

Read Luke 5:15,16. Even though Jesus was very busy, what did he do often, according to these verses? How can you specifically apply this to your life this year?

Ask God for the power and the will to put prayer and meditation into your life regularly.

Saturday

Please pray for our services this weekend as we talk about the 12th step! This will be a very powerful service; please don't miss it!

(REAL) CHANGE

Spreading the Word

PART 5

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STEP 12:

Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

How do I do this?

1. Share _____

"We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." *1 John 1:3* (NLT)

See www.iamsecond.com for some great stories

2. Show _____

"If someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ." *1 Peter 3:15a,16* (NLT)

3. Shine _____

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:16* (NIV)

4. Shake _____

Some common misconceptions:

- They are not interested

"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." *John 10:16* (NIV)

- It makes no difference

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" *2 Corinthians 5:17*

- I can't take the pressure

"...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." *Matthew 16:18b* (NIV)

Daily Meditations

Steps Review

- STEP 1:** Admit that I'm powerless over my destructive pattern
- STEP 2:** Believe that God exists and can change me
- STEP 3:** Commit my life to Him
- STEP 4:** The *Review Step*: Make a searching and fearless moral inventory
- STEP 5:** The *Reveal Step*: Admit to God, myself, and another the nature of my wrongs
- STEP 6:** The *Ready Step*: Be entirely ready to have God remove my character defects
- STEP 7:** The *Request Step*: Humbly ask God to remove my shortcomings
- STEP 8:** Make a list of those I've harmed and become willing to make amends
- STEP 9:** Make amends if possible, unless this would hurt them or others
- STEP 10:** Make it a habit to take inventory and promptly admit my wrongs

Monday

Sometimes prayer gets reduced to mere ritual or superstition. Sometimes wrong ideas about God interfere with my prayer life. Have you ever felt like this:

- My prayers are a laundry list of complaints
- My prayers are little more than a wish list
- My prayers are like a superstition; I may as well try, it might work some day!
- My prayers are respectful but not personal
- My prayers are time to "clock in" with God; He may not bless me if I don't say a prayer!
- My prayers are ritual repetition of language I learned in church or Sunday School
- My prayers are legalistic attempts to please a God I may have offended
- I ignore prayer until I'm too exhausted to really have quality time with God
- I know I should enjoy prayer, but I really don't very much
- Frankly, I sometimes resent prayer as another item on my to-do list

What did you learn from the message that you think may help you have a more vibrant prayer life?

Which of the Scriptures popped out for you?

Spend time in prayer today focusing on one of the verses from this week's message. Meditate on the memory verse. Thank God for His simple teaching on prayer and His love for you!

Tuesday

Read the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Jesus starts by calling God "father". Why is this such an important concept to a healthy prayer life?

Why is the concept of "father" polluted for many people? How about you — is it difficult or easy for you to see God as a father? Why?

Read Psalm 68:3-5, Psalm 27:10, and Psalm 103:13. What kind of "father" is portrayed in these verses?

List some of the ways God is a loving Heavenly Father to you:

Thank God that He is your loving Father. Spend time alone with your Father today. Meditate on the concept: God is my Heavenly Father!

Wednesday

Read the Lord's Prayer again in Matthew 6:9-13. Notice how Jesus prays for God's will to be done. Ask God to show you His will for you. Think of all your relationships. Think of your job. Think of your family. Think of your private life. What do you know for sure is God's will for you today in those areas?

As you meditate on each of those areas, ask God for the power to do His will.

Thursday

Read the Lord's Prayer again in Matthew 6:9-13. Note how simply and concisely Jesus tells us to state our needs. What do you need right now?

- Physical provision:
- I need to be forgiven of:
- I need to forgive this person:
- Deliverance from:

Take these issues to God in prayer right now! Keep this list and note His answers to these prayers in the days and months ahead!

Friday



Memory Verse

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." *Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)*