he must not allow contemporary culture to influence him.
- A true man, he is loving and kind in his dealings with others, he seeks to be conformed to the character of Christ.
- He is willing to stand up for the truth and the gospel, even if it means facing rejection, hardship, or even death.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Strengthen your convictions through prayer, reading the Bible and a healthy teaching of scripture.
- Seeks to influence others, positively in how to reinforce Biblical truths, in masculine characteristics.
- Always be willing to defend the truth, the gospel and the word of God.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

In what areas of my life do I need to have my strongest convictions in accordance with Biblical truths?

How can I develop more love and kindness in dealing with others, especially in the family?

What steps can I take to strengthen my relationship with God, grow in my faith, and have character like a real man?

How much has culture damaged my true perception of a biblical masculinity?

Resources to expand the study:

*Proverbs 27:17, Ephesians 5:25, Proverbs 24:16, 2
Timothy 1:7 .*

Devotional 12: "The Importance of Truth: Living an Honest and Upright Life" (Ephesians 4:25)

Therefore, discarding the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor; for we are members one of another. Ephesians 4:25 KJV

INTRODUCTION

The bible is central in truth, the bible does not try to prove that it is the truth, it just jumps out and reveals itself as the only truth. Christ, he does not try to prove that he is telling the truth, he simply says "I am the truth." As men, we must try to live according to an honest, upright life and this not only involves telling the truth, but also living the truth and also being faithful, consistent in everything we do and say. In today's text, we have a call for integrity, in our words and actions.

ILLUSTRATION

"No man is worth more than his word." This is a phrase that condenses integrity very well for men.

Now, imagine a father, who promises his son to take him to the park on the weekend, but when the weekend comes, then he changes his plans for other ones. The child will feel disappointed and sad, because he was waiting for the weekend to be with his father, the father apologizes. After time, the boy no longer trusts his father's promises because he does not keep his promises regularly.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Truth is a fundamental value in the life of every Christian, and especially in the context of biblical masculinity. As men of God, we must be faithful to the truth in everything we do and say. This means that we must not deceive others, lie, or hide the truth. We

must be honest and transparent in our relationships with others.

Integrity is one of the most important characteristics of a man of God. Integrity means being consistent in our words and actions, and this is essential to glorifying God. When we live an honest and righteous life, we show that we are men of God, and this allows us to be effective in our service in the church and in our families.

Although being faithful to the truth, telling the truth, but without goodness, can make us cruel and ruthless men. Since as men we are called to be conformed according to the character of Christ.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek in this verse is "aletheuo", which means "to tell the truth". Truth is essential in the life of every Christian, and this is reflected in Paul's call to speak the truth in love. This means that we must not simply tell the truth, but we must do so with love and compassion, respecting others and looking out for their well-being.

According to the teaching of scripture, truth is one of God's communicative attributes, and as his children we must reflect his truth in our daily lives. The truth is essential for the relationship with God and with others, and we must be faithful to it at all times.

"The new man tells the truth. The reason for doing this is because we are members of one another, therefore there is no room for lying."

APPLICATIONS

- The truth is not only applicable to the spiritual life, we must try to look for it in all areas of our lives, no matter how uncomfortable it may be.
- We must possess characteristics of transparency and honesty in our lives.
- We must seek the integrity embodied in Biblical teaching.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Reflect deeply and sincerely. About if you are really being faithful to the truth in all areas of your life.
- Avoid falling into hypocrisy, we must be coherent men in our way of speaking and acting. This must be in tune with what is in our hearts.
- Pray to God to help you live an integral and true life, seek God's guidance in all your decisions and actions.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Can you identify an area of your life that lacks integrity or honesty?

Have I acted hypocritically, dishonestly or with a lack of integrity? Why have I done it?

Do I resort to lies or manipulation in my daily life?

What things can help you to be a reflection that your actions are in tune with; His words, his faith and his heart?

Resources to expand the study:

Ephesians 4:25, Proverbs 12:22, Proverbs 12:19, Psalm 15:1-2, Proverbs 10:21, 1 Peter 3:10, Colossians 3:9-10, James 1:26, Colossians 3:9,

*Proverbs 20:7, Isaiah 33:15-16, Proverbs 10:9,
Luke 16:10, Ephesians 4:30-32, 1 Peter 2:1,*

Devotional 13: "The husband's responsibility: To love his wife as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25-33)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church, and gave himself up for her, 26 to sanctify her, having cleansed her with the washing of water by the word, 27 in order to present her to himself, a church glorious, that it had no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it was holy and without blemish. 28 so also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 because no one ever hated his own flesh, but sustains and cares for it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. 31 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother, and be united to his wife, and the two will be one flesh. 32 Great is this mystery; but I say this regarding Christ and the church. 33 Furthermore, each one of you should also love his wife as himself; and the wife respect her husband. Ephesians 5:25-33

INTRODUCTION

God has designated specific roles for husbands and wives in marriage. The bible only commands the man to love the wife as Christ loved the church, it does not tell the wife to love her husband as the Lord or to love her husband as Christ loves. This is not an easy call, but it is essential for the health of the marriage and the glorification of God. In this sense, biblical masculinity calls husbands to love their husbands as Christ loved his church.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine for a moment, your wife's reaction. Saying the following phrase "Love, I would give my life for

you if necessary". If our wife makes gestures on her face and still retorts. "You can't dedicate time for me and you say that you could give your life for me." If you think you might be in this situation, then it's time to make amends and start making changes to show love to your wife.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this biblical passage, the apostle Paul instructs husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Christ loved the church sacrificially, giving himself up for her. Similarly, husbands are to love their wives sacrificially, putting their wife's needs and desires above their own.

Furthermore, Paul reminds us that Christ purified and sanctified the church through his death and resurrection. Husbands are to imitate Christ in this regard, working to sanctify their wives and helping them grow in their relationship with God. Husbands must seek to teach their wives in the word of God, seek their growth and a finished understanding of the fundamental doctrines of the gospel.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "to love" (agapao in Greek), which means a sacrificial and committed love. This verb is given as an imperative verb, which means that it is an order, therefore, the order given by God for men to love their wives. Therefore, it is the husband's responsibility in marriage to love his wife in a sacrificial, committed, and Christ-oriented way. This involves leading his family in worship and study of God's Word, praying for his wife and children, and working to ensure their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

***"The foundation of marriage
is this; God called me to lay***

*down my life for his
daughter.” – Paul Washer*

APPLICATIONS

- Husbands must ensure that their wives have full conviction of their love towards them, this can be expressed in; share household chores, take time to talk.
- Husbands should work to sanctify their wives, helping them grow in their relationship with God. This may mean sharing devotions, studying together, seeking to serve together in church.
- Within the responsibilities that husbands have, their wives occupy a special place, they must take regular time to be with their wives, have vacations together, moments of rest together, make sure that their wife feels loved and protected.
- Do not make hurtful, derogatory or inappropriate comments to your wife.
- Avoid justifying yourself, if you have been neglecting the marriage, make the necessary adjustments

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Evaluate your relationship with God and whether you should make changes to get closer to God so you can be molded in love to give to your wife.
- Reflect, in what ways could you love or serve your wife.
- Don't let work or technology interrupt family time.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

Can you identify areas for improvement in your relationship with your wife?

How can I create a plan to lead my family in the study of writing?

What actions can I take to show love and care for my wife in the coming weeks?

Resources to expand the study:

Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7, Philippians 2:5, 1 Timothy 5:8, Ephesians 5:1, Ephesians 5:21, Proverbs 19:14, 1 Corinthians 7:3, Genesis 2:18, 1 Peter 3:7.

Devotional 14: "The responsibility of the wife: Submit to her husband as to Christ" (Ephesians 5:22-24)

INTRODUCTION

For today's culture, submitting is ridiculous, it is frowned upon by people. Today women cheer about not submitting to the patriarchy, with hate speech and affront towards men. But according to the Bible, the wife has a great responsibility to submit to her husband, just as she submits to Christ, the responsibility is not just a simple advice, it is not just a suggestion or encouraging them to submit. But rather it is a mandate from God, in this devotional we will examine what it means for wives to submit to their husbands and we will see how to help our wives achieve what the Bible teaches.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a merchant ship, which transports containers from Europe to Chile, but the ship begins to experience mechanical damage, so the captain decides to call the entire crew to report the circumstances that are affecting them, but the captain when making a decision and designate the mechanical maintenance team to repair the failure, the rest of the crew rebels and prevents the mechanical team from attending to the failure, instead they decide to try to repair the failure themselves. Regardless of the fact that they do not have specialized knowledge. Over time, the failure has been prolonged and has become irreparable. So they are stranded in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean with storms close to approaching, they went from having a failure that could be repaired to a possible shipwreck, just because the crew did not hear the voice of their captain.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, the apostle Paul is speaking to wives, telling them to submit to their husbands as if they were submitting to Christ. This means that the wife is to respect and follow her husband's leading as if it were the leading of Christ himself. This does not mean that the husband has absolute power over his wife, but rather that he should lead his home in a loving and wise way, taking into account the needs of his wife and the needs of the family. Furthermore, the passage says that the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church. This means that the husband has the responsibility to lead his wife and family in the way of God. It is not a role to be taken lightly, but one that should be undertaken with humility and wisdom, recognizing that the husband is responsible before God for the welfare of his family.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek in this passage is "hypotassomai", which means "to submit" or "to be under the authority of". This is interpreted as a direct order from God for the wife to submit her will and desires to those of her husband, following his leadership in the home. This does not mean that the wife has no voice or opinion in the marriage, but rather that she must work together with her husband to make decisions that are beneficial to the family and that are in line with God's will.

***"If a husband wants to
exercise dominance over his
wife to sin, then the wife has
all the authority of God to
oppose"***

APPLICATIONS

- As husbands, we must teach our wives to seek God's will for their lives, for their marriage, and to learn to submit their desires and needs to those of their husbands.
- As a husband, we must allow our wives instances to be our ideal help, we must teach our wives to avoid competition and show them how this is an obstacle to God's plan.
- We must see the wife as a source of support and encouragement in our role as leader of the home, she must help us make wise and biblical decisions.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- If your wife struggles with submission, help her by praying for her that God will work in her heart.
- Encourage her to join the women's union or read wholesome resources like “The Excellent Wife: The Woman God Wants”
- Avoid ridiculing, confronting, or coercing her into submission.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can I facilitate the submission of my wife?

How can my wife support me in my role as leader in the home?

What things must my wife do so that I can lead her effectively?

Resources to expand the study:

Colossians 3:18, Titus 2:5, Proverbs 31:10-31, 1 Peter 3:1-2, 1 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Timothy 2:11-12, 1 Peter 3:1-2, Proverbs 31 : 10-12, 1 Peter

*3:3-4, Proverbs 14:1, 1 Timothy 5:14, Proverbs
31:27*

Devotional 15: The role of man in the church Leading with humility and wisdom (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Faithful word: If anyone yearns for a bishopric, he desires a good work. 2 but it is necessary that the bishop be blameless, husband of one wife, sober, prudent, decorous, hospitable, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, not quarrelsome, not greedy for dishonest gain, but gentle, mild-mannered, not covetous; 4 that he rule his house well, that he have his children in subjection with all honesty 5 (for he who does not know how to govern his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a neophyte, lest, being puffed up, he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 It is also necessary that he have a good testimony from outsiders, so that he does not fall into disrepute and into the snare of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 KJV

INTRODUCTION

In this section of scripture, the apostle Paul writes about the qualifications for leaders in the church, specifically focusing on the role of man. In this passage we can see the importance of leading, with humility, wisdom and how these leaders are examples for others in the church. In this devotional how we can apply this teaching in our lives as men of the church.

ILLUSTRATION

In chapter 6 of the book of judges, Gideon is called by God to lead the Israelites in the fight against the Midianites. Although Gideon doubted his ability to lead, God promised to be with him and guide him in battle.

Gideon showed humility by acknowledging that his strength and ability came from God, not from himself.

Rather than rely on his own power, Gideon sought God's will at all times. Even when God reduced the size of his army to a small group of men, Gideon trusted that God would lead him to victory.

In chapter 7, Gideon led his men into battle, not with swords and spears, but with torches and pitchers. God gave them victory over the Midianites, and the Israelites recognized God's hand in the battle.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, Paul lays out the qualifications for leaders in the church. First, they must be blameless, which means they must have a spotless reputation both inside and outside the church. They must also be one-woman men, which implies fidelity and commitment in marriage. Furthermore, they should be sober, prudent, dignified, apt to teach, kind, and mild-mannered.

Paul also stresses the importance of leading well in the home, which means that leaders should be examples in their homes and have their children subject in all honesty. If a man cannot lead well in his own home, then he cannot lead well in the church.

Finally, Paul warns against newly converted leaders, as they can fall into pride and the devil's condemnation. It also highlights the importance of having a good testimony before outsiders, so that the leader does not fall into disrepute and the devil's snare.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "episkopos", which means "bishop" or "overseer". This term refers to the leaders in the church who have the responsibility of overseeing and caring for the flock of God. The word also implies authority and leadership in the church,

and Paul sets out the requirements that leaders must meet to be considered fit for this role.

From a biblical perspective, we can see how this passage emphasizes the importance of humbly and wisely leading in the church. Leaders must be models of biblical masculinity, committed to teaching God's Word and leading with integrity in their homes and in the church. In this sense, leadership is a call to serve, not to be served, which reflects the humility of Christ and his love for the church.

“What good is a lazy minister? This is not good for the world, or for the church, or for himself. It is a dishonor to the noblest profession that can be bestowed on the sons of men.” -Charles Spurgeon

APPLICATIONS

- As men in the church, we must strive to lead with humility and wisdom, being examples of biblical masculinity in our homes and in our churches.
- As men we are called to have a faithful commitment to scripture, to guide the congregation with precision and clarity.
- We must seek to participate in the instances of the church, to form new men in the church and thus they can grow in their leadership and faith.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Talk to your pastor, if there are possibilities to serve in the church, but you must commit to being a wise and humble help.
- Spend time studying the scripture, we are not leaders with human methods and strategies, we are spokesmen and heralds of Christ.
- Look for men who are recently joining the church and develop a relationship that will lead to growth in faith.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Am I hindering the instances that God has given me to lead?

Am I aware of improving my learning in writing?

Do I have attitudes that are a positive or negative influence on others?

Resources to expand the study:

Titus 1:6-9, Hebrews 13:17, James 1:19-20, James 3:1, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Timothy 4:12, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Titus 2:2-8, Jude 1:20, Proverbs 1:5

Devotional 16: "The Importance of Purity: Keeping Us Free from Immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3–8)

for the will of God is your sanctification; that you turn away from fornication; 4 that each one of you knows how to have his own wife in holiness and honor; 5 not in a passion of concupiscence, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one offend or deceive his brother in anything; for the Lord is an avenger of all this, as we have already told you and testified. 7 For God has not called us to uncleanness, but to sanctification. 8 so, whoever rejects this, does not reject man, but God, who also gave us his Holy Spirit
1 Thessalonians 4:3–8 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Purity is fundamental to the life of a Christian, the lack of purity in the men in the congregation not only affects families, but also the church and its reputation. A lack of purity could have a negative effect on the congregation's outreach or evangelism. Therefore, men are expected to live according to God's biblical principles, in all areas of their lives, including sexuality, in the section that we will see today, Paul exhorts believers to stay away from sexual immorality and to seek purity in your thoughts, words and actions. This is a relevant teaching for us today, in a world that promotes immorality, promiscuity as completely normal and acceptable.

