



Pat Hyde

Daily devotions are very important to me personally in my Christian walk. I feel like I'm starving each morning until I can open my Bible and spend time alone, one-on-one with Jesus. He sustains me throughout the day with gentle reminders of God's love—a praise song, a friend's encouraging words, a Bible verse, or the way a situation works out—God's presence is awesome! *Fruit of the Vine* is a tool I use in my daily devotions. That's why I'm so glad that I have an opportunity to share some of my prayers and thoughts on discipling so others may know God as a personal Friend, Savior, Counselor, and Lord.

Bill and I have been married 42 years. We have three wonderful adult children and their spouses, seven grandchildren—an eighth due to arrive in late October 2010!

Our oldest daughter, Shannon, went to be with the Lord five years ago. We have become painfully aware in the past five years that God's ways are mysterious and not at all what we would choose. Through seeking him daily in prayer, in his Word, and regular worship, God has shown that he is good all the time—in good times and times of deep grief and pain.

We have attended and served at Rose Drive Friends Church (Yorba Linda, California) for more than 30 years. It is our desire to keep on keepin' on serving the Lord and finishing well. The best is yet to come!

BIBLE READING: Isaiah 50:7

I love knowing that the Sovereign Lord helps me! I want to persevere and not give up on what the Lord has in store for me. But I cannot just decide that I'm going to stay strong and committed to serving him and then do it. I'm weak and I become tired and discouraged. That's why I need communion with Jesus every morning. He feeds my soul with wonderful tidbits of Scripture. He comforts me with his presence by bringing praise songs to my mind. I love how he loves me—how he knows my name and how he speaks to my heart.

As I begin my day in the work place, I ask God to bless my responses and interchange with others so that somehow, some way, everyone I meet will also be meeting Jesus. I've found that I need to have "tassels," as described in the Old Testament, to serve as a reminder to me that Jesus is with me. It's really easy for me to get caught up in the busyness of the day and lose focus on God's purpose. So I write "Jesus" in the margin of my "to do" list. If I get a disturbing phone call or a negative comment, my eyes go to "Jesus"—literally—which in turn keeps me grounded in him.

When I think about the most important thing in our lives—the main thing—it is loving people with the compassion that Jesus had. God does not want anyone to perish. Neither should we.

SONG: Pass It On

PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, I praise you for guiding me day by day. It is my desire to have a pure heart and a right spirit so that you can use me in your perfect plan.

—Pat Hyde

BIBLE READING: Matthew 28:16-20

After many, many years of walking with Jesus, I'm still praying that I will consistently have a broken heart for the lost souls around me every day. I'm so human and sporadic; I let the behavior of others annoy me more than look at their actions as a clue from God that their souls may be crying out for help. I want to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

When my attitude softens, then what do I say to the person "annoying" me? That's a question that only God can answer, and that's when we trust his presence and guidance. He has promised to be with us always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20). He commissions us to love others and tell them the good news of salvation. He promises to be with us always. Even when someone doubts, we should not be discouraged but continue to pray. We can pray about those who reject Jesus and ask that Christ penetrate their hearts with understanding. May their eyes be opened that they can receive forgiveness for the past, a place for the present, and a hope for the future.

SONG: Jesus Saves

PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Dear Lord, I ask you to humble my heart and help me recognize when I am not pleasing you in my thoughts and actions. I pray that I may have your attitude, Jesus. I want to love others as you do and seek after your heart, wanting more of you and less of me.

—Pat Hyde

BIBLE READING: Acts 4:18-20

We can all think of times when the Lord has touched our lives in a mighty way and we can say from our heart that, “God is good all the time.” I know that’s true in my life. Things have happened that are joyous and bring a time of celebration and then there have been times when I have not understood God’s plan and have experienced grief and mourning. Throughout all of these good times and hard times, Jesus has been with me—with our family. He has brought comfort, peace, and blessings through all circumstances.

Because I have seen Jesus and know him personally, I want to share boldly what Christ has done, who Christ is: our Savior. Because of his love for mankind, he went through flogging, mockery, and death on a cross. He loved us that much!

How can we not cry out with passion and let everyone know that they can have abundant life now and eternal life? We know from experience all the ways Jesus reveals himself. He loves us and he is our personal Savior.

What if we all shared that passion for Christ? A revival would come upon our nation. That’s exciting! God is good—we know—let’s boldly tell others. We cannot be silent because we have been in God’s presence. “‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out’” (Luke 19:40).

SONG: I'll Tell the World That I'm a Christian

PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Dear Lord, help me to recognize the daily opportunities to share boldly about you with those people who cross my path. Maybe it's just saying your name, maybe it's telling a story. Show me Lord.

