

The Holy Spirit is the One who is making us more and more like Christ. He uses Scripture and everyday life to form Christlikeness in us.

Our job is to cooperate with God's grace at work in our life. One of the ways we can cooperate is by starting each day with the Word of God: **reading, studying, memorizing & praying God's Word.** The Holy Spirit will use the Word of God to release and form the life of Christ in us.

This is how we *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord."* -2 Peter 3:18.

Slowly and thoughtfully read the passage from God's Word each day. Think about it. Focus especially on the verse marked **Meditating on God's Word.** Then, say and repeat the memory verse several times. By the end of the week, you will have it memorized. Finally, in addition to whatever else you are talking to God about in your prayers each day, also pray through the Scripture you read, turning it into a prayer.



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MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

- *Genesis 1:27*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

READING GOD'S WORD

Genesis 13-14; Psalm 8

MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

- *Psalm 8:3-4 (ESV)*

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

Father, when we consider the wonders of the heavens, we can sometimes think you have bigger things to concern yourself with than us. Yet the message of the Psalmist in our meditation today makes it clear that we are important to you. We are not insignificant in your eyes, rather we are objects of your divine love and care. Please don't let us lose sight of that great truth and may we rest in the knowledge that we belong to you, and you will always be there to love and care for us. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

READING GOD'S WORD

Genesis 15-16; Psalm 9

MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- *Genesis 15:6 (ESV)*

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

Father, there is a deep-seated belief in our hearts that we need to earn your favor by some action on our part. The idea that there is nothing we can do to earn your salvation is hard for us to grasp – there just has to be something we need to do. Yet in our meditation verse today we find that Abraham was justified before you not on the basis of anything he did, but by his simple act of faith and trust in you. Thank you for making it so simple. Thank you for your salvation which is freely given to all who believe. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

READING GOD'S WORD

Genesis 17; Psalm 10

MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."

- *Genesis 17:19 (ESV)*

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

Father, one of the clearest things that Scripture teaches us is that you are always faithful to keep your promises. You promised Abraham and Sarah a son in their old age, the son of the promise, and even though from the human perspective this was an impossibility, you are always faithful to keep your word. Help us to trust you, even when we think you have forgotten about us. You are a faithful, promise-keeping God, and may we find rest in that great truth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

READING GOD'S WORD

Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 11

MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

- *Psalms 11:4 (ESV)*

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

Father, as we look around the world today it seems as though things are out of control. Evil appears to be winning the day, and righteousness is under attack from all sides. We can be tempted to think you have lost control, yet we find in our meditation verse today that you are on the throne of heaven, and nothing escapes your gaze. You are fully aware of what is going on, and some day righteousness will reign, and sin and rebellion will be no more. Help us to take comfort in the knowledge that you are in your holy temple, you are on the throne, and some day all will be made right. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

READING GOD'S WORD

Genesis 18:16 -19:38; Psalm 12

MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

- *Psalms 12:6 (ESV)*

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

Father, we are given a great contrast in our meditation verse today. How many times are the words we speak unrefined? How often do we say things that tear others down instead of building them up? How many idle words do we speak? Your words, however, are always pure. They bring life, accomplish their purpose, and are true and just. Help us to listen to your pure words as found in the Scriptures and help us to be a people who strive to speak only that which is wholesome, pure, and right. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

READING GOD'S WORD

Genesis 20-21; Psalm 13

MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

But I have trusted in your steadfast love my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

- *Psalm 13:5-6 (ESV)*

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

Father, it is very easy to become distracted in our lives thinking we deserve more than we have. Yet, when we consider all the blessings you have given us, and the great salvation we have in Christ, we are blessed beyond anything we can imagine or think. Forgive us for looking at what we may not have instead of looking at the bounty we do have. Give us a grateful heart knowing that you have given us way more than we deserve. And most of all, thank you for your salvation which is a gift beyond anything we could imagine. Amen.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

READING GOD'S WORD

Genesis 22-23; Psalm 14

MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

- *Genesis 22:8 (ESV)*

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

Father, in our meditation verse today we see the great faith of Abraham. He was asked to do the unimaginable – sacrifice his only son. This was the son of promise, the one he had waited twenty-five long years for, yet he trusted you knowing that you would provide the lamb, and even if Isaac was to die you would raise him again from the dead to fulfill your promise to him. Give us the faith of Abraham, a faith that truly knows your voice and trusts you even when facing the impossible. And thank you for providing a lamb for us by sending Jesus to take our place and become the sacrifice for our sin. Amen.