ILLUSTRATION

I want you to imagine for a moment, a bottle of bottled water, widely used for its degree of purity, the filtration of heavy metals, etc... The degree of sales of this type of product depends on the price, marketing, purity . Now imagine a famous bottled water brand and it turns out that on its label and

nutritional information it claims to be 99.99% pure. But the government decides to carry out studies of the country's bottled waters, it turns out that this same brand that claims to be 99.99% pure, in the results of the analysis says that its degree of purity is actually 95% and has 3% feces. and 2% radioactive plutonium. As soon as the study is published by the media, its sales plummet and a series of lawsuits will be launched against it.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Purity is a clear mandate from God for all believers, and especially for the men who lead in the church and in their homes. Sexual immorality can have devastating consequences in a person's life and relationships with others. Pornography, fornication, and adultery are serious sins that can destroy marriages, families, and ministries. It is important to recognize that purity is not just about abstaining from sexual activity outside of marriage, but about having correct thoughts and attitudes about sexuality.

EXPLANATION

The key word in this passage is "sanctification," which in Greek translates as "hagiasmos." This word means "separation" or "consecration," and refers to God's work in the believer's life to separate him from sin and to make him holy. Purity is a manifestation of sanctification in the life of the Christian. The is categorical in terms of sanctification this is a continuous process that takes place throughout the life of the believer, and that implies the development of the work of God in the believer through the Holy Spirit.

***"What good is a church with
bold, eloquent, academically***

*well-trained men, if they
lead impure lives, they
simply become useless and
an affront to the gospel"*

APPLICATIONS

- If you are struggling with temptation, seek help from the pastor or older brothers to help you overcome it.
- Cultivate correct thinking and attitudes regarding sexuality, renew your mind with the diligent and constant study of the word of God.
- Expands purity in other areas, not only in the sexual area, but also in language, actions, relationships with other people.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Identify areas where you are struggling with sexual immorality, seek help and advice from your church pastor or mature fellow believers.
- Make a serious commitment to refrain from anything that encourages you to be unclean.
- Value your marriage, it is the means that God has allowed to complete our sexuality.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What thoughts and attitudes do you have in relation to sexuality? Are they according to God's principles?

What habits do you have to have a purity in your life?
sexual immorality ? Are you looking for help?

Resources to expand the study:

Titus 1:6-9, Hebrews 13:17, James 1:19-20, James 3:1, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Timothy 4:12, 2 Timothy

*2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16- 17, Titus 2:2-8, Jude 1:20,
Proverbs 1:5*

Devotional 17: The Call to Patience

Learning to Wait on the Lord (Psalm 27:14)

Wait for Jehovah; Be strong, and encourage your heart; Yes, wait for the Lord Psalms 27:14 KJV

INTRODUCTION

We live in a troubled world, the hustle and bustle of work, children, the demands are high and the times are short, ordinary people are very impatient and patience seems like a virtue that vanishes within the features of humanity.

Patience is one of the most valuable virtues that we can have as men, on several occasions we face challenges and tests that make us lose patience and question God's plan. However, in this devotional we will see how we can cultivate patience through great men of God in the past of the Bible.

ILLUSTRATION

In the Bible, we see many men who had a lot of patience, for example, we see Job; who lost everything he had, but still remained faithful to God. We also have Abraham; I wait many years to have a child and see how God's promise would be fulfilled. In Jose's case, he spent many years in slavery and unjustly imprisoned, but he never lost his faith. Or for example Moses; I wait for forty years in the desert amid the continuous complaint of the Israelites. David waited many years to become king, even though King Saul intended to kill him. Lastly, Paul, despite spending many years in prison, never lost his faith and call to preach the gospel.

These men show us that patience is essential in the Christian life and although it may seem difficult to trust God, waiting on him will always be worth it.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this verse, the psalmist gives us a clear instruction to wait on the Lord and be patient in our circumstances. Patience is not something that comes naturally, but is a fruit of the Spirit that is cultivated through faith and trust in God. Often when faced with waiting times, we can feel anxious and worried about the future. However, the psalmist encourages us to strive and stand firm in our faith in God.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this verse is "Wait" (qavah), which in Hebrew means "wait patiently" or "wait with confidence." This word also implies active waiting, that is, not just sitting and doing nothing, but working diligently while waiting on God. The word "be strong" (chazaq) is also important, as it means to become strong and courageous in the Lord. In short, this verse calls us to cultivate active patience and trust in God as we wait on his will for our lives.

*“For lack of patience
Abraham fathered a son with
Hagar . Due to a lack of
patience, Jose tried to get
out of jail, appealing to the
cupbearer's help. Due to lack
of patience, Moses killed the
Egyptian and had to flee into
the desert.”*

APPLICATIONS

- Cultivate an attitude of gratitude in times of waiting, recognize that God always has a purpose in our lives.

- Seek God in prayer and reading scripture to strengthen patience.
- Internalize in your heart that many times God's plan is different from our purposes and trust him, that even though things don't turn out he knows what is best for us.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Do a self-examination, review consciously and objectively, what are the areas, that we lack patience.
- Take time each day to pray and ask for God's help in cultivating patience.
- Identify areas of your life where you need to learn to wait on God and actively strive to wait on him.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What fruit can you see by patiently waiting on God?

What can we learn from the examples of Job and Jose in the Bible?

How can you be an example of patience for the family and church?

Resources to expand the study:

Psalm 56:3, Psalm 31:14, Micah 7:7, Isaiah 41:10, 1 Peter 5:10, 1 Peter 3:10-11, Psalm 130:5.

Devotional 18: The importance of integrity Living a life consistent with our faith (1 Timothy 4:12)

Let no one have your youth in little, but be an example of believers in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity. 1 Timothy 4:12 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Integrity is one of the most important virtues that a Christian must cultivate in his life. In a world where lies and falsehood are common, it is necessary for believers to live consistently with their faith, remaining faithful to biblical principles and Christian values. Integrity is a quality that allows us to be trustworthy, honest and sincere in everything we do, thus demonstrating the authenticity of our faith in Jesus Christ. In this devotional, we will see the importance of integrity in the life of a Christian man, and how we can live a life consistent with our faith.

ILLUSTRATION

On the day of final judgment, each person will have to give an account of each of their actions and words before God. Now imagine that the congregation shows a 24-hour video recording of everything you do and think. If lack of integrity is an important characteristic in us, then we will feel ashamed.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In the context of biblical masculinity, this is especially important. Christian men are to be models of integrity in their homes, at their jobs, and in their church. Integrity implies being honest, faithful, trustworthy and consistent with our faith in everything we do. As Christian men, we must be people who stand out for their integrity and for their commitment to Biblical principles.

Integrity is a virtue that flows from faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the result of a life transformed by God's grace and a heart that seeks to honor God in all it does. Integrity is not something we can achieve on our own, rather it is the fruit of the Spirit working in us, conforming us to the image of Christ.

EXPLANATION

In this verse, the apostle Paul gives instructions to Timothy, a young pastor who was leading a church in Ephesus. Paul tells Timothy to be an example in his word, conduct, love, faith, and purity. The word "example" comes from the Greek "tupos", which means "type" or "pattern". This means that Timothy was to be a ROLE MODEL for the believers in his church.

*"You must look for a pastor
who is an example in word,
conduct, love, spirit, faith
and purity."*

APPLICATIONS

- Seek God's help to cultivate integrity in your daily life. ask God to help you be consistent in your faith.
- Examine your life for areas where you can improve your integrity. Identify any areas where you have been dishonest or unreliable and work on improving them.
- Look for role models of integrity in your church and in your community. Identify people who demonstrate a life consistent with their faith and learn from their example.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Actively works in areas where integrity is not an obvious characteristic.
- Read in the Bible the examples of integrity that it offers us, the best model will be Christ.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What are the biggest challenges you face in maintaining integrity?

What steps have you taken to improve your integrity?

How can you be a model of integrity in the family?

Resources to expand the study:

1 John 2:6, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 1:27, 1 Peter 2:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:22, Romans 12:9

Devotional 19: The Value of Wisdom

Seeking God's guidance at all times

(Proverbs 2:1–6)

My son, if you receive my words, and keep my commandments within you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom; If you incline your heart to prudence, 3 if you cry out to intelligence, And to prudence you give your voice; 4 If you seek it like silver, And sift it like treasures, 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And you will find the knowledge of God. 6 because Jehovah gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and intelligence. Proverbs 2:1–5 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Wisdom is a communicative attribute of God. God is wise, and this is one of the most important pinnacles we could claim. We live in a world full of uncertainties and difficult decisions, wisdom helps us make correct decisions, pleasing to God and beneficial to us and our family. In the sense of biblical masculinity, it is essential for men to seek God's wisdom at all times and in all areas of life, which God promises to give in abundance to those who ask for wisdom.

ILLUSTRATION

The Magellan Strait is considered one of the most dangerous straits in the world, ships transit 24 hours a day and 365 days a year through that place, in ancient times, ships in the midst of darkness, the only way they had to know their position, was to be guided by the existing lighthouses in the strait, the lighthouses must work without stopping, so they need a long-life lamp, if a lighthouse was damaged, then it could guide a ship towards a wrong place triggering an accident.

This is wisdom, it guides us and it must always be on, the more we pray and the more we read the scripture, the more wisdom we will have to apply biblical principles, to know where to travel safely.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In Proverbs 2:1-6, we find a call to seek God's wisdom. The author gives us a list of actions that we must take if we want to find divine wisdom. First of all, we must accept God's words and keep his commandments. Second, we must incline our ears toward wisdom and direct our hearts toward understanding. Third, we must cry out to intelligence and raise our voice to understanding. And finally, we must search for wisdom as if we were looking for hidden treasure.

In the context of biblical masculinity, it is essential that men seek God's wisdom at all times. This implies that we should seek God's direction in all areas of our lives, including our relationships, our finances, our work, and our family. Seeking God's wisdom also involves being willing to obey his commands and follow his will, even when doing so is difficult or against our own desires.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "seek." In the original Hebrew, the word is "baqash", which means "to search diligently". This verb implies an active and persevering search for God's wisdom. This is not simply a passive or casual search, but an intentional and committed search.

Wisdom is a gift from God given to us through his grace and his Holy Spirit. Wisdom is not something we can obtain by our own means or abilities, rather it is a divine gift given to us as a result of our faith in and obedience to God. Diligently seeking God's

wisdom is a demonstration of our confidence in his sovereignty and his ability to guide us in our lives.

“How do men look for money? What will they not do to get rich?, dear brother, seek wisdom more than anything.”

APPLICATIONS

- Take time daily to seek God's wisdom in prayer and in the study of his word. Organize your agenda, set aside time to meditate daily on his word.
- Learn to apply biblical principles to your most important decisions, including relationships, finances, work, and family.
- Be willing to obey God's commandments and follow His will, even when it goes against your own wishes or interests.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Are there areas in your life where you are faced with difficult decisions? Then identify Biblical principles that help you make a wise decision.
- Make a habit of reading a chapter of the Bible, a book or any healthy resource. If you don't know how to start, ask your pastor or older brothers in the congregation for help.
- Seek in your pastor or mature brothers in the faith, role models to grow in your wisdom.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

How can I realize that I am seeking God's wisdom and not just knowledge?

What steps would you take to obey God's commandments?

What obstacles must I overcome to seek wisdom?

Resources to expand the study:

James 1:5, Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 4:5-7, Proverbs 8:11, Proverbs 9:10, Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 14:8, Proverbs 15:33, Proverbs 16:16.

Devotional 20: The Importance of Compassion Being Sensitive to the Needs of Others (Matthew 9:36)

And when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them; because they were helpless and scattered like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Compassion is an essential virtue in the life of every Christian, especially men. In the world we live in, men are characterized by being insensitive and apathetic. But also as the world is full of need and suffering, it is important that men of God are sensitive to the needs of others and show their love and compassion towards other people. Compassion is a characteristic of God that is reflected in his unconditional love and mercy towards us. In this devotional we will see the importance of compassion and how to cultivate it.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine you are in a meeting at your church and someone shares a personal struggle they are facing. Instead of just listening and then going about your own business, you decide to take the time to talk to the person after the meeting and offer your support and prayers. That simple action of compassion can make a world of difference in that person's life and demonstrate the importance of compassion in our church relationships and in our lives in general.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Compassion is a virtue that is not always easy to cultivate. We often focus on our own needs and problems, and become insensitive to the needs of others. However, when we follow Christ's example and show compassion toward others, we can make a world of difference in their lives. Compassion is not just about feeling sorry for someone, but about doing

something to help and ease their suffering. Compassion calls us to step outside of ourselves and see the world around us with the eyes of Christ, and act accordingly.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek for compassion is "splagchnizomai", which means to have one's bowels moved or agitated. This verb is used to describe Jesus' compassion towards the crowds, who feel like sheep without a shepherd. Compassion is considered as one of the Christian virtues that reflect the image of God in us. As creatures made in the image of God, we have a responsibility to reflect his love and compassion toward others in our daily lives.

***"A good theology, without
compassion for others, is as
useful as a rocket to go
shopping in the
supermarket"***

APPLICATIONS

- Practicing compassion in the family: By showing compassion to our family, we can create a warm and loving home environment. This can include listening carefully, offering support, being patient and understanding, and helping with daily tasks.
- Serve those in need in the church: Compassion also calls us to serve others, especially those who are vulnerable and needy in our church.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Make a list of people who need compassion and pray regularly for them.

- Look for ways to reach out to those in need in the congregation.
- Look for ways to be more compassionate on a day-to-day basis.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can I be more compassionate in my daily relationships?

What are the barriers that prevent me from showing compassion for others?

How can I follow Christ's example and cultivate a life of daily compassion in my life?

Resources to expand the study:

Matthew 9:36, Psalm 116:5, Isaiah 49:15, Isaiah 54:10, Jeremiah 31:3, Lamentations 3:22-23, Luke 10:33-34, Romans 12:15, 2 Corinthians 1:3- 4, Ephesians 4:32

Devotional 21: The importance of faith We trust in the Lord in the midst of adversity (Hebrews 11:1)

Therefore, faith is the certainty of what is expected, the conviction of what is not seen. Hebrews 11:1 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Faith is one of the most important aspects of our Christian life. In the midst of adversity, it is easy to become confused about hope and trust in God. However, as Christian men, it is our duty and responsibility to keep our faith in Christ and trust Him at all times. As men, we have been called to lead our families and leading in confidence and strength of faith is an important aspect to consider. Faith not only gives us hope and peace, but it also helps us overcome the trials and tribulations we face in our daily lives. Faith must be a deep mark in men who identify themselves by calling themselves "Christians."

ILLUSTRATION

During the time that he was not building the ark, he was in a small minority, but he was not triumphant.

When Jose was sold by his brothers and taken to Egypt, he was in a small minority, but Jose triumphed.

When Gideon and his 300 soldiers, with their pitchers and burning torches, put the Midianites to flight, they were an insignificant minority, but they triumphed.

When our Lord Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross by Roman soldiers, he was a conspicuous minority, but the triumph.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Faith is transversal in all scripture, however, Hebrews 11 is considered as the chapter of faith. In

this chapter, the author compiles the greatest examples of faith that trusted God in the midst of adversity. From Abel, who offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, to Moses who rejected the temporary pleasures of Egypt and glorified God with his life.

Faith is not simply believing in God and that's it. If not, trust unconditionally and submit to him, in the midst of life's trials, difficulties and tribulations. Faith allows us to see the invisible, believe the impossible, and expect the unexpected. Faith gives us the certainty that God is faithful and that he keeps his promises, even when it seems that this will not happen.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek for "faith" is "pistis," which means trust, fidelity, or loyalty. Although at its root we find the idea of obedience, faith is more than just an intellectual belief in God, it is an unwavering trust in His character and in His Word. Faith leads us to obey God even in difficult times, knowing that He is faithful to fulfill what He has promised. A faith that only "believes" but does not obey or submit to its Lord, then it is a false faith, true faith includes obedience and submission to the Lordship of God in all areas of life.

Although every human being has faith, in a natural sense. Everyone has faith that they place in their finances, projects, soccer teams, children, etc. It is not a question of channeling that faith that we have naturally towards Christ, if that were the case, then the faith itself would depend on us and our will to have it. For example, how wise or intelligent we could be.

