



CEO Devotional – March 18, 2013

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## ***Invest Time in the Scriptures***

Recently, I was talking with a friend about the importance of investing time in the Scriptures. He said, “I know I need to do this, but I can’t find the time.” If the Scriptures are important to me, I have to invest time -- perhaps an hour most days. To do this, I have to get up earlier in the morning. This can be difficult. As noted in Hebrews 12:11, *“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”*

Talking with another friend, I suggested he invest time in the Scriptures to help address issues he was facing. He said, “I have heard that before, but how do you actually do that?” Now that’s a good question.

In years gone by, I tried the topical, the random (flip open the Bible and expect God to speak to me), the chronological, and other approaches with little satisfaction. I tried the “read the Bible in a year” approach and liked that approach in that I could check the scripture box most days in 5 or 10 minutes.

5 or 10 minutes of box checking just won’t do it.

I dreaded Psalm 119 because it took so long to read. Then, in the midst of great difficulties, I encountered Psalm 119:133 where King David says to God, *“Establish my footsteps in Your Word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.”* I began meditating on that and ironically, Psalm 119 came to life and became an incredible source of solace and guidance. In Psalm 119:92, King David says further to God, *“If Your law had not been my delight, then I would have perished in my affliction.”*

I believe that investing time in the Scriptures is a key to experiencing God. How to?

1. Acknowledge that I have time to invest. What do I have to do that could be more important?
2. Find a quiet place and turn the cell phone off.
3. Ask God to direct me in the Scriptures. Suggestion: Meditate and pray Psalm 119:18 for a week: *“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law,”* and see what happens.
4. Set reasonable expectations. Sometimes, nothing seems to happen. Is that okay? Yes! What if nothing seems to happen for days and days, is that okay? Definitely! A secret is that it is ok and a part of the process. Psalm 37:7, *“Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.”* If we discipline ourselves to invest the time, it is certain that God will show up.
5. How can I say that it is certain He will show up? Easy - He is already there. Try Psalm 139 *“Where can I go from Your Spirit?”* He is everywhere all the time. I need to take the time to orient myself to Him so that I can hear and experience Him.