

DYNAMIC DEVOTIONS

* INTRODUCTION

A. The start of another year is exciting but you can do a new start most any time.

B. When you decide on a fresh challenge, what goes through your mind? How will I accomplish this? Will power? Desire? Assumption?

C. Matthew 23:25-27 **25**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and selfindulgence.

26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

1. Is Jesus talking about “washing dishes,” or is He referring to something else?
Basic Bible principle: If you want to change your “outside” - first change your “inside.”

2. Proverbs 4:23

D. The best source for “inside change” and for wisdom is God’s written Word. But you can’t read it like you might read the newspaper, you must devour it and cherish it like a precious love letter.

E. As Jesus prayed in the garden moments before his arrest, He evaluated His ministry specifically by what he did with God’s Word - John 17:6, 8, 14, 17 **I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word.**

8 For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

14 I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.

F. 2009 can be a year you experience life as God intends it - abundantly

I. PLAN

A. No one would anticipate a daily routine called “Dynamic Duties” - but we are talking about having “Dynamic Devotions.” (What is the difference?)

B. Pick out an exact time you will utilize in each day - non-negotiable *appointment*
 * Minimize potential distractions

C. “Failing to plan is planning to fail” “If Satan can’t make you bad, he’ll make you busy.”

D. There are 1440 minutes in a day - trust God with 15 of them - about 1%

II. PRAY

A. The starting point for a time of Dynamic Devotions is Prayer. Prayer is like the key that turns your ignition of your car; it jump starts your heart.

B. Don’t SAY a prayer, just PRAY a prayer.

1. Prayers should be “need specific” - to the point
2. Don’t rush into prayer - Psalm 46:10 (Have a complete “chassis set” before moving on)
3. Pray honestly - words do not move God, hearts do.

C. Types of prayers

1. Adoration
2. Request
3. Thanksgiving
4. Intercession
5. Confession

III. PROCEED

A. Feel free to use a tool

1. Our Daily Bread
2. Spiritual Journal
3. Devotional books (Morning and Evening / My Utmost For His Highest)

B. Be systematic - don’t “skip through scripture”

C. Keep in mind some basic questions

1. Who is the speaker / audience?
2. Is there an example to follow?
3. Is there a problem to avoid?

4. Is there a promise to claim?
5. Is there a topic for study?
6. Is there a challenge to accept?
7. Is there a command to obey?
8. Is there an inspiration for prayer?

IV. POSSESS

- A. Keep record of your growth - (Little kid measures height)
- B. Remember! This is Not “Your time for God” it is “God’s time for you.”
- C. Many feel accountability is essential
- D. Write down questions and issues you would like to talk about - might give rise to a home group