—Pat Hyde

BIBLE READING: Joel 2:23

Every day I pray for my husband, children, and grandchildren. I always ask the Lord to lead each one by his mighty Spirit and to give grace, direction, and blessings. Then I think about my extended family, friends, the world! God does not want even one person to perish.

Wow! How can I not be glad for our awesome God? I am thankful that he loves us so much that he provides a way for us to have fellowship with him. His Word is nourishment for our souls. He asks us to “be still and know that [he is] God” (Psalm 46:10). We can read his Word, talk to him anytime, and praise him for his goodness. I have discovered that praising God in the midst of my anxieties as a response to my circumstances gives me a peace and joy that cannot be explained. I count it a privilege to commune with him every morning before my day begins.

I guess the most important thing I can pray for is that my thoughts and actions be pleasing to God and in line with his purpose for my life. I seek to have a right spirit and a pure heart so that I may serve him and be in his perfect will.

SONG: Doxology

PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, thank you for everything! I pray that you would penetrate hearts, minds, and souls with the Truth of God! Help us to understand the importance of daily devotions – spending time in your Word, praying, praising you, and fellowship with other believers.

—Pat Hyde

BIBLE READING: Mark 4:26-29

When I read today's passage, the words stood out to me: "All by itself the soil produces grain..." (v. 28). The mysterious power of the seed is emphasized here. There is a power in the gospel message. It doesn't necessarily require that I be a dynamic speaker.

I think of Moses in Exodus 3 and 4, being called by God to deliver his people. Moses expressed his reluctance over and over because he didn't feel he was eloquent and he was slow of speech. God told Moses that he would help Moses speak and teach Moses what to say.

It's a partnership with God and each one of us has an opportunity to follow God's leading and spread the good news of the gospel in whatever setting we find ourselves. Even if we feel it won't do any good because of our lack of confidence, God promises that he will be with us and he will work in hearts and souls. It's our job to trust him, even if we don't always understand how it will make a difference. We can trust God that he will bless our interchange with others that, somehow (even though we don't always see how), those we meet will be meeting Jesus.

SONG: Your Grace Is Sufficient for Me

PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Dear Lord, I give you my doubts and insecurities about sharing the gospel. Give me a confidence and trust that as I am sharing, you are with me and you will do your work.

—Pat Hyde

BIBLE READING: Isaiah 50:4-5

During times of election woes and financial crisis, I get caught up in the feeling of doom over our nation. People are scared; what's going to happen in the future? We all anticipate who the next President will be, who the next Governor will be, and who will be elected to the Congress. We are all concerned about how the economy will be affected by changes in government officials.

It's always good for us to be reminded that God is sovereign over all the earth. That's exactly what's happened to me recently, especially over the past year. If I take the time to be still and listen to what God says in his Word, he helps me understand his truth and his perfect plan.

First and foremost, my heart was convicted that I should be concerned with the things God is concerned with: lost souls. The people I meet every day are souls crying out for help; they need Jesus. Do I care? Do I hear? My question is: what do I do now? How can I do my part in advancing God's kingdom? I believe it starts with prayer—individual prayer and corporate prayer.

SONG: People Need the Lord / Give Me Your Eyes

PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, please help me to see the people around me with your eyes and to love them as you love them. Penetrate their hearts with your truth that they may see you and accept you as their Lord and Savior.

—Pat Hyde

BIBLE READING: Hebrews 10:23

I love the word *persevere* and all that it means! An ability to persevere is one of the qualities that I seek most and that I admire in others.

The basis for perseverance is hope in God! “Keep on keeping on,” don’t give up on anything, even if it is not comfortable or easy. Keep on praying, reading the Bible, going to church, being kind to others, and reaching out a helping hand to someone in need.

My main prayer is that I do not become lukewarm in God’s eyes. God is faithful to me and keeps me safe in his loving arms when I am exhausted. Sometimes, even when I’m so tired all I can do is to whisper the name—Jesus—he takes it from there and gives me a new energy!

This is all so good that I want everyone to know who Jesus is. I don’t want to keep it a secret. Jesus is the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star.

SONG: Everybody Ought to Know

PRAAYER SUGGESTION: Dear Lord, you know how I love you. Thank you for speaking to my heart in different ways. Thank you for being my Savior, my friend, and loving me beyond what I can comprehend. Please touch the hearts of those people that I meet each day, that a seed may be planted in their hearts to seek after you. I want everyone to experience you, Jesus.

—Pat Hyde