

www.prayerandbiblestudy.org

A New Look at Personal Devotions

Do you put aside some time each day for devotions or for having a 'quiet time'? To help with this, you can use specially written Bible study notes and prayers; a quick look in your local Christian Bookshop will tell you what is currently available.

Alternatively, have you ever thought of using the internet for your devotions? There are many Christian web sites offering a variety of resources, and there is an easy to use web-site for devotions which will give you as little or as much as you need: www.prayerandbiblestudy.com.

What is on the website, and how do you use it?

This site is completely private. You do not have to 'log on' or reveal any personal details. Everything on the site is free, and you can download devotions and Bible studies for personal use as you wish. It is also entirely original and newly written for each day, though you can also access a backlist of devotions and studies from different books of the Bible.

On the web site you will find that the devotions for each day include a prayer, a meditation, a passage of Scripture translated by the author, a brief or a full Bible study (according to your needs), questions for use in discussion groups, suggestions about Christian discipleship, and a final prayer. You can use as much or as little of this as you wish, and there are even alternative devotions, to give you further choice.

Other features of the website

The site is designed for Christians who are serious about their devotions, and not content with quick prayers or a casual look at the Scriptures. The full Bible studies, for example, run to around 2,500 words, though the short version will help if you do not have much time. It offers a substantial and readable look at the spiritual issues within the passage for the day, including a careful explanation of the translation and any difficult verses. You can read the full study in around 20 minutes.

If you are a preacher or a Bible study group leader, the site has more to offer. You can download most of the Bible studies and devotions written in the last two years, and use them for private study or Bible study groups. The aim is to write studies of the entire Bible over 13 years, and to date, many hundreds of studies are freely available on-line, covering books of the Bible such as Isaiah, Matthew and many of the letters of Paul. Other resources are planned, including a range of themed prayers and meditations for use in worship.

How did this project start?

I began writing these devotions after being retired on health grounds several years ago, and my wife and a friend challenged me to write some 'in-depth' Bible studies that could be used for devotions. The whole idea escalated from there, and the results are encouraging. Thousands around the world now use the site regularly, including people from countries where Christians are an oppressed minority, and free access to Bible study material is highly valued.

The site is simple to use, and each page tells you what to do and how to follow the daily devotions; there is plenty to discover and read. Why not have a go and see whether you find it helpful? It is very important for all Christians to have devotional time each day, if possible. If we grow in our spiritual life and our relationship with the Lord, this will enrich both us, and every area of the life of the Church.

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