

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

### GOD GIVES YOU THE BIBLE TO EQUIP YOU

Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped . . . (2 Timothy 3:16-17) "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." (Romans 15:4) ". . . faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." (Romans 10:17)

The writer to the Hebrews here in today's devotional verses was concerned about the Christians to whom he wrote. They were not maturing in their Christian journey. They were "stuck" in the "rut" of mediocrity. A little of what God offered was enough for them. They were not interested in digging into the Holy Scriptures to become better instructed by God's word in order to be more thoroughly equipped for their daily Christian life.

In a recent poll, "Engaging with the Bible **12%** of respondents claimed they read or listened to the Bible at least once a month. Levels are similar across the gender divide and are relatively similar across the ages until we get to the 65+s where the numbers accessing the Bible at least once a month rises to 19%." (Poll conducted by Christian Research.org) Another poll says this number is 16%.

God has given you His word to hear, read, and discuss with other Christians. He has given it to you, as St. Paul wrote to Timothy because it is profitable, useful, beneficial, that which helps to equip you in your spiritual journey. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) The more you hear, read, study, discuss His Word the more opportunity you

give the Holy Spirit to fill you with God's grace and strengthen your faith. Faith comes to you through the word of God in whatever manner you receive His word. (Romans 10:17)

Prayer: Lord, keep me steadfast in Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,  
My pearl of incompr'able worth.  
Its value exceeds ev'ry standard of measure,  
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.  
Lord, give me Your grace and the pow'r of the Spirit  
To value this treasure aright  
That never allured by the world, I inherit  
Your kingdom of glory and light.

Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the power  
Your Word and Your Spirit bestow.  
Like yeast, they affect the whole measure of flour,  
Enabling Your kingdom to grow.  
Empower me, Lord, as I live Your commission,  
Though humble my service may be,  
And brin ev'ry planting to perfect fruition,  
A mustard seed grown to a tree.

Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing  
Of seeds that Your mercy has sown;  
But still in our midst is the enemy sowing  
The weeds that imperil Your own.  
Sustain me, O Lord, till Your day of returning  
And harvest me homeward at last,  
To shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,  
Where sorrow and danger are past.  
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