But from a biblical perspective, faith is a gift from God given to us by grace through the work of the Holy

Spirit. We cannot obtain faith by our own means, but it is a gift that we receive from God (Ephesians 2:8). Faith is an act of God in us that allows us to believe in Him and trust Him for our salvation and for our daily lives.

“Faith never grows more easily than at inopportune times. When I think back on my life, I was probably most rooted in faith when it was “dug and fertilized” through the rigorous work of pain.” – Charles Spurgeon

APPLICATIONS

- Keep your focus on Christ, instead of focusing on the circumstances that surround you, keep your gaze on Christ and his faithfulness. Difficulties are the propitious moment to strengthen our faith.
- Constantly meditate on the word of God, since faith comes from hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), spend regular time reading and meditating on the word of God, which will help you strengthen your faith.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Memorize Hebrews 11 and treasure it for difficult times.
- Look up the promises of God in the Bible and write them down in a place where you can read them regularly.
- Encourage others to strengthen their faith.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

In what areas of your life are you struggling to trust God?

Have you been spending regular time reading the Bible?

Have you grown in your dependence on God?

Resources to expand the study:

Galatians 5:6, Mark 9:23, Romans 1:17, Hebrews 11:6, Matthew 21:22,

Devotional 22: The Importance of Humility Recognizing our need for God (Proverbs 3:34)

Surely he will mock the mockers, And to the humble he will give grace. Proverbs 3:34 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Tell me how much you presume your humility and I will tell you how arrogant you are, humility is a characteristic that is not presumed, not advertised, nor does it need the attention of others, humility is like a perfume, which is only announced when it is perceived for others. Humility is one of the most wonderful virtues of writing and on many occasions, the influence of modern and selfish culture is so profound that we begin to see it, like today's society, as something unimportant or irrelevant. But for a family leader or Christian leader, humility is a fundamental characteristic in order to be a reflection of the character of Christ, today we will explore proverbs 3:34 and we will see the importance of humility.

ILLUSTRATION

A poor Jew once went to the temple with no lamb, no pigeons, and no flour to sacrifice. I stand outside embarrassed and hear this part of Psalm 51 sung: "You will not despise a contrite and humiliated heart, oh God..." This is what this Jew had and he entered. "Blessed are you" Said the venerable rabbi "there are few who come with this type of offerings"

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Humility acknowledges our absolute dependence on God and our constant need for grace. Humility leads us to see our limitations, recognize our mistakes, see our own sins, go to Christ in repentance and faith. Humility is not only important for the life of faith, but fundamental. Humility is in the direction where we experience spiritual growth.

Humility is seen as weakness. We are told to be strong, confident, and self-assured. But the Bible teaches us an opposite worldview. The Bible is clear in pointing out that humility is the key to true strength and security. This leads us to recognize our immense need for God and to trust in his grace strengthens us, enables us to face the challenges of life. Not on our own, but through his Spirit in our midst.

EXPLANATION

The Hebrew word translated "scorn" in Proverbs 3:34 is "laag," which means "to mock, despise, or belittle." The Hebrew word translated "give grace" is "chen," which means "favor, grace, or blessing." The word "humble" in this verse comes from the Hebrew word "anavim," which refers to those who are humble and submissive in their relationship with God. In this verse, we see that God mocks the mockers, treats them with contempt. To those who mock his Word and reject his grace. But God gives grace to the humble, those who recognize their need for his help and grace.

Humility is the attitude that allows us to receive God's grace in our lives.

*“We all need difficult days to
increase our need and
dependence on God and to
learn that his grace is
sufficient”– Paul washer*

APPLICATIONS

- You must recognize your need for God, this means accepting our weaknesses and limitations. So we must avoid relying on our own strength and wisdom, but we must completely depend on God for every aspect of our life. Are there areas where you are trusting yourself instead of God?
- The humble seek God and submit to God. They submit to the word of God instead of their own interests or inclinations.
- Humility should lead us to recognize that we need help from others and to seek fellowship and counsel from other believers.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Recognize your need for God and depend on him in all areas of life.
- Seek God's will in every decision you make, submit to it and not to your own opinion.
- Seek advice from the pastor of your church or from more experienced mature brothers in the faith who can be a guide.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

If you have been trusting yourself instead of God, why do you think you are doing this? What could you do to improve this situation?

When making decisions, what weighs more? My common sense or biblical principles?

Am I seeking the attention of other people, so that they see me as a reference?

Resources to expand the study:

James 4:6 1 Peter 5:5, Philippians 2:3, Psalm 138:6, Proverbs 11:2, Matthew 23:12.

Devotional 23: "The importance of honesty: Telling the truth at all times" (Colossians 3:9)

Do not lie to one another, having stripped yourselves of the old man with his deeds, 10 and clothed with the new, which according to the image of the one who created it is renewed until full knowledge, Colossians 3:9-10 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Honesty is one of the pillars of Christian life, it should be a distinctive mark, even if this causes discomfort in some people. We are lights of Christ, we are the salt of the earth, in the midst of a fallen world full of lies, falsehood and hypocrisy. Today it is common to see people around us who use lies as a tool to succeed in life, men who want to live according to a biblical standard must be especially careful to be honest and that their actions reflect the honesty of their words. With God's help we will explore the importance of honesty in the context of masculinity and how we can live out this virtue in our daily lives.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine an elderly brother in weakness in the midst of the congregation, a younger brother begins to approach him. He shares his time with him, but as time passes he seeks to gain his inheritance, then through manipulation, lies and victimization he manages to get this brother to sign his inheritance. This is a terrible case of deceit, which deserves to be disciplined by the congregation, if this is not done. So this young brother could perfectly take advantage of others.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

The lie is a tool of the enemy that seeks to destroy our relationships, our integrity and our faith in God. In today's world, it has become common to cheat for

personal gain, to avoid confrontation, or to protect our image. However, the Bible is clear that honesty is a virtue that should be valued by Christians. As followers of Christ, we must be known for our honesty and integrity at all times.

The verse we have chosen is found in the context of Paul's exhortations to the Colossians to live according to their new nature in Christ. In verse 9, Paul tells them not to lie to each other and to put off the old man with his deeds. The lie is a work of the old man, who is being crucified with Christ. We must fight against our natural tendency to lie and always seek the truth in all situations.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek in Colossians 3:9 is (me pseudesthe), which means "do not lie." The apostle Paul uses this term to emphasize the importance of honesty and truthfulness in our relationships. The fact that a denial is used further reinforces the seriousness of the sin of lying. Which implies that we must be honest in all our relationships always. Even regardless of the consequences that our honesty may mean. The importance of honesty centers on the fact that it is a mark of our new nature in Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in us. As Christians we are called to be the image of Christ in the midst of this fallen world, who is the embodiment of truth on earth.

*"Get rid of all those old
habits in the same way you
would get rid of worn
clothes that no longer fit
you" FF Bruce*

APPLICATIONS

- Focus on telling the truth at all times. You should strive to be honest and tell the truth at all times, even when it is difficult or costly. We must resist the temptation to avoid, lie, deceive to avoid negative consequences.
- Be honest with yourself and acknowledge your own sins and weaknesses, only then can you deal with them effectively and holily.
- Be someone trustworthy, let your yes be yes and your no be no. If you said yes, then you must be faithful to your answer.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Ask God to be honest, sincere and courageous to tell the truth.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Are there areas where you are not being honest?

How can I appreciate truth and honesty as an attribute of God?

Resources to expand the study:

Look up a definition in a Bible dictionary of “honesty or truth”

Devotional 24: "The importance of faithfulness: Staying loyal to God and to our family" (Hebrews 13:4)

*Honorable be in all the marriage, and the bed without stain; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge
Hebrews 13:4 KJV*

INTRODUCTION

Fidelity is one of the most influential virtues in a man's life. A man must first be faithful to God and his word. By then, just be faithful to your wife and convey this idea to the family. This is a mark of a godly man, which leads us to be good leaders in the home and church. The Bible clearly speaks to us about the importance of faithfulness, today we will address Hebrews 13:4. This verse reminds us of the importance of staying faithful to our wives and keeping marriage sacred.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a brother with a great oratory capacity and great charisma, over time his way of speaking makes him become a kind of celebrity within many congregations, over time he becomes internationally famous, but it turns out that as his recognition grows, he begins to have detractors, they begin to investigate deep areas of his life, they find that within his career, he has been unfaithful to his wife on several occasions, this not only ruins his ministry, but also discredits the gospel, then many people use it as an example of how "all" Christians "are the same".

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Fidelity is essential for us and for all men who seek Christ and want to reflect his character. Since we have been called to be leaders of our home and also in the church. Fidelity means first of all being faithful to our wives and keeping our marriage pure and

sacred. It also implies being faithful to God and fulfilling his commandments, seeking to glorify him in all possible areas.

Without faithfulness, we cannot have a true and intimate relationship with God. If we don't have a true and intimate relationship with God then our relationship with our wife will be an appearance or deceit. Infidelity completely destroys trust and intimacy in marriage, ultimately, it takes us away from God. The Bible teaches us that fidelity is a key aspect of a husband's character, without this distinguishing mark, then this man has fallen into disrepute to serve as a leader in the congregation.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Hebrews 13:4 is "honorable," which in Greek means "shy." This word refers to something that is valuable, precious, and worthy of honor. The verse teaches us that marriage is something that is valuable and worth honoring. The verse also warns us about the dangers of infidelity and the importance of staying faithful to our wife. In light of scripture, fidelity is an essential virtue in the life of any Christian. Fidelity implies being faithful to God and following his will in all areas of our lives. It also involves being faithful to our wife and keeping our marriage pure and sacred.

*"Marriage is dishonored by
divorce, whether justified or
not"*

APPLICATIONS

- Take time to care for your relationship with your wife.

- Take care of the friendships you are developing, avoid having deep friendships with other women.
- If you have been unfaithful, be honest and avoid leadership positions that could bring you into disrepute, not just yours. But also to the congregation.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Avoid any situation that could lead to infidelity.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can I show more fidelity to my wife?

Am I aware that my fidelity impacts my children?

Resources to expand the study:

Learn about the high priesthood of Christ, in Hebrews 4:14-16

Devotional 25: "The responsibility of the father: Disciplining with love and wisdom" (Proverbs 13:24)

He who stops the punishment hates his son; But he who loves him corrects him early Proverbs 13:24 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Responsibility is what is expected of us, in fulfilling the commitments assumed with oneself or with someone else, in a few words it is the expectation of doing the right thing. As parents, we are responsible before God to discipline our children, with love and wisdom. Discipline is and will be necessary for our children, to teach children how to behave, how to respect authority and how to have respect for other people. Biblical discipline is intended to help our children mature in faith, in their relationship with God. This is a responsibility as parents to take this very seriously.

ILLUSTRATION

A few days ago, watching a funny sketch showed an irony of a father with a voice of authority and a father with "respectful upbringing." The "respectful parenting" parent taught the parent authoritatively, not to speak to the child so directly and not be too harsh with the child. Why it could generate terrible marks of pain and trauma in your life. While he was teaching a parenting class, the son of the "respectful parenting" father came by. Then the son says "daddy, give me some money to buy" and the father said, sweet son. Not because we will go home, then the son unleashes a sea of insults towards his father, who only remains silent in the face of such a degree of humiliation.

Our duty as parents is to be like a gardener, who prunes all the branches, so that the plants grow

beautifully and not leave our children adrift and become easy prey to this system.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this biblical passage, the writer of Proverbs teaches us that discipline is necessary for the growth and maturity of our children. Discipline should not be seen as something bad, but as something necessary to help our children learn to behave appropriately and respect authority. However, we are also reminded to apply discipline with love and wisdom, not anger or violence.

As parents, our responsibility is to help our children grow in faith and in their relationship with God, and this includes disciplining them when necessary. We must be diligent in correcting and guiding our children, but we must also do it with love and understanding.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this Biblical passage is "correct" in the second half of the verse, which in Hebrew translates as "yasar." This verb means "to guide", "to straighten" or "to train", which suggests that discipline should be applied with the purpose of guiding and teaching children, not just punishing them.

According to the biblical worldview, discipline is a means of grace that God uses to shape and transform his children. Discipline is necessary to teach children to obey God and respect authority, and it is also necessary to protect them from sin and danger. However, discipline must be applied with love and wisdom.

*“ If we are not willing to
discipline our children, we
will pay a great price ”*

APPLICATIONS

- As parents, we must be diligent in applying Biblical discipline with love and wisdom, always seeking the welfare and growth of our children.
- We must remember that discipline is not just punishment, but is about guiding and teaching them in the truth of God's word.
- When we make a mistake in punishing or reprimanding our children, we must be willing to ask for forgiveness, this shows humility and love.
- Remind your child of the Bible passage Hebrews 12:6.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Take time to study writing with your children, you must develop effective leadership in your family and the safe guide is writing. If you have difficulties, ask the pastor of your congregation or older brothers for help, they can recommend resources for reading or share some useful one.
- Seek advice from spiritual leaders in the church or from experienced parents who apply biblical principles to living.
- Look for instances to restore your children's relationships, show humility and love.

*REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED*

Are you disciplining your children with love and wisdom or are you using them as an outlet for the stress of work?

Have you explained why discipline is necessary to your children?

Devotional 26: The importance of gratitude Acknowledging God's goodness in our lives (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Gratitude should be the most distinctive mark of every believer, gratitude is a very recurring characteristic in biblical characters, Job, even though he lost everything, Moses after having freed the Israelites, David in many of his psalms, Daniel, after after being freed from the lions, Paul in several of his letters, Ana after giving birth to Samuel, Mary the mother of Jesus, the lepers, a leper returns giving thanks, Ruth shows gratitude towards her mother-in-law, Jonah prays in gratitude afterwards to be saved from the fish. And so, we could go on endlessly, this is a brand that should distinguish us males.

ILLUSTRATION

Job is an example of gratitude, even in the midst of adversity. Job was a just and pious man who suffered many losses and pains, including the death of his children, the scorn of his friends, his wives, and possessions. Despite this, Job's faith did not wane, but he continued to worship God.

In Job 1:20-21, after learning about the tragedies that had befallen him, he rips his clothes, shaves his head, and prostrates himself in worship to God saying, "Naked I came out of my mother's womb and naked I will return there. Jehovah gave, Jehovah took away. Blessed be the name of Jehovah!" Although Job was going through very difficult times, he never lost sight of God, he recognized that everything he had had

come from God and although he was going through a very difficult time, there were still many things to thank him for.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

The apostle Paul exhorts us to give thanks at all times. This does not mean that we have to give thanks for all circumstances, but that we must be thankful in the midst of them. Gratitude helps us recognize God's goodness in all areas of our lives. By being grateful, we focus on what we have instead of what we lack, which gives us a positive outlook on life.

In Psalm 100:4, we are exhorted to enter his presence with thanksgiving and in Psalm 136, the psalmist lists reasons to give thanks to God. Gratitude is a natural response from the heart that draws us into the presence of God.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 is "eucharisteo", which means "to give thanks" or "to give thanks". Gratitude is a conscious action that we must take in our daily lives. In a biblical worldview, gratitude is a natural response from the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit and which recognizes the goodness and mercy of God at all times. Gratitude is an attitude that leads us to recognize the goodness of God at all times. By being grateful, we focus on what we have instead of what we lack. In the context of biblical masculinity, gratitude helps us to be grateful men for the blessings we receive from God and to show appreciation to our family and church.

***"If through a broken heart,
God can carry out his
purposes in the world, then***

*thank him for breaking your
heart" Oswald Chambers*

APPLICATIONS

- Have an attitude of gratitude, see God's favor even in the midst of the most difficult circumstances.
- Express your gratitude to your family and how they have been a blessing to your life.
- Practice gratitude in daily life, recognize the blessings you receive daily from God.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Think of reasons for which you can thank God in prayer.
- Talk about what things lead you to be grateful to God.
- Practice gratitude in difficult times, seek an approach from God's perspective and not from the perspective of current problems.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

In what areas should I be most grateful?

What things can I thank God in my daily prayers?

