

READ THE WORD DAILY

Would you like to read the Word daily, but don't know how to begin? Reading our Daily Devotionals is a good way to develop the habit of studying the scriptures. Visit this page to find a scripture for every day of the year, complete with practical advice for applying the principles to your everyday life. It is possible to enjoy reading the Bible. Simply set time aside each day, and soon daily Bible reading will become a lifestyle!

DAILY DEVOTIONALS - APRIL 2024

APRIL 29

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

Although we are no longer to live under the Old Testament, it still has tremendous value for Christians. It was designed to enhance our learning and spiritual development and give us a greater understanding of the freedom we now have under the New Testament.

APRIL 28

“Suppose you sin by violating one of the Lord's commands. Even if you are unaware of what you have done, you are guilty and will be punished for your sin” (Leviticus 5:17, NLT).

Under the law, people lived in constant fear of accidentally breaking a law and incurring God's punishment. When Jesus went to the cross, He took all the punishment that was meant for us; there is now no need to fear God's wrath.

APRIL 27

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

Religion teaches us to be afraid of God and His punishment. The truth under grace is that we can now confidently approach Him without fear.

PR

APRIL 26

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ... And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father” (Ephesians 2:13, 17, 18).

One of the things that changed when Jesus ended the law and replaced it with grace is our access to God. Under the new covenant, He welcomes us.

APRIL 25

“And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death” (Exodus 9:12).

Under the law, God was distant and unapproachable. Thankfully, He no longer forbids us to come to Him.

APRIL 24

“Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Romans 4:8).

In the Old Testament, God held people’s sins against them, and many died. Jesus went to the cross and died for us so that we could be forgiven for all our sins, and live.

APRIL 23

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10).

The law was perfect and flawless but also harsh and impossible for imperfect man to keep in its entirety. It offered no flexibility at all; by contrast, grace makes allowances for our imperfections and offers us mercy and forgiveness.

APRIL 22

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13, 14).

Jesus’ death on the cross radically changed life as we know it—on all levels. Before the cross, man lived under curses; after the cross, mankind now lives in blessings.

APRIL 21

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, AMPC).

If we can correctly analyze the Bible, we can also *incorrectly* analyze it. What was true under the law may no longer be true under grace. It’s important to know where the Old Testament stops, and the New Testament begins so that we don’t find ourselves living under the old, expired law.

APRIL 20

“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises” (Hebrews 8:6).

The new covenant of grace surpasses the law because the promises in it lead to life, not death. The old covenant was administered by long lists of rules and involved mediation by human priests; Jesus Himself, is now our mediator.

APRIL 19

“For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth” (Hebrews 9:16, 17).

It was necessary for Jesus to die in order to put the New Testament in force. The cross was the defining line between the old covenant of the law and the new covenant of grace.

APRIL 18

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, he who rules his [own] spirit than he who takes a city” (Proverbs 16:32, AMPC).

A person with no emotional control is the weakest person on the planet. If we can control our feelings instead of letting them control us, there's no limit to what we can accomplish.

APRIL 17

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7).

The danger of making decisions based on our emotions is that our feelings can lead us in the wrong direction and get us in trouble. Mastering our emotions leads to self-control, which is one of the fruits of the spirit.

APRIL 16

“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

When we're in Christ and He's in us, we're in the safest place in the universe: His presence. We don't have to fear death because when we slip out of our bodies, we'll instantly find ourselves standing before Him in heaven.

APRIL 15

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 1:2).

Our souls are where our emotions reside. God wants us to exercise the authority He gave us in the emotional realm. When we succeed in controlling our emotions, we prosper in other areas of our lives as well.

APRIL 14

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever” (Psalm 16:11, NLT).

Living apart from God isn't really living, just existing. God wants us to enjoy His presence now, while we're still on earth, and then spend eternity with Him in heaven.

APRIL 13

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:31, 32).

Our God is a generous God who gives His love and all the best of heaven freely. Generosity is His nature; there's nothing that He *won't* give—not even His own Son.

APRIL 12

“...But the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits” (Daniel 11:32).

We live in a world that doesn't know God, and it shows! We're surrounded by weak-willed people who are easily manipulated because they don't know His Word; by contrast, believers who *do* know Him have the inner strength and godly morals to do extraordinary things.

APRIL 11

“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Peter 1:2).

Many people have no relationship with Jesus and therefore don't know Him. Having knowledge of God through a personal relationship with Christ gives us peace and allows His grace to flow into our lives.

APRIL 10

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6).

Jesus Christ the Son is the mirror image of God the Father; to know Jesus is to know God. Experiencing God firsthand through Jesus strengthens our faith in His love for us.

APRIL 9

“And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice” (1 Kings 19:11, 12).

We must be careful not to get caught up in so many distractions that we can't hear God's still, small voice speaking to us. His instructions and directions anchor us and keep us on the right path.

APRIL 8

“For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not” (Isaiah 30:15).

The world is a noisy, cluttered place; we rejuvenate by eliminating the spiritual static to hear God. God tried to give rest and quietness to the children of Israel, but they were too preoccupied to listen; we can learn from their mistakes.

APRIL 7

“But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13, NLT).

Jesus shed His blood so that we would never again be separated from God like those in the Old Testament. God is no longer a harsh judge, but now a loving Father who wants a relationship with us.

APRIL 6

“Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble” (Proverbs 17:17, MSG).

God wants the best for us. This includes the blessing of godly friendships and enduring family relationships.

APRIL 5

“Be not rash with thy mouth and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

We can sin with our mouths by speaking carelessly and hurting others with what we blurt out. A sign of emotional maturity is knowing when to hold our tongue.

APRIL 4

“And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately” (Acts 9:32-34).

It's not God's will that we tolerate sickness; He therefore gave us the same healing power that He gave to Jesus Christ. *We* have the same ability to get results as the apostles.

APRIL 3

“Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever” (Psalm 106:1, NLT).

Unlike imperfect human love, God's love is perfect and unconditional. Even when we're struggling to love ourselves because of a mistake we've made, His love always welcomes and accepts us; this is truly a reason to be thankful.

APRIL 2

“Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. Grace be with you all” (1 Timothy 6:20, 21, NIV).

Paul wanted to warn against the influences worldly philosophies can have on a Believer's way of thinking. This is timeless advice because countless theories that go against the Word of God can infiltrate our mind. What begins in the mind eventually works its way into the heart.

APRIL 1

“The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me” (2 Samuel 22:21, NKJV).

Much has changed from the old to the new covenant, including the way God deals with us. Before Jesus, God dealt with the people based on their deeds; now, He deals with us according to *Jesus'* deeds and our faith in them.