

Message Title: **"REVIVING OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE W/ GOD!"**

Message Text:

*Introduction:*

***"THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR IS TO CONTINUALLY REMIND THE LORD'S PEOPLE OF WHO THEY ARE IN CHRIST & NOT FORGET IT!"  
(ANONYMOUS)***

**AS WE ENTER & FACE THIS BRAND NEW YEAR 2021, THE LORD LED ME TO START THE YEAR WITH THE SERMON SERIES CALLED "A NEW BEGINNING IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD!" WE STARTED WITH THE PASSAGE IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH 43 & 44, WHERE WE WERE REMINDED OF WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST, WHAT IS OUR GOD-ORDAINED PURPOSE, & WHAT ARE HIS PROMISES TO US AS WE ENTER ANOTHER BRAND NEW YEAR 2021.**

**NOW, IF WE ARE TO HAVE A NEW BEGINNING IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD, THEN THE FIRST TO BE RENEWED OR REVIVED IN OUR LIFE IS OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE! IN MY 30 PLUS YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A BELIEVER & FOLLOWER OF THE LORD JESUS, ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC THINGS THAT I HAVE OBSERVED IS THIS-- PROFESSING CHRISTIANS OR BELIEVERS WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED FOR MANY MANY YEARS AND YET ACTING/BEHAVING LIKE A NEW BORN BELIEVER OR A BABY CHRISTIAN! THIS REMINDS ME OF A STORY ABOUT THIS GROUP OF TOURISTS...**

**ILLUSTRATION: "PHYSICAL VS. SPIRITUAL AGE!"**

**A GROUP OF TOURISTS VISITING A PICTURESQUE VILLAGE WALKED BY AN OLD MAN SITTING BESIDE A FENCE. IN A RATHER PATRONIZING WAY, ONE TOURIST ASKED HIM, "WERE ANY GREAT MEN BORN IN THIS VILLAGE?" THE OLD MAN REPLIED, "NOPE, ONLY BABIES."**

**EVERY PERSON WHO IS A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER STARTS SPIRITUAL LIFE AS A BABY IN CHRIST. WHETHER THE NEW CONVERT IS SIX OR SIXTY YEARS OLD, THAT PERSON IS STILL A NEW CHRISTIAN AND NEEDS TO GROW IN THE LORD. A BABY CHRISTIAN WHO HAS BEEN SAVED FOR FORTY YEARS IS A**

TRAGEDY. GOD INTENDS FOR US TO GROW AND MATURE SO THAT WE CAN BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. UNTIL WE LEARN TO DIG INTO THE MEAT OF THE WORD OF GOD FOR OURSELVES, WE WILL NEVER GROW & WILL NEVER BE BLESSING TO OTHERS. (Source: *Developing the Leader Within You*, John Maxwell)

I PRAY THAT THIS 2021 WILL BE A BREAKTHROUGH YEAR FOR ALL OF US. I PRAY THAT THIS YEAR, WE WILL GROW DEEPER IN KNOWLEDGE & IN THE GRACE/CHARACTER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! **LET US PRAY!!!**

**WHAT IS A DEVOTIONAL LIFE?** NOW, BEFORE WE GO FURTHER LET ME DEFINE FIRST WHAT IS A DEVOTIONAL LIFE. **IT IS A REGULAR TIME WE SET ASIDE EACH DAY TO BE ALONE WITH THE LORD IN HIS WORD & PRAYER! THE GOAL IS TO GET TO KNOW HIM MORE AS OUR PERSONAL SAVIOR & GOD!**

A. OUR **REASON** FOR HAVING A DEVOTIONAL LIFE WITH GOD!

NOW, LET ME START OUR MESSAGE BY GIVING YOU SEVERAL SEVERAL IMPORTANT BIBLICAL REASONS WHY WE ARE TO HAVE A REGULAR & CONSISTENT DEVOTIONAL LIFE AS BELIEVERS & FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD JESUS. THEN, WE ARE GOING TO CLOSE WITH SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

1) AS **TAUGHT** BY THE WORD OF GOD, IT IS THE **FOUNDATION** IN WHICH WE ARE TO **BUILD** OUR LIFE!