How can I help others show gratitude?

Devotional 27: The Importance of Forgiveness Freeing Others and Ourselves from Bitterness (Colossians 3:13)

bearing with one another, and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. As Christ forgave you, so also do you. Colossians 3:13 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Although the Bible treats the subject of forgiveness as part of one of the main themes in the biblical story, for many Christians it is a very difficult subject. Some Christians do not grow in their spiritual lives simply because of unforgiveness, others ruin their family lives because of unforgiveness, others get sick, and still others eventually create bitter roots that reach deep into their hearts. For men, forgiveness is a central theme, since, as heads of the home, we are called by God to be the first to take the step of forgiveness in our families. Forgiveness frees us from bitterness, anger, and helps us maintain a clear conscience and maintain healthy relationships with others. We will see how Colossians 3:13 urges us to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us through Christ.

ILLUSTRATION

Let us remember the story of Jose, in Genesis 37–50. Joseph was sold as a slave by his own brothers, who hated him because God had chosen him to be greater among them. He was taken to Egypt, where he was bought by Potiphar and later imprisoned, due to the lies of Potiphar's wife. However, despite everything that had happened, Joseph finally forgave his brothers when they were reunited in Egypt.

In the same way, we find ourselves in many situations where someone has done us a lot of wrong and we can clearly justify the idea of feeling hurt, maintaining this feeling is keeping us bitter and creates resentment towards people.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Forgiveness is not easy, especially when someone has deeply offended us. However, as Christians, we are commanded to forgive others, just as God has forgiven us. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he included a request that God forgive our trespasses, just as we forgive those who trespass against us (Matthew 6:12). Forgiveness is essential to maintaining healthy relationships with others and to freeing ourselves from bitterness and anger. Lack of forgiveness can lead to bitterness, anger, and resentment, which can affect our relationships and lead to spiritual apathy.

In the Bible we see innumerable examples of forgiveness, but the maximum example of forgiveness, we see it in God himself, who has reconciled us through Christ and his substitutionary sacrifice, forgiving does not mean telling the other person that they have done a good deed, but we simply choose to let go of the offense, and we trust in God that He will be the one to pay for the offense received.

EXPLANATION

The Greek word used for "forgive" in Colossians 3:13 is "charizomai," which means "to release," "to forgive," or "to bestow grace." The idea behind forgiveness is to release the other person from our anger and bitterness, and to give them grace as God has given us grace. The biblical worldview teaches that forgiveness is essential to the Christian life, since God has forgiven us through the redemptive

work of Jesus Christ. Because of this, we must forgive others, just as we have been forgiven by God. Forgiveness is not an easy act, but it is an act that is based on the grace and mercy of God.

"The man as head of the home, is commanded to take the first step in forgiving"

APPLICATIONS

- Learn to forgive others, even when they have hurt you deeply. Forgiveness is a choice we make, not a feeling we experience. Ask for God's help to forgive those who have offended you.
- Remember our infinite offense towards God and he has forgiven us even so.
- Examine your own heart and look for any bitterness or anger you may be holding. Prayerfully ask God to work to remove that bitterness or anger.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- If there is someone pending that you need to forgive, find them and extend forgiveness.
- If you have a broken relationship, you should try to restore it. If it is not possible, leave the debt to God and he will do justice in due time.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Is there someone you need to forgive?

Have you noticed if unforgiveness has affected you in your life?

How does forgiveness apply in the family?

Resources to expand the study:

Romans 12:18, Ephesians 4:2-3, Ephesians 4:31-32, Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:37, Luke 17:3-4, Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 1:9, Proverbs 10:12.

Devotional 28: "The value of patience: Waiting on the Lord in difficult times" (James 1:2-4)

My brethren, count it great joy when you find yourself in various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience complete his work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Lack of patience can be the perfect friend for anxiety, from a biblical worldview, patience is essential to face the challenges and difficulties that come our way. In moments of crisis such as illness, job loss, marital crisis, economic crisis, a family problem, patience allows us to act appropriately and in tune with God, patience inevitably leads us to wait on God with confidence and perseverance. In this devotional, we are going to explore the value of patience and how we can apply it in our daily lives.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine that you are in the middle of a tremendous storm, on a ship. The waves are high and violent, the wind blows strongly and the clouds are getting darker and darker every moment. For hours the ship shakes, sways in all directions. Everyone on board is scared and worried for their safety, but through it all, the ship's captain remains calm and expertly steers the ship through the storm. Despite the difficulties, he has the patience and confidence to bring the ship to port.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Patience is a virtue that the Lord has to develop in all areas of our lives, but it is most evident in moments of crisis. The testing of our faith produces patience and that patience leads us to mature. Patience does not mean being tolerant and hoping that difficult times

will just pass, but rather it is about trusting God and seeing his plan in the midst of adverse circumstances.

Patience also helps us apply it to others, especially our loved ones. Sometimes our relationships can be difficult and require a lot of effort and perseverance. But just as God has been patient with us in our transgressions and even to this day, so we must seek to be patient with others.

Being patient is not resigning or being inactive, we can wait on the Lord with confidence and at the same time act with discipline and wisdom to solve the challenges that are presented to us.

EXPLANATION

In the original Greek text, the word "patient" is translated as "hupomone", which means "perseverance" or "consistency". According to a biblical worldview, patience is a virtue that is developed through the trials and difficulties of life, and is a display of the marks of genuine faith in God. When we patiently wait on the Lord, we demonstrate our confidence in his power and sovereignty, and we recognize that he is in control of our lives.

***“The most difficult moments
of our lives really show if
we have patience or not”***

APPLICATIONS

- Do not focus on difficulties and obstacles. See how God is providing the instances to mature in faith.
- It is in difficult moments that we must really trust God, trust God in peace of mind or when everything is fine, it is easy. In the midst of difficult times is where we must really trust God.

- If you want to be patient with someone, start with your family, a legalist is patient with everyone except his family. Cultivate genuine patience with your loved ones and consequently towards others.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Spend time for God in prayer, meditation on the word of God.
- Practice gratitude and thank God for the blessings in your life. This will allow you to maintain a God-centered perspective, where you see how God works in the most difficult moments.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What are the situations where it is most difficult for you to be patient?

Have you asked your wife for help in improving your patience?

What does the Bible tell us about characters characterized by their patience?

Resources to expand the study:

Romans 5:3-4, Isaiah 40:3, Psalm 46:10, Colossians 1:11, Romans 8:11, Proverbs 16:20

Devotional 29: "Satisfaction in Christ – Philippians 4:11–13)

And I don't say this because I have a shortage, because I have learned to be content, whatever my situation. I know how to live humbly, and I know how to have abundance; in everything and for everything I am taught, as well to be satisfied as to be hungry, as well as to have abundance as to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11–13 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Although we have it all; more television channels than ever, more source of entertainment than ever, greater opportunities than ever, society has a common problem “dissatisfaction”. Many men live constantly looking for success, more money, more power, more pleasure, more recognition, more reputation. However, many of these men live unsatisfied lives. In the text that we will meditate on today, Paul shows us that he has learned to be satisfied in any circumstance, whether in abundance or in need, because his satisfaction comes from Christ.

ILLUSTRATION

Let's imagine a man who has everything anyone could want, a prominent career, an amazing house, a fancy car, a beautiful family, and many friends surrounding him. But despite having everything the world seeks or sees as longings, he feels unsatisfied and empty.

On the other hand, let us imagine a man who has a modest job, lives in a small house, drives an old car, does not have many friends, and even economically lives a tight life, but he has a deep relationship with Christ and feels completely satisfied in he. Which of the two men is truly rich?

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Paul is in jail, with all the most unfavorable circumstances he could imagine, Paul shows us that regardless of the circumstances he is satisfied, because his satisfaction is in Christ. He has learned to be content in all situations, whether he has a lot or a little, because he knows that his true wealth is in Christ, in other words, Paul does not find his satisfaction in the things he possesses, but in the only true God who has saved him.

Furthermore, the statement "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" does not mean that Paul can do whatever he wants in his own strength, but rather that he can face any situation because he trusts in Christ's power and provision.

As Christians, we are to follow Paul's example and find our fulfillment in Christ. Instead of looking for our happiness in the things of this world, we must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33) and trust that God will supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19).

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "learned", a verb in the aorist tense in the active voice that indicates Paul's initiative in seeing satisfaction. Pablo was not born satisfied in all situations, but he learned to be. In other words, contentment in Christ is something that is learned and cultivated over time. As we grow closer to God and experience his love and provision in our lives, we learn to trust him in any situation.

According to the biblical worldview, satisfaction in Christ is one of the blessings we have in him. Through his work on the cross, Christ has reconciled us to God and given us access to all the spiritual blessings we need to live a full and satisfying life. Therefore, our

satisfaction in Christ is an expression of our faith in him and our confidence in his provision.

"In the heart of the City of London, amidst the dwellings of the poor, these radiant and golden words were spoken: "I have Christ, what more could I need?" What was said by a lonely woman who died on the cold ground, without a single relief or earthly relief, is the only truth. "I have Christ, what more could I need?"

APPLICATIONS

- Do not focus on difficulties and obstacles. See how God is providing the instances to mature in faith.
- It is in difficult moments that we must really trust God, trust God in peace of mind or when everything is fine, it is easy. In the midst of difficult times is where we must really trust God.
- If you want to be patient with someone, start with your family, a legalist is patient with everyone except his family. Cultivate genuine patience with your loved ones and consequently towards others.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Spend time for God in prayer, meditation on the word of God.
- Practice gratitude and thank God for the blessings in your life. This will allow you to maintain a God-centered perspective, where you see how God works in the most difficult moments.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

What are the situations where it is most difficult for you to be patient?

Have you asked your wife for help in improving your patience?

What does the Bible tell us about characters characterized by their patience?

Resources to expand the study:

Luke 12:34, Matthew 16:25, Matthew 6:26, James 1:21, Matthew 6:33.

Devotional 30: "The importance of obedience: Following God's will in our lives" (John 14:15)

*If you love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15
KJV*

INTRODUCTION

It is undeniable to see obedience as a central theme of scripture, since Adam. God has called man to be obedient to his will. As men, we have a responsibility to lead our families and serve in the church, but this very thing. It means being examples of obedience in our lives.

Someone who is not obedient to God, cannot expect then to have an adequate leadership or aligned with the will of God, obedience is a reflection of humility and submission and to the authority of God, and in this way we can lead those who God has placed in our care.

ILLUSTRATION

In everyday life, obedience can be difficult to maintain. Often, we face temptations and distractions that lead us away from the path of obedience. An example of this is found in the story of David and Bathsheba. David, the king of Israel, saw Bathsheba bathing and was attracted to her. Even though she knew she was committing adultery, she continued with her sin and tried to cover it up by killing Bathsheba's husband. Although David was a man after God's heart, his disobedience had dire consequences. This story shows us how even spiritual leaders can be tempted into disobedience.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Obedience is an expression of love for God. In the verse that we meditate on today, we are told "if we

love." So we must keep his commandment. This means a continuous search to find out the will of God, through reading, study and prayer. To then apply these truths to daily life. Obedience is not just about following rules, but is an expression of love and gratitude to God. When we obey God, we are demonstrating our faith in him.

We have several examples in scripture of obedience to God, for example, Abraham, who was called to leave his land, his family and trust in God's promise. Moses led the people of Israel to get them out of slavery in Egypt, despite their limitations. Jesus was the maximum example of obedience, even to the death of the cross, following the will of God. Regardless of the price that obedience to the father would cost. Obedience does not mean less value, or a derogatory image.

EXPLANATION

In John 14:15, we have the verb in Greek is "tereo" which means "to keep" or "to keep." This involves more than simply keeping God's commandments; but also implies maintaining and protecting them. The biblical worldview emphasizes the sovereignty of God and the need to submit to his will. This means that obedience to God is not optional; it is our duty in having a relationship with him and in our role as leaders in the home and church.

*“Our obedience is not fear,
pride, or desire to gain a
blessing. The proper source
of obedience is love.
“Obedience must have love
as mother, nurse and food.
The essence of obedience*

*lies in the abundant love that
drives the work rather than
in the work itself.” Charles
Spurgeon*

APPLICATIONS

- If we do not study the Bible and spend time in front of it, meditating and praying with it. It is impossible for us to be obedient and obey God's commandments.
- If necessary, seek advice from godly men. If you are struggling with being obedient to God in a specific situation, seek wisdom from godly men, fellowship between men is an important part of the Christian life and can be a great support in difficult times.
- Avoid the temptation to close yourself off and believe yourself to be self-sufficient, you are not an island of wisdom, therefore, we all need the help of others to grow in our obedience to God.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Spend your free time studying the Bible, use commentaries, dictionaries available at your local church, if there are no resources available, bring it up with the leadership for consideration.
- Seek association with godly, mature men who can help you submit your life to God's word.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Are you aware that as you submit to God, you can exercise healthy and wise leadership?

If you fight with God in obedience? Why do you think you do it? be honest with yourself

How can I be an example of obedience to my family?

Resources to expand the study:

*Psalm 119:105, James 1:22, Romans 6:16,
Philippians 2:8, Proverbs 3:5-6.*

Devotional 31: "The importance of obedience: Following God's will in our lives" (John 14:15)

Because the sadness that is according to God produces repentance for salvation, of which there is no need to repent; but the sadness of the world produces death. John 14:15 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Repentance is a crucial issue in the life of every Christian, especially for men who have a leadership role in their home or church. As Christian men, we have the responsibility to guide our families and thus also the church in the path of truth, holiness and repentance that is fundamental in the path of the gospel.

Scripture tells us that we have all sinned and fallen away from God, but that we are reconciled through faith in Christ. Repentance therefore is a response from conviction of sin and is the response in the transforming work of the Holy Spirit produced through the new birth.

ILLUSTRATION

One of the best known stories in the bible is in luke 15, the prodigal son who left home, he took the inheritance that corresponded to him according to the mosaic law, but wasted on pleasures and ended up in ruin and in utter despair. In his bankruptcy, he comes to if he says the deed and then decides to go home, confess his sins to his father. Although the father had every right to reject his son, since such an act of rebellion is considered as that son, he was dead. The father receives him with open arms and reintegrates him into the family, this illustrates how God, when we repent and go to him, gives us his grace that restores our relationship with God.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

True repentance involves a change of the believer's mind and heart. Sadness is part of the repentance process, but that sadness is produced by a conviction of sin, which is produced by God himself and leads us to sincere confession of sin and a return to HIM to seek forgiveness and restoration. This is an act of humiliation before God and a demonstration of trust in God's mercy. For men who lead their families, repentance is taking responsibility for our mistakes and sins. Seek the restoration of our relationship with God, our family and church. Repentance is not only a call, but a command from God "now command all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

True repentance leads us to abandon our selfish interests and seek God's will in everything we do. In Colossians 3:5, we are called to put to death the deeds of the flesh and put on a new nature in Christ. Repentance is putting all sinful desires aside and seeking the life God has called us to live.

EXPLANATION

In 2 Corinthians 7:10, the Greek verb for "repentance" is "metanoia," which means a change of mind or thought. According to a biblical worldview, repentance is an act of divine grace in which the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and leads us to a sincere and humble confession. Repentance involves a radical change in the direction of our lives, away from sin and closer to God. It is a fruit of God's work in us and an evidence of our salvation.

Repentance is not just a one-off event at the time of conversion, but is an ongoing process throughout the believer's life. It is a sign of God's presence in our lives and an evidence of our faith.

*"Repentance is not when you
just cry, but when you
change"*

APPLICATIONS

- When you admit that you have sinned against someone, make a sincere confession and seek to make amends for any damage you have caused.
- Live in constant regret. Do not settle for a superficial or momentary repentance, but seek a lasting life change that leads you to follow Christ with all your heart.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Memorize and meditate on 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- Seek association with godly, mature men who can help you submit your life to God's word.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

What sins do you need to give up to repent and focus on God?

Are you willing to forgive those who have hurt you and seek reconciliation?

