

Developing a Devotional Lifestyle

5

Wading into the Depths

Read Ezekiel 47:3-5

In this passage, the Lord uses picture language to describe the nature of our relationship with him. Ezekiel describes water that is:

- Ankle-deep
- Knee-deep
- Waist-deep
- Swim-deep

It is most comfortable paddling around at the edges of the river. There is not much of a current and we can go on about our lives with little challenge to our schedule or lifestyle. But as you spend time with the Lord, you will find that he will begin challenging you to launch out into the deeper waters with him.

Starting with our next lesson, we will be introducing a new format. Each morning study will contain two parts.

- A Devotional Reading
- A Bible Study

The Devotional Reading will be like the box at the bottom of this page. This is your focus for the day, setting the pace for your daily walk with the Lord.

The Bible Study will be a time set aside for in-depth study of God's Word. Not the study of *topics* in God's Word (which is the focus of the evening studies), but the study of God's Word itself – the strong current of its message, the white water rapids of its passion for God, the deep waters of its wisdom and revelation.

We encourage you to begin to wade into the depths with the Lord. The river of God beckons!

Morning Devotions

In your devotions this morning, read **Psalm 46**. As you read, talk to the Lord about the content of this psalm. When you have finished, go back and find one or two verses and meditate prayerfully on them.

MEMORY VERSE

The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

Isaiah 50:4

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verses:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!