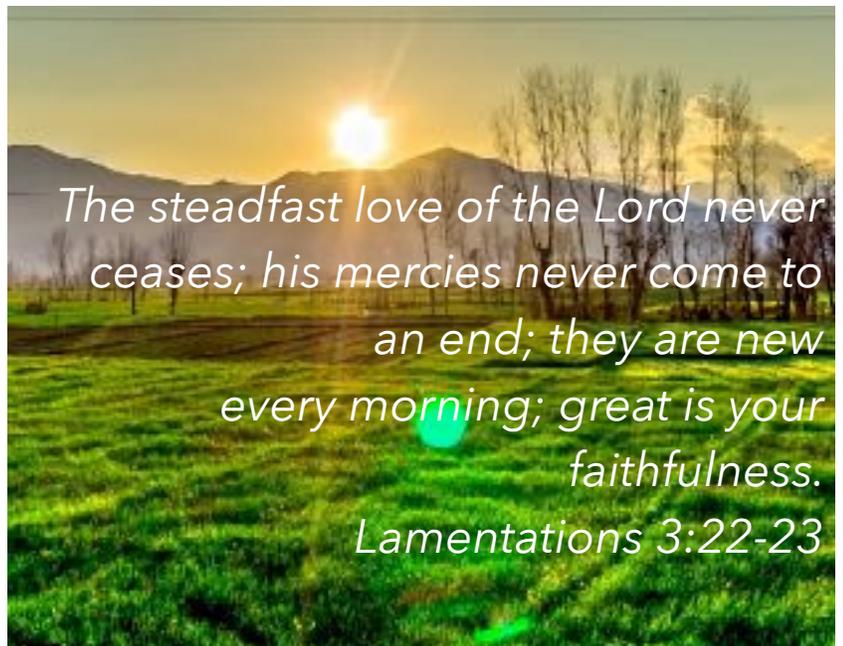


SEVEN STEPS

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1. START YOUR DAY

There is nothing better than starting your day in the Word of God. I know people will debate about being a morning person vs. being a night owl but the Bible is very clear many times how we should start our day with the Lord.

When we engage our minds with scripture first thing it sets the path for the rest of the day. It calms our heart and prepares us for the coming day. We can also glean wisdom that will help us make

decisions coming up. It is amazing how God can speak to our current issues through his word.