Resources to expand the study:

Acts 3:19, Luke 5:32, 1 John 1:9, Psalm 51:17, Acts 17:30.

Devotional 32: The Importance of Unity: Working Together in Harmony" (Ephesians 4:3)

eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; Ephesians 4:3 KJV

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world where unity and harmony lose importance every day, in many homes the complete separation of the family is evident, parents and children have completely separate lives. In some cases they only share meals, some moments on television, but even sometimes the moments of eating are separated. Technology, telephones on the table, are a repetitive pattern that undermines family unity.

However, as believers, we must understand that unity is essential for our spiritual growth and our mission as a church is to stay together.

Unity appears throughout the scripture and is a fundamental value for the life of the believer, as well as for men, today we will see how we can apply principles to our daily life and how we can contribute to the unity of our home and in the community of believers.

ILLUSTRATION

An example of unity is found in the book of Nehemiah, when God's people worked together to rebuild the collapsed walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah 4:6 "So we built the wall, and the whole wall was finished up to half its height, because the people had courage to work." Despite the strong opposition, the risk of an imminent attack, the people united in their efforts and managed to complete the entrusted task.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Without unity, the body of Christ cannot function properly. In Romans 12:4–5 Paul writes, "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all these members perform the same function, so we, being many, form one body in Christ, and each member is united to all the others." When we work together in unity, we can fulfill God's purpose in our lives and in the church. True unity does not sacrifice the truth, instead unity is based on a proper understanding of the truth.

Also, unity is necessary for our personal and family relationships. In Matthew 18:15 we have a guide, how we can resolve conflicts between brothers of faith. We must seek reconciliation and unity in our relationships, and this can be achieved through forgiveness and humility.

EXPLANATION

In Ephesians 4:3, we have the Greek word "teréo" which means "to keep, preserve" and "súndesmos", which means "joint bond or ligament". This implies a concerted effort by each member of the church to work in harmony with the others. As Christians, we need to have the mindset that we are part of one body and each has an important role to play. We must also regard others as more important than ourselves, which means that we must humble ourselves and sacrifice our personal interests for the sake of church unity.

*"We want unity in the truth of God
through the Spirit of God. Let's
find this; let us live close to
Christ, because this is the best
way to promote unity. Divisions in
churches never start with those*

*who are full of love for the
Savior."*

APPLICATIONS

- Reconciliation and forgiveness are fundamental pillars to maintain unity, it is not a question of telling the truth to the other, but bearing ourselves in humility and acknowledging our mistakes.
- Unity sacrifices personal interests for the supreme good of church unity.
- A sound theology, centered on Christ, with an appropriate hermeneutic and submission to revealed truth. Leads to unity, opinions based on writing contribute to a development of unity.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Examine your heart and ask if you have attitudes that sacrifice the word of God to achieve unity based on personal opinions.
- Be active in church, look for ways to contribute to the body of Christ.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

Are you willing to sacrifice your personal interests for the sake of church unity?

Do you have any pending situation that requires reconciliation?

How can I work in harmony with other members of the church, to fulfill God's purpose in the community, without sacrificing a correct understanding of God's word?

Resources to expand the study:

*Romans 15:5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians
2:2-3, Colossians 3:13-14, 1 Peter 3:8.*

Devotional 33: "The importance of evangelism: Sharing the gospel with courage and humility" (Matthew 28:19–20)

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; 20 teaching them to observe all the things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the world. Amen.; Matthew 28:19–20 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Sharing the gospel boldly and humbly is a fundamental calling for every Christian, especially those who seek to live a biblical masculinity. It is important to remember that salvation is a gift from God, that God is the one who seeks his own, that God is the one who initiates the work in sinners who have died in crime and sin. But our task as believers is to bring the message of salvation to those who do not know Christ as their savior, in this devotional we will explore the importance of evangelization and how we can fulfill this task with courage and humility.

ILLUSTRATION

One of the most powerful accounts of courageous and humble evangelism is found in the book of Acts, where we see Peter and John boldly and courageously preaching the gospel to the religious leaders of their time, despite the latent risk of possible stoning or imprisonment.

In Acts 4:8–12 we see the audacity and clarity of these men saying "There is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we can be saved." Although the opposition was every day stronger, these men did not

stop in the face of opposition, but continued to share the gospel, obeying their teacher, regardless of the consequences that could mean for them.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In today's devotional, we see what we call "the great commission" gives a clear and direct mandate from Jesus to all his followers. The task of sharing the gospel is our responsibility and we cannot ignore it, since the eternal consequences are catastrophic. We must share the gospel message with courage and humility, remembering that at some point we too receive the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, the humility reminds us that we are only messengers and that salvation is only a work of God through the Holy Spirit. We are the external call and God places the internal call.

Let us remember that evangelization is not only preaching to strange people on the street or in the church. It also includes being an example of Christ in our daily relationships, especially at home and in our local community. We are to live holy and godly lives, reflecting God's work in our lives.

The latter gives weight to our message, a message that is preached by people transformed by the work of Christ, causes a profound impact on people in the midst of a world with a lack of hope and with ideologies circulating with greater diffusion every day.

EXPLANATION

In matthew 28:19-20 we have the verb "poreuthentes", which means "to go". This word implies action, and shows us that evangelization is a task that requires movement and effort. We must be willing to go wherever God calls us, and to share the gospel with everyone around us. If we have a clear

biblical worldview, we will see how the Bible emphasizes the importance of evangelization as an integral part of our faith, and reminds us that we have been called by God to share the gospel with every creature.

*"You are as good for my
purpose as anyone else
would be. There is no power
in you, I know, but all power
is in me, therefore go" –
Charles Spurgeon*

APPLICATIONS

- Have a life in holiness, without the need to have a sign on your back that says Christian, so that the day you evangelize, Allan people have seen God in you long before.
- In the friendships you have, let people understand that you are a Christian, share the gospel, and then patiently wait for God's work in their lives.
- Pray for those who have not received salvation, so that God in his infinite love and mercy will give them life and salvation.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Look for opportunities to evangelize, with subtlety. Open a vein wait for God to confirm it and share the gospel.
- Avoid making promises of health, well-being, human purposes, achievement of goals, avoid a humanistic gospel, social justice, therapeutic, focus only on the real meaning of the gospel.

- Do not push people to a decision, be like the apostles who waited for the response of the people of the time and approached them saying "and now what shall we do?"
- Take care in pretending to enter into the sovereignty of God and pretend to convert people by their own strength, methods, strategies. Be patient, wait on God.
- Share with your siblings how many people you have spoken to about the gospel in the last month.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Are you willing to step out of your comfort zone and share the gospel with those who don't know you?

Are you willing to have a clearer understanding of the gospel?

Are you willing to be humble? Preaching, announcing, exhorting, but leaving the results to God?

Resources to expand the study:

Romans 10:14-15, 2 Timothy 2:2, 1 Peter 3:15, Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 1:18, Ephesians 6:19-20, Colossians 4:6

Devotional 34 "The Importance of Hope: Holding on to God's Promise in Times of Uncertainty" (Romans 15:13)

And the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit Romans 15:13 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Hope is the last thing to be lost they say. As men, a vision with hope is essential to persevere in the most difficult moments that we can experience. In uncertain times, when we face great challenges and trials, our hope in God is what sustains us and gives us strength to keep going. In the context of biblical masculinity, hope is especially important, since men have a duty to lead and protect their families, and hope is what helps us do it with strength, determination and conviction.

ILLUSTRATION

In scripture we find someone who clings to his hope in God's promise in times of uncertainty, it is the patriarch Abraham. When God asks him to leave his land and travel to an unknown land, Abraham believed God and obeyed, trusting in God's promise that he would give him numerous offspring and a land to possess. Despite all the challenges he faced, such as the barrenness of his wife and not having a permanent place to live, Abraham clung to God's promise and kept his hope in him.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Hope is a recurring theme in writing. Patriarchs, prophets, and apostles found their strength in God's promise. As men of God we must follow that example and find our hope in God's promises to us. In Hebrews

11:1 we read about faith, which is key to maintaining a firm and constant hope.

In 1 Peter 1:3-4 we find how Peter says "he has caused us to be born again to a living hope" Our hope is an inheritance reserved for us in heaven, secured by the work of Christ on the cross and his resurrection.

This is a reminder, to hold on to God's promises in times of uncertainty. The hope that it is we could tend to lose it in the midst of difficulty.

But we must understand that the hope we have in God is not a vague or uncertain hope. The hope we have is a certainty, because God has promised to fulfill all his promises. These certainties are found in the word of God and grounded in God's faithfulness to fulfill his word. As we are told in Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the hope we profess, for he who made the promise is faithful

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek in Romans 15:13 is the term "plēroō", which means "to fill, satisfy, replete, make something complete". God's promise in this verse is that He will fill His children with all joy and peace through His Holy Spirit. This means that the hope we have in God is not vague or uncertain, but is based on the certainty that God will keep all his promises.

From a biblical worldview, we can understand that hope is a gift from God given to us through his Holy Spirit. This hope is a sure confidence in God's goodness and in his ability to fulfill all his promises. As men of faith, we must cultivate this hope through prayer, reading the Word of God, and fellowship with other believers.

*"There is not a single atom
in this universe that is loose
and totally free from the
sovereignty of God" Rc-
Sproul*

APPLICATIONS

- Cultivate your hope in God through daily prayer and scripture reading.
- Meet with other believers and encourage each other in faith.
- Remember that the hope we have in God is not circumstantial, it should not be based on circumstances, the absence of problems or the abundance of problems do not change God's promises.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Be sure to spend time with the word of God, create a reading plan, if you have difficulties create a reading group, meet or have virtual meetings, to read the scripture with other believers.
- Seek to encourage others and share your hope with others with those who may be having a difficult time.
- Look in your life for areas where you are trusting yourself, your abilities, your influence, or anything self-centered instead of trusting God. If so, repent and seek God's help to trust him fully.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can you be an agent of hope for those who are experiencing difficulties?

In what areas of your life do you need to trust God more than trust yourself?

Resources to expand the study:

1 Peter 1:3-5, Psalm 62:5, Romans 8:25, 2 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 4:6-7, Proverbs 23:18, Hebrew 6:19.

Devotional 35 "The importance of perseverance in prayer: Praying without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Pray without ceasing 1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV

INTRODUCTION

The lack of prayer is a very marked characteristic in many Christians. Through prayer we communicate with God, we adore him, we thank him and we present our requests, our struggles and we confess our sins. Although it should come naturally, many times we struggle to maintain a constant prayer. The world constantly distracts us and bombards us with worries and distractions, it's easy to forget to pray and make prayer a simple ritual.

However, through prayer we can experience the power and presence of God in our lives in profound and transformative ways. Perseverance in prayer is not only a biblical exhortation, but is essential in our spiritual growth.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a hard-working farmer planting seeds in his field. He knows that rain is vital for the growth of his crops, and therefore he makes sure to water his field regularly, even when the sun is shining brightly. He knows that leaving his crops unattended would cause them to fail to grow properly or could die.

In a similar way, our prayer life is like the rain that nourishes our relationship with God. We must persevere in prayer at all times, not just see it as a mystical amulet, where we turn to God in the midst of difficulties. Just like the farmer, we must be constant and persevering so that we have a true relationship with God.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

The perseverance of prayer implies staying firm and persistent in our communication with God, even when we do not see immediate results. Prayer is a way to strengthen our relationship with God, to trust in his will and to seek his help at all times. Perseverance in prayer also implies trusting that God hears our pleas and will answer us at his perfect time.

The Bible teaches us that we must persevere in prayer. In Luke 11:9–10, Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and he who knocks it will be opened to you." In Philippians 4:6–7, Paul exhorts us to "be anxious about nothing, but in everything, with prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known before God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek is "proseúchomai" which is basically "to do

prayer, pray, supplicate". The issue of this verb is that it is given in the "imperative" mode, which means in simple words, a mandate from God. Therefore, we are commanded to pray without ceasing. This implies that we should not abandon communication with God, even in the most difficult moments. According to a biblical worldview, constancy in prayer is a mark of true faith in God and a mark of our trust in God.

We must remember that God is sovereign and that his plans are perfect, even if we do not always understand the purpose of the circumstances.

*“If there is anything worse
than not praying, it is
praying in an unworthy way”
Rc-Sproul*

APPLICATIONS

- Persevering in prayer helps us grow in God's grace and trust in his will.
- Perseverance in prayer teaches us to depend on God.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Dedicate daily time to pray, develop constant discipline in prayer.
- If you don't know how to pray, look for prayer models, such as the Our Father and Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane.
- Prayer is essential in the work of sharing the gospel, pray for those who do not know Christ and share your faith with them. pray to god

for opportunities where you can talk about the Lord.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can I develop a habit of prayer?

Is my prayer aligned with God's will or do I only ask for my own desires?

How can I be more aware that God's presence is everywhere and I can pray everywhere?

Resources to expand the study:

*Philippians 4:6-7, Colossians 4:2, Ephesians 6:18,
Matthew 7:7-8, Luke 11:9-10, Hebrews 4:16, Luke
22:39-46.*

Devotional 36 "The Infinite Provision of God" The Promise of (Philippians 4:19)

My God, therefore, will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Men face more than one challenge in our lives, which may seem insurmountable. Whether it's in our families, at our jobs, or at church, we can sometimes feel like we don't have enough to meet our responsibilities and meet our obligations. But as Christians, we have the sure promise in the word of God, that we will never lack anything we need. This promise is found in Philippians 4:19. Today we will see with God's help, how this promise is for us.

ILLUSTRATION

The Bible has many cases where we see God's provision for his own, in the Old Testament, the prophet Elijah found himself in a desperate situation, after challenging the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. After fleeing for his life, he hides in a cave and complained to God that he was the only faithful prophet left in Israel. But God did not leave him alone in his despair. In 1 Kings 19:5-6 we see how God provided for Elijah's physical and spiritual needs, in the saddest moment of his life.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Men have a natural tendency to worry about how we will provide for our family, if there is a lack of money or not enough money. But we see in today's text, a central truth, in how God provides for his own. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus teaches his disciples not to worry about the material necessities of life, because God knows what we need and will take care of

providing for us. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, Paul says that God is able to make all grace abound to us, so that we have everything we need and more to do good. What we read in Hebrews 13:5 is that God will always be with us and will never leave us without what we need."

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Greek in Philippians 4:19 is "plēroō", which means "to fill", "to complete", "to satisfy". We therefore understand that God's provision is sufficient and abundant for all believers, and that He will supply all our needs according to his richness in glory in Christ Jesus.

It is important to remember that God's provision is not limited to physical and material needs, but also includes our emotional and spiritual needs. God provides us with everything we need to fulfill his will and purpose in our lives, and we can trust that he is able and faithful to provide abundantly for us.

"God has not promised to satisfy "all" our whims or desires, especially those that do not benefit our lives or bring glory to his name. His promise is to supply "everything" we lack

APPLICATIONS

- In life's difficult or uncertain situations, remember that God is able to provide for all your needs. trust his faithfulness and place your trust in him.
- Practice gratitude, recognize that God provides for your life, learn to live with a grateful heart.

- Do not focus your gaze on God's provision, focus your gaze on the kingdom of God, we have been called to seek first the kingdom of God and not seek provision first.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Remember the ways in which God has provided for you.
- Take time to reflect on God's provision for your life.
- Order your priorities, you must seek the kingdom of God and his justice. By doing this, we can trust that God will provide for all our needs.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Do you need to trust more in God's provision?

How can you cultivate an attitude of gratitude toward God's provision in your life?

How do you think you could first seek the kingdom of God?

