

**The Devotional Life for
Husbands and Wives or Prayer Partners**
Sabbath Afternoon

Inspiration:

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20.

“Above all, take time to read the Bible--the Book of books. A daily study of the Scriptures has a sanctifying, uplifting influence upon the mind. Bind the Holy Volume to your hearts. It will prove to you a friend and guide in perplexity.” Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, 138.

Observation:

Although Jesus preached and prayed with the multitudes, He often felt the need to share His thoughts with a select few. He often called aside Peter, James, and John, or spent time in Bethany with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Clearly, He blessed the concept of praying in small groups. What a difference comes to the home when husbands and wives pray together.

Application:

This week we will be exploring the benefits of meeting and praying together with your spouse or a prayer partner. Think of situations where you might find someone with whom to pray and worship:

- Your spouse.
- A brother or a sister or other family member.
- A colleague at your school or place of work.
- A friend.
- A fellow church member.

**The Devotional Life for
Husbands and Wives or Prayer Partners**
Sunday

Inspiration:

“That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.” John 17:21.

“When believers are united in Christ the living vine, the result is that they are one with Christ, full of sympathy and tenderness and love.” Manuscript 21, 1893.

Observation:

The Benefit of Unity. Praying and sharing devotional thoughts together brings about the unity that Christ wished for His followers. What does unity mean? It means being in accord, in harmony, a sameness of character. But it also means being complete and entire, having everything that is needed. It has nothing to do with how we look, where we live, or how old we are. It is worshipping, loving, and obeying the same God and Father of us all.

Application:

- Share your thoughts and feelings with your spouse or prayer partner regarding the importance of the devotional life. Do this without pressuring one another or trying to make the other feel guilty
- Agree on a time and place to meet for praying and sharing. It could even be over the telephone or Internet, as the need arises.

**The Devotional Life for
Husbands and Wives or Prayer Partners**
Monday

Inspiration:

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ.” Colossians 2:2.

“God has ordained according to the law of ministry that we should comfort one another in tenderness and love when great sorrows come upon us. No man liveth unto himself. No one dieth unto himself. Life and death both mean something to every human being. . . . God has enjoined the duty upon His human agents to communicate the character of God, testifying to His grace, His wisdom, and His benevolence, by manifesting His refined, tender, merciful love. . . . Jesus . . . was ever touched with human woe, and our hearts should be softened and subdued by His Holy Spirit, that we may be like Him. . . . That I May Know Him, 45.2.

Observation:

The Benefit of Comfort. Life is uncertain and full of challenges. But God has designed that we not be forced to face our trials alone. It is His plan that the church—His body—stand ready to bear one another’s burdens.

Application:

In seeking comfort from our prayer and share partner, we must be careful not to make him/her our confessor. “We are to confess our faults one to another, and pray one for another that we may be healed. . . . There are sins which are to be confessed to God only . . . “ Signs of the Times, April 20, 1891 par. 5.

**The Devotional Life for
Husbands and Wives or Prayer Partners**
Tuesday

Inspiration:

“And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.” Romans 15:14.

“The word of God declares: “Ye are not your own; . . . ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." He demands that the social powers shall be sanctified and employed for good, to secure the progress and triumph of God's kingdom, not to serve the purposes of Satan. . . . Every soul for whom Christ has died is accountable for the influence he exerts.” Youth’s Instructor, November 26, 1896 par. 5.

Observation:

The Benefit of Accountability. Praying and sharing together with a partner provides a great incentive to live our lives in accordance with our prayers. Our partner knows the trials we are going through, and we can solicit their prayers on our behalf. When we know someone is praying for us, we will not want to let them down by giving in to the devil. In this way we “provoke unto love and to good works” (Hebrews 10:24).

Application:

1. Discuss with your spouse or prayer partner how you could better reflect God’s will for your lives.
2. Choose a particular Fruit of the Spirit to think about and ask the Lord for.
3. Share together how you are each progressing—the victories and the failures—and pray for your specific burdens.

**The Devotional Life for
Husbands and Wives or Prayer Partners**
Wednesday

Inspiration:

Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth. John 17:17.

Make the Bible its own expositor, bringing together all that is said concerning a given subject at different times and under varied circumstances. Child Guidance, 511.

Observation:

The Benefit of Vulnerability. Sharing devotional time with another individual will mean praying for each other and bearing one another's burdens. It doesn't include divulging the details of our personal lives, but it presents an opportunity to talk through problems and seek spiritual counsel together. This kind of sharing of the heart will keep us sensitive to the needs of others. We will be less likely to criticize and to build up walls of prejudice around us when we realize that we are all subject to the same temptations and trials.

Application:

- Begin your devotional experience together by reading a portion of Scripture. Choose the Scripture at random, select a verse from a daily devotional book, or pick a topic from your Bible's concordance. Perhaps you could use one of the Scripture verses from the current week's Sabbath school lesson.
- Discuss together what that Scripture says to you.
- Share some ways you can make the Scripture come alive in your lives.
- Pray together, asking God to help you bring your lives into line with what you just read.

**The Devotional Life for
Husbands and Wives or Prayer Partners**
Thursday

Inspiration:

I will delight myself in Thy statutes: I will not forget Thy word. Psalm 119:16.

“Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.”
Steps to Christ, 93.

Observation:

The Benefit of Encouragement. You have heard the saying, “A burden shared is a burden halved.” The Bible puts it this way: “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.” Ecclesiastes 4:9. It is our privilege as prayer partners to join hearts with a fellow traveler to bless and encourage each other as we journey toward heaven. “Words of cheer and encouragement spoken when the soul is sick and the pulse of courage is low--these are regarded by the Saviour as if spoken to Himself. As hearts are cheered, the heavenly angels look on in pleased recognition.” Ministry of Healing, 159.

Application:

- Although you will be sharing your burdens and requests for prayer with your prayer partner, don't forget to also share words of encouragement and hope.
- Share with each other some Bible promise that you have discovered from your personal devotion time.
- Share some blessing that the Lord has brought into your life in the past few days. Don't make this theory or past history, but something recent and ongoing.

**The Devotional Life for
Husbands and Wives or Prayer Partners**
Friday

Inspiration:

Deal bountifully with Thy servant, that I may live, and keep Thy word. Psalm 119:17.

“Many seem to begrudge moments spent in meditation, and the searching of the Scriptures, and prayer, as though the time thus occupied was lost. I wish you could all view these things in the light God would have you for you would then make the kingdom of heaven of the first importance. To keep your heart in heaven will give vigor to all your graces, and put life into all your duties. . . . As exercise increases the appetite, and gives strength and healthy vigor to the body, so will devotional exercises bring an increase of grace and spiritual vigor. . . .“

God’s Amazing Grace, 295.

Observation:

The Benefit of Sharing. When we know good news, it is hard to keep it to ourselves. A new birth is joyfully announced, an engagement is shouted from the house top, a birthday is celebrated noisily. When a sinner repents, all heaven breaks into song. The dynamics of sharing our prayers and testimony with one another is like mixing vinegar and baking soda—it bubbles and froths and overflows. Sharing doubles the joy, doubles the blessing, and doubles the effects. Remember, fire is started with two pieces of wood, not just one.

Application:

1. After you have prayed together for your own needs, talk about ways of reaching out to bless the lives of others around you (children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends).
2. Share together with other couples what a blessing praying together has been to you and encourage them to try it.

