

LESSON 2, DEVOTION 1

"BUT THE SEED ON GOOD SOIL STANDS FOR THOSE WITH A NOBLE AND GOOD HEART, WHO HEAR THE WORD, RETAIN IT, AND BY PERSEVERING PRODUCE A CROP." - LUKE 8:15

Pay close attention to the word, "retain."

Jesus is talking about how the ideal person responds to God's Word. He had just finished talking about how some people ignore it, some people hear it but don't really pay attention to it, and some people are OK with it for a while, but then lose interest.

These aren't really good examples of "retaining", are they?

But the last way of responding to God's Word is the right way. In faith, we're supposed to accept God's Word and retain it. The idea of "retaining" is cool. It paints the picture of someone wanting God's Word. Of someone holding on to it. Keeping it in. Really wanting it to find a home inside them.

How is your attitude toward God's Word? Do you retain His Word?

If not, what's standing in the way of you wanting God's Word more?

LESSON 2, DEVOTION 2

Here's an interesting question for you: When was the last time you had a meaningful time of reflection and worship through reading the Bible . . . alone?

When was the last time, without anyone asking you, or leading you, that you picked up the Bible and met God in its pages? For some of you, the answer is "a few days ago." That's awesome. But for others, the answer is "uhhhh . . . hmmm . . . maybe one time a few months ago?"

Here's a challenge. Make time today (and hopefully tomorrow) to pick up your Bible or open your Bible app and spend some with God. Read a few of the psalms, echoing the praise of the writers. Read John 15, Colossians 1, Romans 6, or any other of the awesome passages in the Bible.

Something is far better than nothing when you are first getting started!

Don't let another day go by without making time to draw just a little bit closer to God.

LESSON 2, DEVOTION 3

"I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." – Psalm 119:10-11

Can you say the same thing David says here? Can you honestly say that you seek God with all your heart? If you're like most people, you could say that sometimes. But what's keeping you from saying that all the time?

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How about your commitment to God's commands? David begged God not to let Him stray. What about you? How is your commitment to, as Paul says in Ephesians 5:1, "imitating God"?

Is God's Word hidden in you heart? If you never had access to a Bible again, would you be able to recall God's Word based solely on how well you know it? And are you studying the Bible so that your life will reflect God's own character?

It's a good thought to consider. Because you might find meaning for a little while somewhere or in someone besides Christ. But only Jesus provides meaning for a lifetime!

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