Resources to expand the study:

Psalm 23:1-3, Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 12:22-31, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Ephesians 3:20-21

Devotional 37 " Teaching our children" The word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

And these words that I command you today will be on your heart; 7 and you will repeat them to your children, and you will speak of them being in your house, and walking by the road, and when you lie down, and when you get up. 8 and you will bind them as a sign on your hand, and they will be like frontals between your eyes; 9 and you will write them on the posts of your house, and on your doors. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 KJV

INTRODUCTION

The family is a sacred divine institution, created and established by God, from the beginning in creation, when God forms Adam and Eve and blesses them, the first family is formed. As family leaders, it is our responsibility to guide and teach our children in the word of God. The teaching of scripture is vital for the spiritual formation of our children and for the construction of a solid foundation in the Christian faith. In this devotional passage, we will see the importance of the word of God in the family and how we can teach our children.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine that you are building a house for your family. You know that you need a strong and solid foundation for the house to be safe and durable. If you build the foundation on sand or unstable soil, the house will not last long. But if you build the foundation on a solid and resistant base, the house will be strong and durable.

In the same way, the word of God is the foundation where we can build our home and our family. If we ignore God's word and build our family based on our own understanding or desires, our house will not be

safe and durable. But if we build our family on the basis of God's word, we can be sure that our house will be strong and resistant to trials.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, God gives parents specific instructions on how to teach their children the Scriptures. We must repeat God's words to our children, speak of them at all times and in any place, and make sure that they are always present in our home. The teaching of the scriptures should not be just an occasional event, but an ongoing practice in our daily lives.

The Word of God is powerful and effective, capable of transforming our lives and those of our children. When we teach our children the Word of God, we are giving them the necessary tools to build a solid and lasting life of faith.

In addition to Deuteronomy 6:6-9, other scriptures that support the importance of teaching our children the Scriptures include: Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 3:15-17, and Colossians 3:16.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage from Deuteronomy is "repeat." This means that we must constantly be reminding our children of God's words. Repetition is key to memorization and learning. Furthermore, the passage tells us that we are to bind God's words as a sign on our hand and in our eyes. This means that we must have a personal commitment to the Word of God and ensure that it is always present in our lives.

With a proper biblical worldview, we can understand that teaching the scriptures at home is the sole and exclusive responsibility of parents. Therefore, parents should be aware of the need to teach their children the word of God and his commandments at

home so that their children may grow up in the understanding of the truth.

*“Many professing Christians
are stumbling blocks
because their worship is
divided. On Sundays they
worship God, but on other
days, God occupies little or
no place in their thoughts.
Dwight L. Moody*

APPLICATIONS

- As parents, we must teach our children in the word of God effectively.
- Parents must teach the word of God to our children, the Bible school is only a complement.
- We must model a godly and obedient life to God before our children so that they can learn to follow our example.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Take time to study God's word with your children.
- Look for books with Bible stories, so that your children grow close to the word of God.
- In everyday life, in the arguments of your answers include the word of God to give weight to your arguments.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Have I been growing spiritually, to teach my children?

Do I understand the fundamental doctrines of the gospel accurately enough to teach my children?

Am I aware that I should be the main teacher of writing at home?

Resources to extend the study: Joshua 1:8, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 3:15, Colossians 3:16.

Devotional 38: "The importance of patience in teaching Teaching with patience and love" (2 Timothy 4:2)

Preach the word; persists in doing it, whether or not it is opportune; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all patience and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:2 KJV

INTRODUCTION

In teaching, patience is a fundamental virtue. Especially when it comes to instructing children and youth, whether at home or at church. In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul gives an important exhortation that applies to all who teach. In this devotional we will see why patience is so important when teaching and how we can apply it to our lives.

ILLUSTRATION

In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3-9), Jesus tells us a story of a sower who went out to sow. Some seeds fell on the road, others among the stones, others among the thorns, and others on good soil. The seed that fell on the good soil produced fruit, but the others did not. Patience is like the farmer who continues to work in his field, despite the difficulties. He knows that it may take time for the seed to germinate and grow, but he is not discouraged. In the same way, in teaching, we must be patient and persevere in our work, despite the obstacles.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Patience is essential when teaching, for several reasons. First, patience allows us to deal with the weaknesses of those we are teaching. We all have different learning abilities, some require more time and effort to learn. Second, patience helps us remain calm and composed when difficult situations or conflicts arise in teaching. Third, patience allows us

to keep going in the teaching process, even when it seems like we are not making any progress.

In teaching, we must be patient and loving with those we are teaching and be willing to work together to achieve our goals. We must also have. We must also be patient with ourselves, since teaching is an ongoing process and we can all learn and improve.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in this passage is "Reprove", which in Greek is the word "elenjo", this word is given in an imperative mood, which means that it is a command from God. Therefore, it means that we must "rebuke" or "expose" firmly and clearly, but always with love and patience. Patience is a God-given virtue that helps us endure life's difficulties and persevere in our faith. In a sense, patience is central to 2 Timothy 4:2. The apostle exhorts Timothy to preach with patience and doctrine. This implies that we are teachers of the word, but that we are patient with those we teach, especially with those who are more difficult to teach, just like us, they are also in a process of growth and spiritual maturity. Therefore, they need love and patience, just as we need God's love and patience in our development.

“Many well-meaning preachers are actually preaching about themselves instead of the word. If the focus is on the funny stories or moving life experiences of the preacher, he may be preaching to himself.”

APPLICATIONS

- Patience shows evidence or lack thereof in daily life.
- We must be patient with those we teach.
- Think about how God has been patient with you, perhaps you have believed an erroneous teaching at one time and God has patiently provided sound teachers to correct you.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Be true to yourself and look for areas where you need to be more patient when teaching.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What are the situations in which you find it most difficult to be patient?

How can I improve my patience when teaching?

How can you reflect God's love through patience toward others?

I have more patience with other people, but not in my family?

What changes could you make to improve your patience in daily life?

Resources to expand the study:

Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 3:12, Proverbs 14:29, Ecclesiastes 7:8, Romans 5:3-5, Ephesians 4:2.

Devotional 39: “Christian Stewardship What does it mean to be a good steward (1 Corinthians 4:2)

Now it is required of administrators, that each one be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Stewardship in Christian terms refers to the fact that God has given us everything we have, including our talents, time, and financial resources, and it is our responsibility to manage them wisely so that they bring glory to God. As Christian men, we are called to be good stewards and to use our resources to exalt God and to serve others, in 1Corinthians 4:2, it says that we must be good stewards… now, what does it mean to be a good steward? How can we apply this in our lives as Christian men?

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine that you are the administrator of a company and your boss has given you the task of managing a large amount of financial resources. If you are wise in managing money, then your decisions will be wise and accurate to grow the business and maximize profits. In the same way, as Christians, we are stewards of the resources God has given us. We must be wise and strategic in how we use our time, talents, and financial resources to serve God and others.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Being a good administrator implies several things. First of all, it implies recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are called to use it for his glory. Second, it involves making wise and accurate decisions in how we use our resources, both financial and time. Thirdly, it implies being faithful and responsible in the administration of what has been entrusted to us.

In the Bible we find many teachings about stewardship and money management. For example, in Proverbs 3:9-10, we are urged to honor the Lord with our possessions and trust Him to provide for our needs. In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus tells us not to store up treasures on earth, but to store them up in heaven. In Luke 16:10-11, we are told that if we are faithful in small things, we will also be faithful in big things.

EXPLANATION

At the center point, we have three words “be found faithful” are three words in Greek “piptos tis eureze”. A good steward means being reliable and trustworthy in managing the resources entrusted to us.

Based on a biblical worldview, stewardship is viewed as an integral part of our relationship with God. We believe that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are called to use it for his glory. Therefore, the financial resources that we have, we must use for his glory, for his work and for the benefit of serving others.

*“Show me where a man
spends his time and money
and I will show you his
God.”-Martin Luther*

APPLICATIONS

- Evaluate your finances. You must have a financial plan, make sure you are being a good manager. If you have debts, work with pay them off. If you have investments, evaluate if they are wise investments.
- Seek God's approval, instead of seeking the approval of other people, it is important to seek God's approval.

- If you are a good steward, then be generous. Instead of focusing on yourself, you should seek to be generous to others and to God's work.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Create a budget; If you don't have one, it will help you have financial planning and evaluate how your finances are going.
- evaluate your debts; If you have debts, evaluate what they are and how you can start paying them off.
- Be generous, look for instances to be generous with the church. You can support those in need, regulate offerings wisely, etc.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How do you know you are a good manager?

Do you seek God's approval in your finances?

Do you frequently incur overspending? Why do you think it came to that?

Are you being generous enough with your finances?

Are your expenses to glorify God or to glorify yourself?

Resources to expand the study:

Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 1 John 3:17, 2 Corinthians 8:7, Acts 20:35, 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Devotional 40: The danger of the love of money (1 Timothy 6:10)

Because the love of money is the root of all evil, and some have bet on it and have strayed from the faith and have caused themselves a lot of pain 1 Timothy 6:10 KJV

INTRODUCTION

In our last devotional, we will address the issue of the love of money, in a materialistic society. The pursuit of money becomes the pinnacle of life, success can be measured as the money a person has, many make it a goal. Today, social networks help spread the word about what can be done with large sums of money, which enhances a materialistic life. As Christians, we are not exempt from this, having an excessive love for money changes priorities.

Today in this devotional, we will explore the danger of the love of money and how we can avoid falling into this trap.

ILLUSTRATION

In writing we find one of the clearest examples of an excessive affection for material things. In Luke 12:13–21, Jesus tells the parable of the rich man who stored all his grain and material goods in larger barns to have enough for the future. However, God told him “Fool, tonight they claim your soul; and what you have prepared, for whom will it be? History shows us that putting security in money and material possessions is dangerous.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Confuse love of money, with having a lot of money. It's easy, but it's putting trust and security in money and possessions. The Bible categorically warns us about the risks of loving money, wealth can be deceptive and can lead us to distract ourselves from

our faith and focus our gaze on temporary possessions.

The word tells us about the importance of managing money well and being generous with others, having a good conception of money, it will free us from the extremes of having a bad worldview of money, money itself is not bad, love money is what is harmful. We see how scripture exhorts us to be good money managers 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

EXPLANATION

The word for "love of money" in Greek is "philargyria," which means "inordinate love of money or riches." This love of money is a sin that leads us to seek security and happiness in material things, instead of God. This love leads those who practice it to have an uncontrollable need to create more money, if possible to evade taxes, lie, cheat, extort in order to have more money. He will do it regardless of the consequences.

As we saw in the previous devotional, we are called to be good stewards, we must seek the kingdom of God and his justice and he will provide everything we need.

***"Whoever serves God for
money is capable of serving
the devil for a better
salary."—Charles Spurgeon.***

APPLICATIONS

- Examine your heart deeply, find out if you are struggling with the love of money, it is time to go to Christ in repentance and faith.

- Look for ways to show generosity, the best way to overcome the love of money is to be generous with it.
- Look for satisfaction in God instead of money.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Assess whether you have been spending money on unnecessary things or to demonstrate social status.
- Make a list of the things you value most. Give it a rating number on a scale from 1 to 10, then rate whether they are eternal or temporary.
- Practice giving monthly to contribute to your church.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What are the evidences that I see that I am not clinging to money?

Does having money give you a sense of power and control?

Are you trying to fill a void with possessions?

When you give money to the church, does it cause you pain, anguish, or a feeling of discomfort?

How do you find your fulfillment in God instead of money?

Resources to expand the study:

Luke 12:15, Matthew 6:19-21, Matthew 6:21, Ecclesiastes 5:10, Proverbs 28:11.

Devotional 41: Wisdom for Living: Living Wisely with Our Wives (1 Peter 3:7)

You, husbands, likewise, live with them wisely, giving honor to the woman as a more fragile vessel, and as joint heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers are not hindered. 1 Peter 3:7 KJV

INTRODUCTION

One of the most difficult challenges for men to tackle is learning to live wisely with their wives. Many men experience equally negative extremes, some are self-centered, arrogant, manipulative, or others are passive, negative, and shirking their responsibilities. Both extremes are the result of not living wisely, this in many cases generates conflicts and misunderstandings. But the word of God calls us to live wisely with our wives and we show this by giving love, being patient and treating them with respect at all times.

ILLUSTRATION

In scripture we can see many illustrations of men who lived wisely with their wives. For example, Abraham showed his love and respect for his wife when he decided to leave Egypt and return to Canaan to be close to God (Genesis 13:1-4). We can also see Boaz's wisdom when he meets Ruth and made sure that their marriage complied with Jewish laws and customs (Ruth 4:9-10).

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage we have a clear call from God to live wisely with our wives. He tells us that this is the way to give honor to our wives, recognizing their value and importance as Joint Heirs of the grace of life. We must treat our wives with love, respect and patience, be willing to sacrifice ourselves for them. As men, we

must lead our wives with humility and wisdom, always seeking the glory of God in our relationships, in this case with our wives.

We can see examples of wisdom regarding love, such as King Solomon, who wrote many proverbs about love and respect in marriage (Proverbs 5:18-19, 18:22, 19:14). We can also look at Jose, who loved and respected his wife Maria, when he married her despite difficult circumstances (Matthew 1:18-19).

EXPLANATION

In the phrase "live with them wisely", the key word in Greek is "gnosis", which means to know, wisely, science. Therefore, using reason and knowledge to make wise decisions. In the context of this passage, this means that we must be wise in how we treat our wives, showing them love, respect, and patience at all times.

In a biblical worldview, the importance of male leadership in the home is emphasized, but this leadership must be exercised with humility and love, not with authoritarianism or selfishness. As men, we must be models of love and service in our homes, always seeking God's will in everything we do.

“reminds husbands that although they have been given great responsibility in marriage, their wives receive equal spiritual privilege and eternal importance: they are 'joint heirs.'” – Wayne Grudem

APPLICATIONS

- We must love and respect our wives. The Bible calls us to treat our wives with dignity and honor (1 Peter 3:7). We must learn to listen to them and care for them, and not treat them harshly or with contempt.
- We must be aware of our weaknesses and limitations. God has called us to lead our wives and families, but we cannot do it without his help and direction. We must pray and seek his wisdom and guidance at all times.
- We must strive to improve our skills as leaders and husbands. We must read God's Word and study it diligently, and also seek counsel and wisdom from other godly men.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Take time each day to pray for your wife and ask God for his help and direction in your marriage.
- Spend time daily reading and studying the Bible, seeking God's wisdom to lead your wife and family.
- Look for opportunities to serve your wife and show her your love and care.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How am I treating my wife? Am I loving and respecting her as God calls me to?

Am I seeking God's wisdom in my leadership as a husband and father? Am I praying and studying God's Word diligently?

Am I willing to seek advice and wisdom from other godly men in my marriage and family leadership?

Resources to expand the study:

*Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 3:5-6, Ephesians 5:25,
Colossians 3:19, 1 Timothy 3:4, 1 Timothy 6:11-
12*

Devotional 42: Man's call to protect and provide for his family (1 Timothy 5:8)

because if someone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his house, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8 KJV

INTRODUCTION

We are in the age of the relative, everything has become relative. But as men we have received the divine call from God to protect and provide for our families. In a world that attacks biblical values and principles, it is vital that we take on the weight of our responsibility to be strong leaders and protectors of those whom God has placed under our care. In the verse that we will see today, we are given a serious warning. But it is also a reminder of the important position to which we have been assigned, head of the family. In this devotional we will explore this calling.

ILLUSTRATION

In the book of Genesis, we see how Adam was the first man created by God. He was put in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and keep it. God gave him a specific task to "till and keep it." Adam was called to protect and provide for his home in the Garden of Eden. This is an example for us today, as we are also called to protect and provide for our families.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

The call is evident in the text that we are meditating on today, men must provide and protect their families. This means more than just earning money for food and putting it on the table. It means that we must make sure that the family has a safe home, physically, emotionally and financially, that they are given the

love and care they need. This is a call for responsibility that should not be taken lightly.

Not only 1 Timothy 5:8, it tells us about the importance of protecting and providing for our families. For example, Proverbs 22:6, we are told to guide our children, in Ephesians 6:4, we are told not to provoke our children to anger, but to raise them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

EXPLANATION

Men have been called to protect and provide for our families, in this verse he tells us that if we do not provide for our own, for our own homes, then we deny the faith and are worse than an unbeliever.