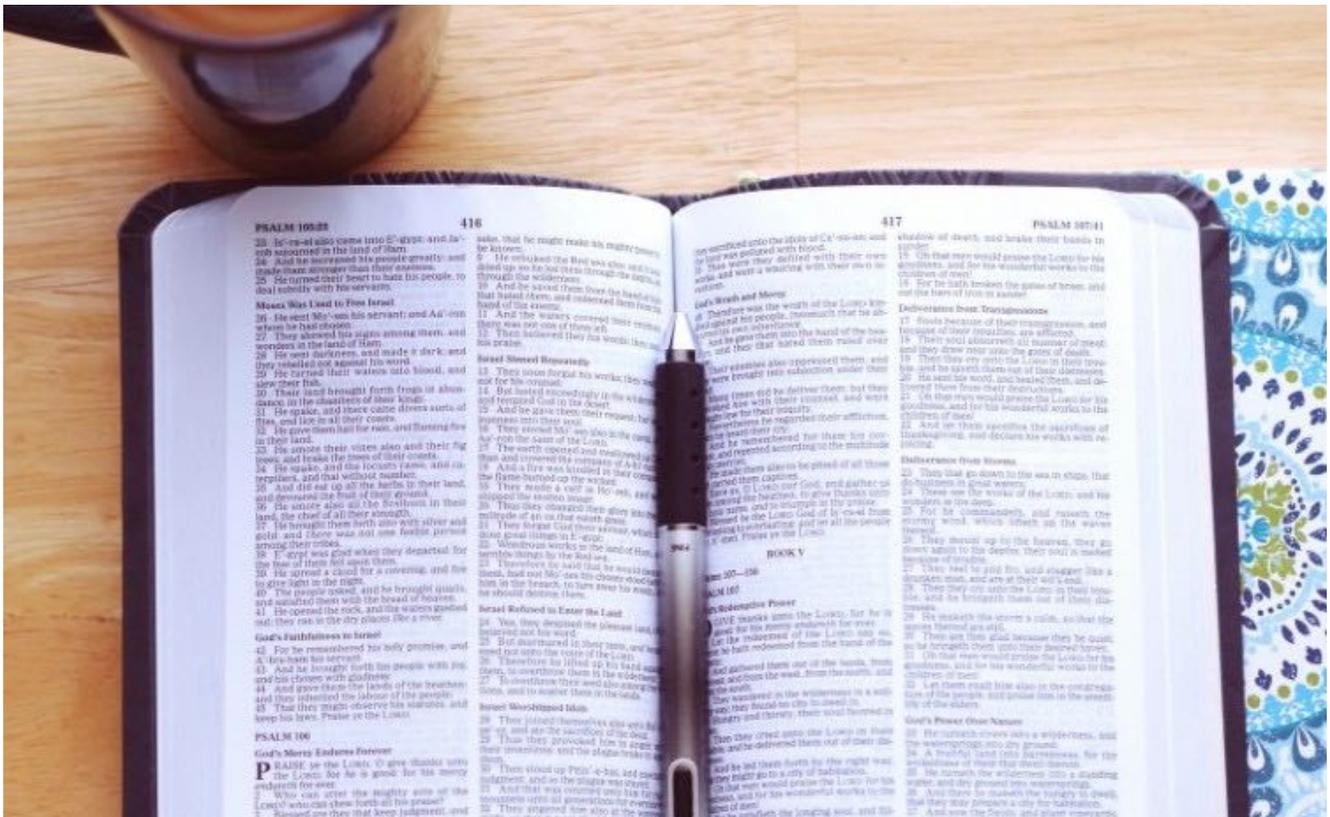
Another benefit is that we are able to lift up all of our needs of the day to the Lord. When the outlook for what is ahead looks bleak spending time in our Bibles and in prayer before it happens can give us peace.

Make a commitment to start your day with a time of devotions. Start small. Trying to do too much will



2. SET YOUR PLACE

- *Habits for faster when there is familiarity*
- *Do your devotions in the same place everyday*
- *Make it a place where you are comfortable and have room for your stuff (If you do your devotions while commuting on public transportation this can be difficult)*
- *Familiarity helps us to engage quicker and keep our attention longer.*
- *Block out the distractions by muting your phone's volume and notifications.*





3. BE CONSISTENT

The number one key to a deeper devotional life is consistency. A journey of a thousand miles starts with one step and each day we do our devotions is another step in our journey of faith. Consistency enlarges our knowledge and it cements into place our commitment. When we do miss doing our devotions we feel like something is missing.



4. CHOOSE YOUR TOOLS

There are a lot of tools we can use in our devotions. Some people prefer to do their devotionals electronically and others like good old paper. Both offer great benefits and there are good arguments for both. Choose one and stick with it. There are some great apps you can download. The You Version bible is one of the most downloaded apps of all time. It comes with tons of bibles and reading plans. There are also a lot of Bibles that offer good reading plans. You can't go wrong.



5. PICK YOUR PLAN

After you have chosen your method of reading the Bible it is also good to find a plan that leads you in reading. There are lots of great read through the bible in a year plans. That is the route I would suggest. It is also helpful to include a devotional in your reading. These provide insight into scripture that can encourage you.



6. LOG YOUR JOURNEY

It is also important to keep a journal. Write down what you have read, scriptures that ministered to you, and thoughts that resulted from them. You can also write down any prayer requests that are on your heart. We retain 75% more when we write down something we have read. It is also fun to go back and see what God was speaking to you at that time and the prayer requests that he has answered.



SHARE YOUR JOURNEY

The final step to deeper devotions is to share your journey. While our relationship with Jesus is personal we benefit when we bless others. When you share what God is showing

you it ministers to other people. You don't do it to show off or garner peoples sympathy but to testify to how God is transforming you. You will be amazed at how that will speak to someone who needs to hear it. I encourage you to post a verse, write a brief testimony, or share a story of how God has used your devotion time.

DEVELOPING A DEEPER DEVOTIONAL LIFE

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