*“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. **Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation.**”*

*(1 Pet. 2:1-2)*

*“**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.**”*

*(2 Peter 3: 18)*

THE APOSTLE PETER COMMANDS US TO GROW TOWARDS MATURITY IN CHRIST! WE BECOME CHRISTIAN IN A MOMENT BUT IT WILL TAKE A LIFETIME FOR US TO BECOME MATURE IN CHRIST!

IN HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT TEACHINGS FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 5-7. THE LORD JESUS ACTUALLY CONCLUDED HIS TALK BY TELLING THE STORY OR PARABLE OF THE TWO BUILDERS. THE ONE BUILT HIS HOUSE IN A SAND & THE OTHER BUILT HIS HOUSE IN A ROCK. WHEN THE STORM CAME, THE HOUSE BUILT ON SAND WAS DESTROYED BUT THE HOUSE BUILT IN THE ROCK DID NOT. THEN THE LORD JESUS ENDED WITH THESE WORDS,

*“Therefore, **everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them** will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*  
(Matt. 7: 24)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, THE LORD HIMSELF TEACHES US CLEARLY HERE THAT – **WE ARE TO BUILD OUR LIFE IN THE WORD OF GOD! WE ARE TO HEAR THEM & STUDY THEM AND THEN OBEY THEM!**

REMEMBER WHAT WE LEARN HERE LAST YEAR ABOUT THE INVESTED LIFE. THERE ARE ONLY TWO THINGS THAT WILL REMAIN IN THIS LIFE SSIDE FROM GOD – THE WORD OF GOD & THE SOULS OF MEN! LET ME REFRESH US ALL AGAIN!

*“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. **And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.**”* (1 John 2: 15-17)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, WHAT WILL PREPARE US FOR LIFE’S STORMS WHETHER MAN-MADE OR NATURAL IS A STRONG LIFE AND A STRONG LIFE AS TAUGHT BY OR LORD JESUS HIMSELF IS ONE WHICH IS FOUNDED OR BUILT IN THE WORD OF THE LORD!

**IS YOUR LIFE BUILT ON THE “ROCK” OF GOD’S WORD OR IN “SINKING SAND” (IN TERMS OF PHYSICAL ASSETS OR MATERIAL POSSESSION OR POWER OR POSITION IN) OF THIS WORLD?**

**2) AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE LORD JESUS, IT IS THE SOURCE OF HIS SPIRITUAL POWER!**

**IF WE STUDY CAREFULLY THE GOSPEL & WHAT IS THE USUAL DAILY HABIT OF THE LORD JESUS, WE WILL FIND OUT THAT IT IS PRAYING OR COMMUNING & INTERCEDING WITH THE FATHER!**

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

*“Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After he said good-bye to them, he went away to the mountain to pray.”* (Mark 6: 45-46)

*But the news about him spread even more, and large crowds would come together to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. Yet he often withdrew to deserted places and prayed.”* (Luke 5: 16)

**IN FACT, IT WAS SO EVIDENT THST HIS DISCIPLES NOTICED & ONE DAY REQUESTED HIM TO TEACH THEM HOW TO PRAY! ,NOW, THESE PEOPLE KNOWS HOW TO PRAY BUT THEY REALIZED THAT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE IN WHAT JESUS WAS DOING. AND SO HE TAUGHT THEM.**

*He was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.” He said to them, “Whenever you pray, say, Father, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come...”.* (Luke 11: 1-4)

**HOW DO WE KNOW THAT JESUS KNOWS THE WORD OF GOD & IN MEDITATING ON IT & APPLYING IT IN HIS LIFE? GOOD QUESTION! WE KNOW THIS BECAUSE HE USED IT TO OVERCOME SATAN. IN**

**FACT, FROM THIS PASSAGE WE LEARNED THAT JESUS KNOWS THE WORD FROM THE HEART BECAUSE HE HAD MEMORIZED IT!**

*After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” He answered, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4: 2-4)*

**TAKE NOTE THAT IN THAT PASSAGE/CHAPTER, JESUS QUOTED THREE (3) O.T. TEXTS/VERSES! (Deut. 8:3; 6:16; 6:13). HERE WE SEE THE TRUTH OF THE WORD AS BEING OUR SPIRITUAL “SWORD” TO FIGHT SIN & TEMPTATION! (Eph. 6). NOW, WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED WITH THIS BECAUSE THE LORD JESUS IS THE VERY WORD OF GOD! HE IS THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE WORD OF GOD! IN FACT, JOHN IDENTIFIED HIM AS THE WORD OF GOD!**