The central verb in Greek in this verse is "προνοεῖ" (pronoei), which means "to take care of, provide for, care for". This implies a proactive and constant attitude in man's life, not only in the economic aspect, but also in the protection and care of his family in all areas of life.

From a conservative Reformed theology, we understand that the family is an institution created by God from the beginning of humanity, and that its design is a reflection of the character of God himself. In this sense, man has the responsibility to lead and protect his home as a reflection of the leadership and protection that God exercises over his people.

***In the strongest terms, Paul
emphasized a man's
responsibility to provide for
his family by doing
everything possible to
support them.***

APPLICATIONS

- Take seriously your responsibility to protect and provide for your family. This implies working hard, making wise decisions financially speaking, but also in terms of physical, emotional and doctrinal protection.
- We must be willing to sacrifice our own interests and desires for the benefit of our families, this involves giving up certain comforts, hobbies in order to spend more time with the family.
- Must be a model of integrity and honesty in our family, so that the children and spouse can trust us and follow our example.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Spend time planning family expenses, prioritizing really important things over the pleasant ones.
- Secure your home and have adequate home security measures to protect your loved ones.
- Evaluate what your priorities and activities are. make sure you are dedicating enough time for your family.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Being very honest with yourself, are you really fulfilling your responsibility to protect and provide for the family?

What sacrifice are you willing to make for the well-being of your family?

How can you enhance your time with family?

Resources to expand the study:

*Genesis 2:24, Colossians 3:19, Proverbs 22:6,
Psalm 127:3-5, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 2 Corinthians
12:14, 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Devotional 43: The importance of gratitude Remembering God's blessings in our lives (Psalm 103:2)

*Bless, my soul, the Lord, And do not forget any of his
benefits. Psalms 103:2 KJV*

INTRODUCTION

It is surprising how common people and even Christians we know who live lives continually without gratitude, bitterness and complaints are part of their daily life. Instead, when we are grateful it allows us to focus on God and all his benefits. On what he has done for us, instead of focusing on what we lack, need, or would like to have. Gratitude helps us to have a healthy and proper perspective. What leads us to be closer to God, in this devotional, we will see how gratitude is important in the context of biblical masculinity.

ILLUSTRATION

Have you been in a situation, where the burden of work, worries have become unbearable? Although you still need to provide for your family, we often face difficult and challenging situations. One day after arriving at work, your son receives you with a drawing that your son did at school and with a figure that represents you and him and says "I love you, dad." This simple act of love and gratitude from the son towards his father has the power to remind you of the importance of life's blessings.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this verse we have a call to reflect on the blessings that God has given us. Psalm 103 is a psalm of gratitude that reminds us of God's goodness and all he has done for us. In this psalm David expresses his gratitude for the mercy, forgiveness, healing and redemption he has received from God. We must follow

his example and see God's blessings in a spiritual realm.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul tells us to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. Gratitude should be a constant attitude in our lives, not just when things are going well. God calls us to be grateful even in difficult times, because we know that he is with us and that he has a plan for our lives.

In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul teaches us that prayer and gratitude go hand in hand. We must present our requests to God with gratitude, trusting in his faithfulness and love for us. Gratitude helps us maintain an attitude of trust and faith in God, even when things are not easy.

EXPLANATION

The key word in this verse is "benefits," which in Hebrew translates as "gemul." This word refers to an action of retribution or payment, and is used in the sense of rewarding someone for their goodness or justice. In the context of gratitude, this word reminds us that everything we have and are comes from God's goodness, and that we must acknowledge his generosity and love toward us. From a proper biblical worldview we must see the emphasis of God's sovereignty and saving grace, which leads us to recognize that everything we have is a gift from God.

This should lead us to remember that we must have an attitude of gratitude towards God for everything he has done for us. Often when we are thankful for God, we see material aspects, money, goods, economic or social position. However, if we take the time to remember the blessings in our lives and focus on things like salvation, the Holy Spirit, we will have scripture-focused gratitude.

“reminds husbands that although they have been given great responsibility in marriage, their wives receive equal spiritual privilege and eternal importance: they are 'joint heirs.'” – Wayne Grudem

APPLICATIONS

- Thank God for the blessings in your life.
- Recognize that everything you have is a gift from God and not something we deserve or have earned on our own.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Be aware of forgiveness in your redemption, this should move you to live a life of gratitude.
- Express your gratitude to God by serving him and contributing to the economy of the church where you attend.
- Spend time reflecting on what ways to show gratitude you can manifest.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How can I be more aware of God's blessings in my life?

Am I willing to share my blessings with others?

How can I cultivate an attitude of gratitude in my daily life?

Resources to expand the study:

*Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 2
Corinthians 9:8, Psalm 100:4, Colossians 3:15,
Psalm 136:1.*

Devotional 44: "The importance of teaching our children to love God and his Word" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

And these words that I command you today will be on your heart; 7 and you will repeat them to your children, and you will speak of them being in your house, and walking by the road, and when you lie down, and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Parenting is one of the most important responsibilities that God has given us as parents. As Christian parents, we must teach our children to love God and his word, because this is God's will for our lives. If we are not teaching our children, then someone else will, the current ideologies, modern trends and if we are negligent in these areas, we will be responsible before God for our neglect or passivity in this important area.

ILLUSTRATION

Imagine a father and son walking down a path in the woods. As they walk, the father teaches the son about the different plants and trees they find. It shows you how to identify them, their leaves, their bark and explains what role they play in the ecosystem, and can also teach which ones have medicinal purposes, which ones are edible and which ones are poisonous. The father is creating a bond with his son, which will mark him for the rest of his life.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, God speaks to Moses and gives him instructions on how he is to teach the children of Israel about his law. These verses emphasize the importance of teaching our children about God and His Word at all times and in all places, both at home and on the go. We must make sure that our children

know the scriptures and know how to apply them to their lives. To do this, we must have a firm, real and constant commitment to the Word of God and allow it to guide our lives and actions.

In Proverbs 22:6, we are told: "Teach a child in his way, and even when he is old he will not turn from it." This passage teaches us that parenting is not just a temporary matter, but has a lasting impact on the lives of children. As parents, we must be diligent in teaching our children the truth of God's Word so that when they grow up, they have a solid foundation on which to build their lives.

EXPLANATION

In this verse, the central verb in Hebrew is "Shama", which means "to listen" or "to obey". This verb goes beyond simply listening with the ears, it implies putting into practice what is heard and obeying the Word of God. This shows us that teaching our children to love God and his Word not only involves transmitting information, but also instilling in them an attitude of obedience and submission to God's will. As believers, we must recognize that teaching our children is a responsibility that God has given us. That is why we must do everything possible to fulfill this task.

"If parents have raised their children to be doctors, lawyers, athletes, musicians, etc. But they have not been raised to honor and obey God, they have failed."—
Voddie Baucham

APPLICATIONS

- The word of God should be your priority, teach it, meditate on it, obey it.
- Teach attitudes of obedience to children; As parents we must direct our children to obey our children in an attitude of obedience to God and his word.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Take a book of Bible stories, make it an evening devotional time, and allow the children to share an analysis of what they heard.
- Teach your children to pray and to seek God in prayer in the face of life's challenges.
- Model obedience to God in your life, model obedience to God in your own life, so that your children see the importance of obeying God in all areas of life.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What can I do to start teaching the word of God to my children?

What things can I do to teach my children to obey God?

Have you made sure that you teach your children and not someone else?

Resources to expand the study:

Joshua 24:15, 2 Timothy 3:15, Colossians 3:21, Psalms 78:4-7, 1 Peter 2:2, Deuteronomy 4:9.

Devotional 45: "The importance of teaching our children to love God and his Word" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Like a city demolished and without a wall It is the man whose spirit has no rein. Proverbs 25:28 KJV

INTRODUCTION

In today's society it is common to find families that have lost the notion of divine design, many families do not have adequate limits. Some normalize that the children rule the house, the parents ultimately have no authority and the roles are reversed. It is as if parents worship their own children and urgently cater to the children's every whim, to avoid trauma and emotional shock. But we must be aware that we must have healthy boundaries with well-distinguished roles within the family.

ILLUSTRATION

A biblical example of the importance of setting healthy boundaries is found in the story of King David and his son Absalom (2 Samuel 13-18). David failed to set clear boundaries in his family and allowed Absalom to get away with it, even when he committed a grave sin against his sister Tamar. As a result, Absalom became a proud and ambitious man who sought to overthrow his own father. David, on the other hand, suffered the consequences of his lack of leadership and had to flee his own kingdom.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

The proverbs verse tells us about the importance of setting clear boundaries in our lives. If we don't, we risk losing control and falling into the slavery of sin. In the context of the family, healthy boundaries should be set by the man as the spiritual leader and protector of his home. This includes having clear and

consistent rules, as well as disciplining with love and wisdom when necessary.

EXPLANATION

In Proverbs 25:28, the word for "rein" is translated from the Hebrew "matsór", which means "to restrain, restrain, limit." This shows us that setting healthy boundaries in our lives is a way to protect ourselves from falling into the slavery of sin. In accordance with a biblical worldview we can see how the word of God teaches us that, as biblical men, we must be responsible for leading and protecting our family, and establishing healthy limits is part of that responsibility. If even the leader of the home does not set limits to his life, then naturally all the rest of the home will live without limits and in time will witness a family that does not glorify God.

*“Certainly the noblest victories
are won or lost over ourselves.
The first outburst of anger
resulted in murder. A king's lack
of vigilance over his lusts resulted
in adultery.”– Charles Bridge*

APPLICATIONS

- You must recognize that setting limits is healthy for the family.
- We must be willing to correct our children and spouses when necessary.
- We are to model healthy boundaries in our own lives, both at home and at church.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Pray to the Lord, asking for help in having healthy boundaries in the family.

- Evaluate your own actions, whether they are appropriate or excessive when it comes to setting limits.
- Teach your wife, children about the importance of limits for the family.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

Are you willing to set healthy boundaries in your home?

How can I improve my way of confronting children and spouses when they are wrong or simply sinning?

What aspects of me should be subjected to the limits of the word of God?

Resources to expand the study:

Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 13:24, Proverbs 22:6, 1 Timothy 3:4-5, Titus 2:7-8, James 1:19-20, Galatians 6:1-2

Devotional 46: "Avoiding the temptation to follow our own judgment" (Proverbs 3:7)

Do not be wise in your own opinion, fear the Lord and turn away from evil Proverbs 3:7 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Man has a strong tendency to follow his own judgment instead of submitting to God's will. The word of God is clear in warning us about these consequences, of following our own wisdom and not trusting in the Lordship of God at all times, on other occasions the trend of the time is more influential than the word of God. It's easy to rely on our own wisdom and judgment to make important decisions. But as Christian men we are called to recognize that our wisdom is limited and that there is a source of truth and guidance to overcome our own limits. In this devotional we will explore how we can apply this to our lives.

ILLUSTRATION

A biblical example of the importance of setting healthy boundaries is found in the story of King David and his son Absalom (2 Samuel 13–18). David failed to set clear boundaries in his family and allowed Absalom to get away with it, even when he committed a grave sin against his sister Tamar. As a result, Absalom became a proud and ambitious man who sought to overthrow his own father. David, on the other hand, suffered the consequences of his lack of leadership and had to flee his own kingdom.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this verse, we are called to recognize that our wisdom is limited and that we must depend on God at all times. We must avoid the temptation to follow our own judgment and instead trust in the Lord and his

ways. This is a call to humility, recognizing that we need God's guidance in all areas of our lives.

Scripture reminds us that our own wisdom can be deceptive. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and wicked; who can know it?" It is easy to trust our own perceptions and desires, but we must remember to seek God's direction and guidance at all times.

We must learn to depend on God's wisdom and not on our own wisdom. In James 1:5-6, we are told: "And if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives abundantly to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, doubting nothing." ". God promises to give us the wisdom we need if we ask with faith and trust.

EXPLANATION

The central verb is an imperative qal which in the Hebrew text is "yirah", which means "awe" or "reverence". The fear of God is a recurring theme throughout Scripture. Fearing God is a mandate, therefore, from a biblical perspective it teaches us that we must fear God, recognize his sovereignty and depend on his wisdom in all areas of our lives. This implies an attitude of humility and submission to God's will, giving up our own wisdom and limited perspective.

***"Do not puff yourself up with
a vain presumption of your
own wisdom, as if that were
enough to manage all your
affairs without the direction
or assistance of God, or***

without the advice of others"
– Matthew Poole

APPLICATIONS

- You must recognize that God's wisdom is the only source of all truth.
- You must submit to the authority of God's word and follow its teachings, regardless of whether they are popular or not.
- Cultivate a humble heart and a willingness to learn, especially from those whom God has placed as leaders, such as the pastor of your church.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- If God's wisdom is the only source of truth, then spend time studying scripture, it will be impossible to apply biblical principles without spending time.
- Look for mature brothers in the faith who can help guide you, ask what biblical principles they use in their daily lives.
- Practice humility and respect for other people.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How confident am I in my own wisdom and judgment?

Am I willing to be taught by others?

How can I honor those who have more experience than me?

Resources to expand the study:

*Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7, James 1:5, Proverbs
11:14, Colossians 3:16*

Devotional 47: "The need of the Christian community" (Hebrews 10:24-25)

And let us consider one another to stimulate us to love and good works; 25 not failing to gather together, as some have out of habit, but exhorting each other; and all the more, as you see that day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 KJV

INTRODUCTION

The Christian life is not designed to be lived in isolation. God has created us to live in community and he himself exists in a perfect community, the trinity. As men we often tend to want to do things on our own, but God has called us to be in community with other believers to edify and help each other. In Hebrews 10:24-25, we are exhorted to do good works and not to stop meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.

ILLUSTRATION

In the book of acts, we see how believers tend to be in communities, growing together, sharing everything they had together, and building each other up in faith. In particular, we can see how Peter and John were released from prison by an angel and returned to their community to tell what had happened. The believers came together in prayer and praise, and were strengthened in their faith and in their love for one another.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, we see that the Christian community is essential to our life of faith. We cannot grow in our faith and in our love for God and for others if we are isolated and disconnected from the church. Also, by gathering together, we can encourage and strengthen each other, share our struggles, and pray for each

other . The Christian community is also a place where we can serve and love others, just as Jesus has called us to do.

Moreover, all of the epistles are given in the context of a community, of a church. There are no epistles addressed to someone specific who is not involved in service to a community.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in Hebrews 10:24–25 is "consider" which is "katanoéo", which in Greek means "observe attentively, contemplate, ponder". In this passage, we are called to consider carefully our brothers and sisters in the faith, to encourage each other to love and good works.

With a sound biblical theology, we must emphasize that the church is the body of Christ and each member has an important role to play. Each believer has been given gifts and talents to serve others and build up the church. Furthermore, the Christian community is essential to our spiritual growth and sanctification.

“Some people only go to church if they feel they 'need' it at the time. But our motivation for fellowship should be to obey God and give to others. We can and should meet with believers to encourage someone not to give up against a wave of discouragement.”

APPLICATIONS

- Do not stop congregating in your community, participate regularly, submit to the teaching for your growth.
- Encourage and seek fellowship with other believers.
- There is no such thing as a lone Christian, as long as you have a community to serve.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Invite someone to church, help your community reach out to those who don't know Christ or have a distorted image of Him.
- Get involved in church activities and don't limit yourself to activities that allow you to do something to “get it done”.
- Pray to the Lord and project your life in the church, find out in which areas you can serve.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Am I a positive influence in my community?

If everyone in the church was like me, what would that church be like?

Am I an agent looking to generate change or just pacing?

