



Charting the Course:

a devotion by Chuck Hall

The Greatest Lesson I've Ever Learned

As for me, it
every word

I have a book of short teachings by sixty Christian leaders on the theme, "The Greatest Lesson I've Ever Learned." What is the most important thing you've learned? is the truth of Deuteronomy 8:3: **Man does not live by bread alone, but...by that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** Therefore, I would say without hesitation that the greatest lesson I've ever learned is the importance of **keeping a daily devotional life.**

In 1970 as a student at Valdosta State College shortly after the Lord became "real to me," I met Dean Register and Jerry Joiner. They taught me the importance of having a "quiet time" early each morning. I learned that to walk with God I must spend time each day alone with Him, praying, reading, and meditating on scripture, listening to what He is saying. The Word of the Lord is as important to one's growth as a Christian as bread is to one's physical development. Just as food to the physical body so is the Word of God to the spirit of a person. Yes, we are sustained and strengthened "by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

My morning quiet time has been, and still is, more meaningful to me than anything else that I do as a Christian. It is not something that I **have** to do (although I cannot imagine trying to live as a Christian without it), it is something that I **look forward to** each morning. I began in 1970 to fellowship with the Lord each morning. Since then, my love relationship with Jesus has never grown stale but has flourished over the past 38 years. I attribute that to time alone each morning with my precious Savior.

When I first began to seek the Lord, I would read five Psalms and one Proverb each day and then a portion from the New Testament. That enabled me to read through all of the Psalms and Proverbs each month and most of the Gospels. Other years I would read through the entire Bible in one year or sometimes in two. Currently, I have determined to read through the whole Bible again in 2008.

Reading the Bible is essential, but it is also very important to **meditate** on the Scriptures. You'll be surprised how much insight you will receive by meditating on a small portion of scripture each day--even a small phrase or just one word. Next, write in a journal what God shows you. As you write, He will give you even more insight. It takes time to sit quietly and think and pray over the Word each morning, but it offers eternal benefits. Like the Old Testament manna in the wilderness that was gathered early each morning, Jesus is that Bread of Life and our spiritual nourishment for each day.

I have been greatly impacted by meditating on the attributes of God, especially the **sovereignty of God.** His attributes stand out in the writings of the Old Testament books. It would be well worth your time to study the character of God. You may discover that God's revelation of Himself in the Scriptures is different from your present understanding of who He is.

The Bible is a book of prayer. Mary Nell has prayed for me for many years according to II Timothy 2:15. She put my name into the scripture and prayed, "Lord, I pray that Chuck will 'study to show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'" I enjoy praying the Psalms each morning, especially Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." He is faithful to answer that prayer by giving me insight into His Word. Any understanding that we have of the scriptures and of God comes as His gracious revelation to us. Realizing this is humbling.

If you are not in the habit of meeting with the Lord each morning, ask God to give you the grace to do so. Ask Him to give you a **greater desire to know Him** and an **increased hunger for His word.** Pray that He will give you the grace to get up each morning, to love and to worship Him by spending time in His Word and in prayer. Pray that He will bring you into a relationship in which He is your greatest love and in Whom you find your highest pleasure and satisfaction.