*“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God.” (Eph. 6: 17)*

*Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.” (Rev. 19: 11-13)*

**CHURCH/FRIENDS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WHEN THE LORD JESUS BECAME A HUMAN BEING LIKE US, THE KEY TO HIS SPIRITUAL POWER IS HIS DEVOTIONAL LIFE – HIS TIME SPENT WITH THE FATHER IN HIS WORD & PRAYER! THROUGH THIS, HE WAS ABLE TO FIGHT SATAN & OVERCOME SIN & TEMPTATION!**

**IF THIS IS TRUE OF JESUS, THEN ALL OF US WHO PROFESS TO BE HIS FOLLOWERS OUGHT TO DO THE SAME! WE ARE NOT ONLY TO BUILD OUR LIFE IN THE TRUTHS OF GOD’S WORD BUT ALSO IN THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER OR COMMUNING WITH THE FATHER!**

**3) AS SHOWN BY BELIEVERS IN THE PAST & PRESENT, IT IS THE KEY TO THEIR EFFECTIVITY & FRUITFULNESS IN SERVING CHRIST!**

**WE SAW THIS IN LIVES OF JOSHUA & DAVID AND SHARED TO US!**

***“This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.” (Joshua 1: 8)***

***“How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” (Psalm 1:1-3)***

**WE SAW THIS IN THE LIFE OF DANIEL!**

***“When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.” (Dan. 6:10)***

**WE SAW THIS IN THE LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH! IN FACT, PRAYER IS ONE OF THE MAJOR THEMES OF THIS BOOK OF ACTS!**

***“When they arrived, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. They all were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” (Acts 1: 13-14)***

**WE SEE THIS IN THE TEACHINGS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL!**

***“Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, so that I may make it known as I should.” (Col. 4: 2-4)***



**THEREFORE CHURCH/FRIENDS, IF WE ARE TO DESCRIBE THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD WHOM THE LORD USED SO MIGHTILY & EFFECTIVELY IN SERVING HIM, THEY ARE MEN & WOMEN OF THE WORD & PRAYER! BECAUSE THAT IS THE KEY TO THEIR EFFECTIVITY & FRUITFULNESS IN SERVING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

**(4) AS ADMONISHED BY PAUL TO TIMOTHY, IT IS OUR SOLUTION TO THE GROWING SINFULNESS & UNGODLINESS IN THIS WORLD!**

**THE APOSTLE PAUL SPOKE OF THIS TRUTH WHEN HE WROTE HIS LETTER TO TIMOTHY. AFTER A LENGTHY ADMONITION ON UNGODLINESS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LAST DAYS, PAUL SHARES TO TIMOTHY THE ONLY ANTIDOTE TO FIGHT THE EVILS OF THE LAST DAYS – A GOOD & HEALTHY DAILY DOSE OF THE WORD OF GOD! THE WORD OF GOD IS THE DAILY “BREAD” THAT WILL SUSTAIN IN THIS LIFE!**

***“But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people.” (2 Tim. 3: 1-4)***

***“Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”***

***(2 Tim. 3: 13-17)***

**TAKE NOTE THAT PAUL ALSO TAUGHT US THE REASON WHY THE WORD OF GOD IS SO POWERFUL TO CURE US OF SIN & UNGODLINESS – BECAUSE IS GOD-BREATHED! OR IN OTHER**

**WORDS, THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING! IT IS SPIRIT & IT IS LIFE AS THE LORD TAUGHT JOHN 6!**

***“The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” (John 6: 63)***

**IN THIS DARK & SINFUL WORLD, WE NEED LIGHT TO GUIDE OUR PATH AND THE WE HAVE THE WORD AS A LAMP/LIGHT TO GUIDE OUR PATH IN THIS LIFE’S JOURNEY!**

***“Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.”  
(Psalm 119:105)***

**LIFE IS BUT A SERIES OF CHOICES AND WE NEED WISDOM IN MAKING THESE CHOICES. AND THE WORD OF GOD MAKE US WISE OR GIVES US WISDOM & INSIGHTS AS TO WHAT WILL BE BEST FOR US IN THIS LIFE & THE LIFE TO COME**