Resources to expand the study:

John 13:34-35, Ephesians 4:2-3, Philippians 2:2-3

Devotional 48: "Subjecting ourselves to established authority" (Romans 13:1-2)

Submit every person to the superior authorities; because there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established by God. 2 so that whoever opposes authority, what is established by God resists; and those who resist, bring condemnation to themselves. Romans 13:1-2 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Submission to established authority is an important theme in every man's life, especially in the context of family and church. Modern society teaches us to be autonomous and independent, to do what we want regardless of the consequences. However, God's Word calls us to submit to established authority and live in harmony with it. In this devotional, we will see how the Bible exhorts us to submit to authority and how this can be beneficial to our lives.

ILLUSTRATION

In the book of Daniel, we see an example of submission to established authority in the life of the prophet. Daniel was a man faithful to God and had a high position in the government of the king of Babylon. However, when the king issued a decree that went against God's laws, Daniel did not hesitate to disobey the king and face the consequences. Despite this, Daniel continued to be respectful and submissive to the king, showing that it is possible to obey God and the established authorities at the same time.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Submission to established authority is a clear biblical mandate that is repeated several times throughout Scripture. In the context of Romans 13, Paul is talking

about civil authority and how Christians are to submit to it. This does not mean that we should blindly follow any authority that comes our way, but rather that we should respect the laws and regulations established by God through civil authority. In addition, submitting to authority helps us grow in humility and to recognize that we are not the center of the universe.

Other biblical quotes that talk about submission to authority are:

1 Peter 2:13-14, Hebrews 13:17.

EXPLANATION

The central verb in the passage is "submit" which in Greek is "jupotásson", which means "to get under" or "submit to". This word implies a voluntary, not forced submission, which reflects a humble and obedient attitude towards established authority. Submission is not a sign of weakness, but of strength, since it implies giving up our own desire to control and following the directions of someone in whom we have trusted authority.

In the context of biblical masculinity, submitting to established authority means that as men we must be willing to follow the laws and regulations established by government and other forms of legitimate authority. Although if these established laws go against fundamental and non-negotiable biblical principles, then civil disobedience is our obligation, since we must obey God, rather than men.

*"Your Savior suffered under
Pontius Pilate, one of the
worst rulers Judea ever had;
and Paul under Nero, the
worst Roman emperor. And*

*neither our Lord nor His
apostle denied or reviled
'authority'! Daniel Phillips
Newell*

APPLICATIONS

- Let's be an example as men for our family and authority in being obedient to established authorities.
- Let us submit to the established laws and regulations and act accordingly.
- Pray for government authorities, ask for wisdom and discernment to make their decisions.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Find out about the laws in force in your country, especially those that may violate the non-negotiable principles of God.
- Study and learn the principle of Church-State separation.
- Pray to the Lord for government authorities.

***REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS
LEARNED***

How can I be a citizen who contributes to complying with the laws?

What does the Church-State separation mean?

What is your current position, on currently controversial issues? Feminism, abortion, LGBTIQ+ in schools.

Resources to expand the study:

*Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13-14, Ephesians 5:22-24,
Hebrews 13:17, Colossians 3:22-23, 1 Thessalonians
5:12-13, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2: 3-4, 1 Peter
5:5-6, John 13:12-17, 1 Corinthians 11:3.*

Devotional 49: "Growing in Sanctification: How to Cultivate the Character of Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-6)

you also, putting all diligence for this, add to your faith virtue; to virtue, knowledge; 6 to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, patience; to patience, mercy; 2 Peter 1:5-6 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Character is fundamental to the Christian life. The transformed character is a reflection of the new birth, it is an evidence of salvation, it is a sample of the image of Christ in us and a sample of spiritual growth, which is achieved through the process of sanctification. Sanctification is progressive as we see in 2 Peter 1:5-7, the apostle Peter gives us a list of qualities that we must add to our faith, to demonstrate the character of Christ. In this devotional we will explore these characteristics and how we can cultivate them in our lives.

ILLUSTRATION

Just like a farmer, you want to grow a healthy crop. Then he must prepare the land, sow the seeds and take care of them so that they grow strong and healthy. This is a process that takes stages and is intended to obtain a good result in the harvest, as believers. We must prepare our lives, be aware of the need to do so in order to grow and thus produce fruit, this implies cultivating the character of Christ in our lives.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In the passages that we have today, we see a list that begins with "virtue" the word for virtue is "arete" which means moral excellence. This means doing the right thing even when it's difficult or unpopular. To cultivate virtue in our lives, we need to trust the Holy

Spirit to guide our decisions and we must also submit to the word of God to know how to consider what is right in light of his word.

Then Peter tells us about adding "knowledge" to our virtue. Knowledge here refers to a deep understanding of the Scriptures and practical wisdom to apply them to our daily lives. To cultivate knowledge, we must spend time studying the Bible and learning from other believers who have a deeper understanding of the Word.

The third characteristic that Peter urges us to cultivate is "self-control." The Greek word for self-control is "enkrateia," which means self-control or self-discipline. This involves controlling our emotions and actions so that they are in line with God's will. To cultivate self-control, we need to be willing to give up our selfish desires and pleasures and seek God's glory in all we do.

The fourth characteristic is "patience". Patience refers to the ability to wait and persevere in faith despite difficulties and trials that may arise. To cultivate patience, we need to trust God and remember that He has a plan and purpose for each of us, and if we cultivate the character of Christ, we can be sure that we are well on our way to fulfilling that plan.

EXPLANATION

Considering the above, we have the process of sanctification, which is a continuous process in which Christians are transformed into the image of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is not something that Christians can accomplish on their own, but is God's work in us. That is why Peter emphasizes the need to add these qualities to faith and not to produce them by our own strength.

*Growth is something that
cannot be seen in a drastic
way from one day to the
next, but in longer periods of
time there is a lot of change.*

APPLICATIONS

- Developing the character of Christ is a process that takes time and is likely to last a lifetime. We must be patient and constant.
- To cultivate our character in Christ, we must focus on our relationship with God.
- Be aware of weaknesses and temptations.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- How to cultivate the character of Christ in your life?

To cultivate the character of Christ in our lives, we must be constant, have communion with God, study the word, be inserted in a Christian community that encourages us to follow Christ and grow in our faith. Furthermore, we must be willing to submit to God's discipline in our lives.

- See what attitudes, actions, habits you have that do not glorify God, seek help from mature brothers, to submit those aspects to the word of God.
- If you see that you have obstacles that prevent you from living in holiness, then seek to avoid them.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

What changes should you make to cultivate your Christlike character in your life?

What prevents you from cultivating the character of Christ in your life?

How can you create habits that help you grow in your sanctification?

Resources to expand the study:

Colossians 3:12-14, Philippians 2:5-11, Romans 12:2, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:1-3 and Matthew 5:3-12.

**Devotional 50: "The need to teach
our children to have an eternal
perspective and not just temporary"
(2 Corinthians 4:17–18)**

Because this slight momentary tribulation produces in us an ever more excellent and eternal weight of glory; 18 We do not look at things that are seen, but at things that are not seen; for the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:17–18 KJV

INTRODUCTION

As parents, one of the greatest responsibilities we have is to teach our children in the truth of God's word and to help them have an eternal perspective, not just a temporal one. In 2 Corinthians 4:17–18, the apostle reminds us that the afflictions we face are temporary and yet we must focus on the eternal. This mainly because the world constantly bombards us with messages focused on the earthly and the immediate satisfaction of our wants and needs.

ILLUSTRATION

In Genesis 37–50. Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob, was sold by his own brothers as a slave in Egypt. However, God was with him and blessed him in all the things he did, and he eventually became governor of Egypt, after serving time in prison and being tested in his faith.

By the time his brothers sold him, Joseph could have become angry and resentful, focusing on the difficult circumstances he was facing. But instead, Joseph had an eternal perspective and trusted that God had a bigger plan for his life. When his younger brother, Benjamin, was falsely accused of stealing, Joseph said, "God is sovereign and works everything for the

best. This is all part of God's plan for us, even though we don't understand it" (Genesis 50:20).

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this passage, Paul reminds us that our afflictions and sufferings in this life are temporary, and compared to the eternal glory that awaits us, they are "light" and "momentary." This does not mean that our afflictions are not real or painful, but rather that we must have an eternal perspective that allows us to see beyond present circumstances and trust in God's faithfulness.

One way we can help our children gain this perspective is by teaching them the truth of God's Word and demonstrating in our daily lives that our trust is in God and not in temporal things. We can tell them about the life and work of Jesus, who suffered and died for us so that we might have eternal life. We can teach them to pray and trust God at all times, even when things don't go our way.

In addition to 2 Corinthians 4:17–18, we can find many other biblical quotes that tell us about the importance of having an eternal perspective. For example, in Colossians 3:1–2, Paul urges us to seek the things above, where Christ is, and to set our minds on eternal things, not on things of this earth. In Matthew 6:19–21, Jesus reminds us not to store up treasures on earth, where they can be destroyed or stolen, but rather to store up treasures in heaven, where they are safe.

EXPLANATION

In the passage of 2 Corinthians 4:17–18, the apostle Paul tells us about the importance of having an eternal perspective and not just a temporal one. The central verb in Greek is "skopeo", which means "to stare, contemplate, keep in view". In this context, it

encourages us to fix our gaze on what is eternal and not on what is temporary, despite the difficulties and sufferings we may face in this life.

According to a biblical worldview this implies that we must have a clear vision of eternity and God's purpose in our lives. God has called us to be his children and to serve him in this life, but he has also promised us

an eternal life with Him in heaven. Therefore, our perspective must be focused on Him and His kingdom, not on our current circumstances. Affliction is not something that must be endured in order to achieve glory.

*It is the process that creates
glory. Through the labor
pains comes the birth
Morgan G. Capmbell.*

APPLICATIONS

- Teach your children to have an eternal perspective. One of the most important tasks we have as parents is to teach our children to have

an eternal perspective. We must teach him in practical aspects that it is to glorify God in everything.

- You must seek a balance in your life, regarding the temporary and the eternal, you must always focus mainly on eternity.

- Trust in God's promises. In difficult times keep your eyes on eternal things.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Take time to read scripture, one of the most effective ways to look into the eternal, is through scripture and meditate on God's word every day.
- If you have difficulty understanding the Bible, ask God for wisdom for an eternal perspective.
- Live with an eternal perspective, if you are not capable of living with an eternal perspective, you wait in vain for your children to do so.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Am I teaching my children to have an eternal perspective?

How can I be more effective in teaching an eternal perspective?

Resources to expand the study:

1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Colossians 3:2, Matthew 6:19-21, Philippians 3:13-14, Hebrews 12:1-2, Matthew 16:26.

Devotional 51: "Greed: The Danger of Riches" (Luke 12:15)

And he said to them: Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; because the life of man does not consist in the abundance of the goods that he possesses. Luke 12:15 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Greed in the midst of this world is seen as normal. Everyone wants to reach the goal of success and this no matter what they have to do. It is something so common that Christians are affected, this is a temptation that has been present since the fall of man. Money is a necessary good to live, this makes it so coveted. The problem is when it becomes the object of our worship, it becomes a danger to our souls. In the verse that we will see today, Jesus warns us about the danger of greed and calls us to seek first the kingdom of God. In this devotional, we will reflect on greed and the need to put our trust in God, not in riches.

ILLUSTRATION

Let's remember for a few minutes, in Luke 18:18-25, the rich man who asks Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell everything he has, the money to the poor and then follow him. The man leaves sad because he has many possessions, this shows us how the love of wealth and following Christ are completely incompatible.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

Greed is a sin that makes us forget that God is our provider and that everything we have comes from Him. When wealth becomes our god, we place our trust in something that can vanish in an instant. As Proverbs 23:5 says, "Will you set your eyes on riches, when there are none? For they will form wings like

eagles, and they will fly to heaven." We must remember that our true wealth is in our Savior, not in our earthly possessions.

The Greek word for "greed" in Luke 12:15 is "pleonexia," which means "greed" or "wanting more than one needs." Greed is an inordinate desire to have more than we need, which can lead to oppression of the poor and injustice. Instead of seeking our own riches, we should seek God's kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

EXPLANATION

Greed takes us away from God and focuses us on ourselves. It is a sin that leads to anxiety and worry, because we never feel like we have enough. However, when we put our trust in God, we can be sure that He will provide for all our needs.

*Large possessions are
generally accompanied by
pride, idleness, and luxury;
and these are the greatest
enemies of salvation. Adam
Clarke*

APPLICATIONS

- Evaluate your priorities and determine if you are spending excessive time on riches.
- Learn to practice generosity, share your resources by contributing financially to your community.
- Seek an austere life, seek to be content with what you have.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Take time to read the Bible and pray each day to remember that God is your provider.
- Meditate sincerely on what things make you happy and reflect on whether your happiness is centered on your possessions or on Christ.
- Seek to create a plan that will help you contribute financially to the church where you participate.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

Are you willing to trust God to meet your needs?

Are you obsessed with money and possessions?

How can you use your money or possessions to better serve God?

How can you develop a generous and detached heart from money?

Resources to expand the study:

Proverbs 23:4-5, Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, Matthew 6:24, Philippians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:5, Proverbs 11:28, Luke 16:13

Devotional 52: "Surprised by suffering, looking at Christ in difficulty" (Romans 8:18)

Well, I have for certain that the afflictions of the present time are not comparable with the coming glory that has to be manifested in us. Romans 8:18 KJV

INTRODUCTION

Suffering is a reality that human beings cannot avoid, sooner or later we will experience suffering. In life, this is a latent reality and no one is exempt from it. Sometimes it is the result of bad decisions or some actions or at other times in circumstances beyond our control, sometimes even suffering can come as a result of faithfully following Christ. But in the midst of suffering, we can find comfort and hope in Christ. In Romans 8:18. Paul reminds us that the sufferings are not comparable, with the glory to come.

ILLUSTRATION

Let's remember for a few minutes, in Luke 18:18–25, the rich man who asks Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell everything he has, the money to the poor and then follow him. The man leaves sad because he has many possessions, this shows us how the love of wealth and following Christ are completely incompatible.

PASSAGE DEVELOPMENT

In this verse, Paul encourages us to look beyond our current sufferings and fix our eyes on the glory that awaits us. Although our suffering may be real and painful, it is temporary and does not compare to the eternal glory that awaits us in Christ. Furthermore, suffering has a purpose in the believer's life. God uses it to purify, strengthen, and mold us into the image of his Son (Romans 5:3–5).

In the midst of suffering, we can also find comfort in the fact that Christ himself suffered in our place. He knows what it is to suffer and is close to us in our pain. He is our great high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15).

EXPLANATION

In Romans 8:18 we have the word "compared." In Greek, the word is "katáklēron", which means "worthy of being compared" or "worthy of comparison". The idea is that our present suffering is not remotely worth comparing with the glory that awaits us in Christ. This glory is so immense and eternal that any temporary suffering we may experience now seems insignificant in comparison.

From a proper biblical perspective God reminds us that he is in control of all things, including the suffering in our lives. He has a purpose and a plan for every suffering we experience, and we can trust that He is working all things together for our good and for His glory (Romans 8:28).

*“The glory will be
manifested, not created. The
implication is that it already
exists, but it is not apparent.
henry morris*

APPLICATIONS

- Accept that suffering is a normal part of the Christian life.
- trust in God's plan, in the midst of suffering we can focus our gaze on what we are experiencing at that moment, remember that God has a perfect plan and even in difficulties. God is working for your good.

- Look at Christ; instead of focusing on our own pain and suffering. Fix your life on Christ, see how he is a great example of suffering and pain. Find faith and strength in Christ alone.

TASKS TO DO AND DEVELOP WHAT IS LEARNED

- Spend time meditating more deeply on Romans 8:18-28.
- Look for fellow believers who have experienced moments of great suffering and ask how God was faithful in their lives.
- Pray for those who are hurting, both in your congregation and around the world.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS LEARNED

How do we react when we face difficulties? Are you moving closer to or further away from God?

In what way can you look at Christ in the midst of suffering?

How can you help others find comfort and hope in Christ?

Resources to expand the study:

2 Corinthians 4:17-18, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 4:12-13, Philippians 4:13, Hebrews 12:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:12, Psalm 34:19

