



DANIEL FAST DEVOTIONS

21
DAY

January 6-January 27
2019

led by Pastor Michael Steve Brown

TVC
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Monday, January 21, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Family
Title: Devotion leads to Direction

Acts 10: 1-2

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

What is God's vision for your life? What vision is God giving you for your family? Can you clearly see the direction God is leading your family? Are you leading your family to such a way to position them for the greater of God's blessings?

Acts chapter 10 shows us a man named Cornelius, a non-Jewish man, a gentile, a roman soldier, who clearly saw a vision from God that was a blessing for his family and that propelled the advancement of the Christian church to the gentile nations.

Many miss the vision of God for their lives because of the obstructions of life and a lack of focus. We have so many distractions that keep us from knowing which way to turn and which road to take. Cornelius lived a life that properly positioned him to see where God was leading him. Beyond just being a believer in God, Cornelius was what the scriptures call a devout man. As the leader of his family, he lived his life in total commitment to God.

Cornelius led his family as an example of honoring God, obeying God, constant prayer to God and generosity to other people. These attributes that he possessed positioned him to see and accept God's plan for him and his family's life, leading to their complete salvation in Christ.

In this new year, we would do well to follow the example of Cornelius for our families.

Prayer Point: Pray for a greater dedication and devotion to God in prayer and in kindness to others.

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Family
Title: Forgiveness, the Fabric of the Family

Genesis 50:20

20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

In my years of dealing with, talking to and counseling with families, one of the things that I have discovered that all families need is the ability to forgive. The story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 is a classic story about forgiveness. At age seventeen, Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave into Egypt. In Egypt Joseph was unfairly sent to prison for several years. But God protected Joseph and enabled him to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph that he made him Prime Minister of Egypt right on the spot.

After twenty-two years had passed, Joseph was reunited with his brothers that did wrong and sold him out. When the time was right, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and forgave them. He held no grudges. He told them that what they intended for evil, God meant for good. R. T. Kendall teaches us several lessons from the life of Joseph and his brothers: First of all, Keep quiet about what they did. Joseph did not share with others what his brothers had done to him (Genesis 45:1). Secondly, Joseph put his brothers at ease. Joseph could have used his new power in Egypt to hurt and harm his brothers but he did not (Genesis 45:3). Thirdly, Joseph let his brothers save face. Joseph explained to his brothers that what they had did to him, was really God sending him to Egypt to save lives during the famine that occurred (Genesis 45:5-8). Lastly, After Jacob their father died Joseph reassured his brothers of his kindness, not only to them but to their children (Genesis 50:19-21).

It does not matter how famous or fortunate a family is, the family cannot survive without forgiveness.

Prayer Point: Pray for the humbleness to love and forgive our families.

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Family
Title: Spirit-filled Families

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of [f]God.

Ephesians chapters 5 and 6 are chapters in the Bible famously known for speaking on the responsibilities of the family. The wife is instructed to submit to her husband as her head and as unto the Lord. The husband is told to have a Christ like love for his wife. They were both to be good examples and mimic the relationship that Christ has with the church. As parents the husband and wife are to love and nurture their children and the children are instructed to obey their parents. These are the simplified instructions and responsibilities of the family.

Obviously with the state of the family as it is, many families fall short of this glorious ideal. There seems to be little or no love, submission or obedience in families anymore. The instructions in Ephesians 5:18-21 are so hard and for some families, nearly impossible to follow. The reason is because many families are not Spirit-filled families. The Bible tells us to be filled with the Spirit. What does this mean? It means to be controlled by the Spirit. This means, instead of keeping it real, we keep it righteous.

Paul in these verses mentions three things that every family needs. These three things come from the indwelling and filling of the Spirit. Every family needs Joy. That's how you speak to one another in songs. The second thing that is needed is gratitude. Oprah Winfrey said, "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough". The last thing is submission. When you are led by the Spirit you acquiesce to each other. You tend to think of others beyond yourself. This is so like our God.

Spirit-filled or Spirit led families are successful families.

Prayer Point: Pray for every family member to submit to the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Thursday, January 24, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Family
Title: No Expiration Date

Exodus 20:12

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

The fifth of the Ten Commandments calls children to give honor to their father and mother by treating them with respect and obedience. It is the first commandment that comes with a promise. This command is emphasized and often repeated in the Bible

You will find a version of this commandment in Proverbs 1:7-9, The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. You will also find this commandment supported in Proverbs 15:20, A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother. If you look in Ephesians 6:1-2 you will find these words; Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise). Looking in Colossians 3:20, again you find this commandment; Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

Every word in scripture is important. Every scripture is profitable. However, when scripture is repeated over and over again, special importance ought to be placed on it because by its repetition in scripture, God has put special importance on it. God is really serious about how we honor our parents. Now please understand this, this commandment applies to grown children as well. No matter how old we are, if the Lord has allowed our parents to remain here on earth with us, we are to honor them. This scripture directive does not expire with us until the relationship expires and then, even in death of our parents, I believe, we should still honor our them by how we continue to live. We show a good example to our children when they see us honoring our parents.

This command comes with the promise of a good and a long life. If the Lord is going to give me a long life, I want that long life to be a good life.

Prayer Point: Pray for God to show us ways to honor the parents He has given us.

Friday, January 25, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Family
Title: A Family that Prays Together, Stays Together

Matthew 18:19-20

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

A Family that Prays Together, Stays Together, is a statement that I have heard all of my life. This statement is not actually a scripture but it is scriptural. Many a married couple began their marriage in prayer at the marriage ceremony but have not prayed together since that day. As my father would say, “What a sad commentary”.

Jesus, in teaching what to do when you have been offended, taught a powerful lesson on agreement. In the ancient Greek, the word agree literally means to symphonize. Jesus wants us to complement each other like a great orchestra. It is a metaphor taken from a number of musical instruments set to the same key, and playing the same tune: here, it means a perfect agreement of the hearts, desires, wishes, and voices, of two or more persons praying to God.”

God desires that we pray. He also desires that we pray together. But more so that we pray together in agreement. Spurgeon says, “God often hears the prayer of our prayers, and answers that rather than our prayers themselves.” I take this to mean that when we pray together in agreement, our many prayers in unity become one powerful prayer to God. Of course, with any righteous prayer, it must be made in the name of Jesus. The promise of this kind of praying is that it would be successful and the Lord would be in the midst.

What if the family actually prayed? What if the family actually prayed together? What if the family actually prayed together in unity? I believe that the success of the family is praying together in unity. If a family would really pray this way, nothing would be too hard for that family to handle or endure.

Prayer Point: Pray for the courage and discipline to lead your family together in unity prayer.