**CHURCH/FRIENDS, IF WE WANT TO PROTECT OUR LIVES FROM THE POLLUTION OF SIN & GROWING UNGODLINESS IN THIS WORLD, THEN, THIS IS THE TIME TO HAVE A NEW BEGINNING IN OUR WALK WITH GOD & LET US START REVIVING OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE! LET US START SPENDING TIME WITH GOD IN HIS WORD & PRAYER!**

**(5) IT IS AN EVIDENCE OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST!**

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)***

***“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation.”  
(1 Pet. 2: 1-2)***

***“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-28)***

**APPLICATIONS:**



### **\*\*\*HOW TO REVIVE OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE!**

**NOW, WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO REVIVE & HAVE A WORKING & EFFECTIVE DEVOTIONAL LIFE?**

**1) WE ARE TO GIVE IT TIME IN OUR LIFE!**

**MY PRAYER & HOPE FOR ALL OF US HERE TODAY IS TO TAKE HEED OR OBEY THE WORDS OF MOSES WHEN HE PRAYED THIS PRAYER IN PSALM 90.**

***“Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.”***

***(Psalm 90: 10-12)***

**MOSES IN THIS PSALM IS HIGHLIGHTING THE TEMPORARINESS OF MAN & THE ETERNALITY OF GOD! WE ARE FINITE CREATURES & ARE LIVING IN BORROWED & LIMITED TIME SO THAT WE ARE TO LIVE & MANAGE OUR LIMITED YEARS CAREFULLY & WISELY.**

**THE MYTH OF “NO TIME”! NOW, IF THIS IS TO HAPPEN IN OUR LIFE, THEN WE HAVE TO MAKE TIME FOR GOD & HIS WORD IN OUR LIFE! THE ALIBI, WE ARE BUSY & HAVE NO TIME IS A MYTH OR NOT TRUE. WE ALL HAVE TIME FOR THE THINGS THAT ARE TRULY IMPORTANT TO US.**

**NOW, OUR HEART IS SO WICKED THAT IT WILL TELL US TODAY THAT WE CAN DO THIS SOME OTHER TIME! BUT THIS REMINDS ME OF THE WORDS OF JAMES IN HIS LETTER.**

***“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.’ Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. Instead, you should say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it.”***

***(James 4: 14-17)***

**THEREFORE, TO NEGLECT THIS COMMAND OF THE LORD IS NOT ONLY DOING HARM TO YOUR SOUL BUT YOU ARE ACTUALLY PREVENTING THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD TO FLOW THRU YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE BASICALLY SINNING AGAINST THE LORD!**

**CHURCH/FRIENDS. MAKING TIME FOR GOD & HIS WORD IN OUR LIFE IS WISE LIVING! LISTEN TO THE APOSTLE PAUL!**

***“Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So don’t be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”***  
***(Eph. 5: 15-17)***

**CHURCH/FRIENDS, WE LIVE IN AN EVIL DAYS! I THINK WE ARE ENTERING THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST DAYS! AND THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS ALREADY KNOWN IT BEFORE IT EVEN HAPPENED. THIS IS PRECISELY THE REASON PAUL EXHORTED TIMOTHY TO STRENGTHEN HIMSELF IN THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS & HIS LIFE & BE GROUNDED ON THE SCRIPTURES, THE WORD OF GOD. THIS BOOK EQUIPS US FOR THIS VERY EVIL DAYS. THAT’S WHY WE HAVE TO KNOW IT & HOW TO USE IT IN OUR DAILY LIVING.**

**2) WE ARE TO MAKE IT A HABIT/DISCIPLINE IN OUR LIFE!**

***“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”***  
***(2 Tim. 3: 14-15)***

***“How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.”*** ***(Psalm 1: 1-2)***

**PERSONAL DEVOTION OR QUIET TIME IS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE THAT WE HAVE TO DEVELOP & CULTIVATE.**

**3) WE ARE TO ADOPT IT AS OUR LIFESTYLE!**

BY LIFESTYLE, WE MEAN THAT OUR TEACHING OR WHAT WE SAY IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE DO! IF WE SAY TO OUR CHILDREN GO TO CHURCH ITS GOOD FOR! DO WE GO TO CHURCH OURSELVES? THE WORD HAS TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR LIFE!

