



OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

September 10th, 2017

EMULATING MORNING PRAYER MENTORS

- Abraham (*Genesis 19:27*)
- Moses (*Exodus 34:4*)
- Job (*Job 1:5*)
- Hannah (*1 Samuel 1:19*)
- Jacob (*Genesis 28:18*)
- David (*Psalms 5:3; 57:7,8*)
- Jesus (*Mark 1:35*)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. - Mark 1:35 NIV

DEALING WITH DEVOTIONAL DILEMMAS

1. THE TRACK OF DISCIPLINE

I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself. - 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 MSG

- Go to bed on time.
- Get up immediately upon waking.
- Get rid of “nice but not necessary” thinking.
- Go to sleep with thoughts on Scripture.

Psalms 127:2, 3:5, 4:8; Proverbs 3:24

2. THE DESERT OF DRYNESS

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. - Psalm 63:1 NLT

I lift my hands to you in prayer. I thirst for you as parched land thirsts for rain. - Psalm 143:6 NLT

- Disobedience - The moral component
- Drained - The wellbeing component
- Driven - The peace component
- Daily Grind - The relationship component
- Dumb - The sharing component

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. - Galatians 6:9 NIV

3. THE CIRCUS OF DISTRACTION

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! ⁴² There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." - Luke 10:40-42 NLT

- Get Fully Awake - shower, splash water, exercise.
- Read and Pray Aloud.
- Walk While Praying.
- Keep a Notebook Handy - write down the thought that is distracting you and go back to devotional reading and prayer.

4. THE TEST OF DILIGENCE

¹⁹ So be diligent and turn from your indifference. ²⁰ Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. - Revelation 3:19-20 NLT

- Resolve to stay on target.
- Remember Jesus wants to meet with you.
- Ready your calendar.
- Ready yourself for an attack of excuses and guilt.
- Rely on God's Spirit.

¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. - Ephesians 3:16-17 NLT

MY NEXT STEP THIS WEEK...

- ☐ Memorize *John 5:23*.
- ☐ Commit my mornings to prayer so I can start my day right!
- ☐ Attend Crosswind Prayer Week - September 11-15th.
- ☐ Give my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.