THIS WAS WHAT PAUL WAS TELLING TIMOTHY IN HIS LETTER.

*“Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all. **Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.**” (1 Tim. 4: 15-16)*

SOME ARGUE THAT IT WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN OR WORK OR ACTIVITY TO OUR MANY ACTIVITIES. BUT IS THIS WHAT WE SAW IN THE LORD JESUS’S LIFE? THE BIBLE NEVER SAYS THAT JESUS RUSHED ANYWHERE. HE WAS USUALLY BUSY, BUT FOUND TIME TO PRAY A LOT. HIS TOTAL MINISTRY WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THREE SHORT YEARS, BUT HE FOUND TIME TO PLAY WITH CHILDREN, TO INVESTIGATE A FIG TREE, TO TAKE A NAP DURING A BOAT RIDE, TO REST AT NOON-TIME BESIDE A WELL, AND TO ATTEND A WEDDING RECEPTION

THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY, “IF YOU HURRY, YOU CAN CATCH UP WITH GOD.” IT DOES SAY, “BE STILL (OR CEASE YOUR STRIVING) AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.” (PSALMS 46:10) JESUS DID NOT SAY, “JOIN UP WITH ME AND I WILL TIRE YOU TO DEATH IN SERVING ME!” JESUS SAID, “COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.” (MATTHEW 11:28)

CHURCH/BROTHERS/SISTERS/FRIENDS, AS WE START THIS NEW YEAR, I PRAY THAT WE WILL BEGIN REVIVING OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE! THAT WE WILL MAKE TIME FOR GOD’S WORD – READING & MEDITATING ON IT. THAT WE WILL MAKE IT A HABIT, A DISCIPLINE UNTIL IT BECOMES OUR LIFESTYLE OR SECOND NATURE TO US! REMEMBER WHAT THE GREAT LAO TZU SAID ABOUT WHERE WE DWELL OUR THOUGHTS IN A CONSISTENT BASIS OR MANNER.

***“Watch your thoughts, they become your words; watch your words, they become your actions; watch your actions, they become your habits; watch your habits, they become your character; watch your character, it becomes your destiny.” ( Lao Tzu )***

### **ILLUSTRATION: “THE BOOK OF ELI!”**

**THE MOVIE “THE BOOK OF ELI” ILLUSTRATES I THINK WHAT KIND OR QUALITY OF DEVOTION & FAITHFULNESS WE SHOULD HAVE ON THE BIBLE OR GOD’S WORD!**

### **PRACTICAL POINTERS:**

#### **○ HOW TO START A PERSONAL DEVOTION**

**(1) CHOOSE A SPECIFIC TIME! THE BEST TIME IS WHEN I AM AT MY BEST! BE CONSISTENT!**

**(2) CHOOSE A QUIET PLACE! SELECT A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN NEVER BE DISTURBED OR CAN CONCENTRATE!**

**(3) CLEAN YOUR HEART! LET US HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE! LET US HAVE A REVERENT (Ps. 46:10), EXPECTANT (Ps. 119:18), & OBEDIENT ATTITUDE!**

**(4) CREATE A SIMPLE PLAN! YOU CAN FOLLOW THIS GUIDE OR ANY WHICH IS AMENABLE/COMFORTABLE FOR YOU!**

- 1. READ! DO THE A-C-T-S! / SCRIPTURE – Read the Word!**
- 2. REFLECT! THINK! MEDITATE! /OBSERVATION ‘-DO THE W’s!**
- 3. RECORD! JOURNAL YOUR THOUGHTS! /APPLICATION – Do the A-C-T-S!**
- 4. RELATE WITH THE LORD THRU PRAYER! /PRAYER -Pray the Word!**

### **CLOSING REMARKS:**

**AS WE ENTER & FACE 2021 WITH ALL ITS UNCERTAINTIES & CHALLENGES, THE ONLY THING THAT WE CAN TOTALLY DEPEND ON OR RELY ON IS OUR IMMUTABLE GOD & HIS UNCHANGING**

**WORD! THEREFORE, FOR OUR TEMPORAL & ETERNAL GOOD LET  
US MAKE OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE AN INTEGRAL & IMPORTANT PART  
OF OUR DAILY LIVING!**