

Jas26 –Meet God Daily Psalm 119:147

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Open your Bibles. Title of the message this morning, “Meet God Daily.” The key verse today is Psalm 119:147. I know, you thought we were going back to James. This is a preface to James. This message is a preface to what James deals with next message with both barrels. So, instead of me addressing this subject in James, and then taking another week to go back and explain it, I wanted to preface it for you so that you would be ready so when James deals with it next message you will understand what he is talking about.

This message, I want to talk about what I believe and (I think most people would agree with me,) what is probably the most powerful activity in a Christian life. We call them “spiritual disciplines.” This one is for me and for most people that I know the most powerful. It also happens to be most probably the most difficult for Christians to grasp and to begin practicing in their life. Isn’t that always the case? What is most powerful is also most difficult.

I want to talk again about the life changing transforming power of meeting God every day. Of personally meeting, interacting and relating with your living God every day. I know I have said it before, I know you’ve heard it before, the question today is – are you doing it? There’s nothing more powerful, there’s nothing more transforming in the life of a Christian than on purpose, dedicated meeting in real world discussion and interaction meeting with God every day. There is nothing more powerful in the Christian life than that. We have a hard time accepting that. We have even a harder time doing it and it shows. It shows in our walk, it shows in our witness and it shows in our warfare.

We are getting so easily taken out by the big three enemies. The big three enemies. The number one enemy that takes ninety-five percent of us out is the flesh. Satan doesn’t even have to deal with you. You’re such a sinner you will destroy your own life without his help. The number two enemy is the world. And the number three enemy is the demonic realm. All three of those enemies love the fact that you are not spending time daily with God because you’re weak. You’re weak, you’re defenseless, and you’re an easy target for the wolf to pick you off. Don’t be a sitting duck.

The best way to be permeated with the life and the power of God is to meet him every day. So I want to encourage you again in this message to do that.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father, please show us Lord. We all know it if we’ve been Christians for any time at all, we know to some extent we should read our Bibles and spend time with you every day. Lord, really, just crush that religious “to do list”

mentality and give us an overwhelming desire to meet with you. To sit with you, to interact with you, to know you daily. Please Lord inspire us to a real ever increasing, experiential knowledge, relational knowledge of you, GNOSKO, that we would say with Paul "that I may know you." We just want to know you Lord. Show us today how you desire to let us know you and for you to know us daily. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

We read scripture before every song today during worship. I really liked that a lot. We did that because we wanted you to see the power of scripture in worship. All worship is based on scripture. It should be, it better be. All prayer is based on scripture. Our lives as Christians should be founded on scripture, on God's Word. And then also, as our worship, as our prayer, as our life is based on God's Word it must be lit alive by the power of the Holy Spirit. By the continual presence and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Through God's Word, through prayer and through worship.

The problem is it's not natural. We don't do that by default. Do you realize, and if you don't realize then congratulations on just getting saved yesterday, that once you get saved your tendency is to go right back to acting like a sinner, just like the day before you were saved. You're natural tendency, now I know some of us were radically transformed. When I got saved I was living in a recording studio in Hollywood, and I just went home and called them and said I can never come back. My life is different. I had been saved three hours. And my life just radically transformed. And I know that happens, but listen. I was still a sinner, saved by the grace of God. And I had to learn to walk in the Spirit, to not satisfy the lusts of the flesh. I had to learn to fight the good fight, to know God, to experience him, to walk with him, to obey him. It's a learned thing. We call it "sanctification," and it's not earning your salvation, it is being set apart for God's use. It's being transformed. Romans 12:1-2. Write it down, read it and get to know those verses. That's what we're talking about, the foundation for the victory in the Christian life.

Listen, can I just tell you this? If you're looking for the magic fix, the magic recipe, for success in the Christian life, how can you be a vibrant, victorious, successful Christian? I'm telling you, have a real, personal, intimate meeting with God every day. That's it! "Oh, come on, there's got to be something else." Nope. There's not. *There's not.* Because the more time you spend with him the more he permeates your life. And the more he permeates your life the less sin permeates your life, the less *you* permeate your life. And then the more your thoughts become his thoughts and your actions are directed by him, the more that you spend time with him, the more he sets your path before you. All victory comes foundationally initially from just developing a daily relationship with a mighty

God. Meet God daily. That's the point of this message. That's when Christians are transformed.

Have you known those Christians who say they've been going to church for twenty years and you think, Funny, it doesn't show. If this has ever happened to you I'm sorry. "Wow, you're a Christian, I didn't know that! I couldn't tell. "

If you don't want to ever be told "Oh I didn't know you were a Christian," the way you see the living transformation victory in your life is by beginning to meet with God every day.

Here's how we define the goal of a quiet time. *The GOAL of creating a regular quiet time in our lives is for us to purposefully meet with God in such a way that his Word and his Spirit noticeably transform our lives.*

How many of you think that if Jesus Christ, the Creator of all that's been created, lives inside of you someone ought to be able to tell. Right? When the power of God really comes alive in you, it should show. And it does show. And you don't have to say, "How do I clean up my life? How do I look more religious? How do I do this? How do I do that?"

Just get to know Jesus better. Just permeate your life, be immersed in his presence – BAPTIZO – that immersion that brings on a permanent change. Be immersed in his presence. What's the first step to it? Meet him every day. Meet him every day in a way that changes you.

Twice, King David makes this commitment. Psalm 62:1-2.

Psalm 62:1–2 (ESV)

1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. - THAT is what Meeting God Daily - DOES

How is it that God has become your rock, David? How is it that he has become your salvation, your fortress? How is it that he is the one who causes you to not be moved? "Because my soul waits for God alone."

Because David met with God. His passion for the glory of God, which is what the story of David and Goliath is about, came from David meeting God regularly in the fields, in the shepherd fields.

Psalm 46 verse 10 says “*Be still, and know that I am God . . .*” You know when we sit down with people in the worst crisis there is only one thing we want them to know. God is with you. We don’t give them any superficial advice; we certainly don’t give them our opinion. We just want them to know, God is with you, God is here. You’re not alone. Wait on God, he is the answer. That is what meeting God is all about. Easier said than done, right? Why don’t we do this? I’ll tell you why – it’s because it’s hard. Because we live in the World. We live in the system of the World which causes us to be consumed by everything but God. It’s a battle. It’s a battle to meet God. Fight it. Fight it to meet God and win it, make the commitment.

There’s got to be a time, preferably daily, when you say “Right now I’m going to shut the world out and I’m going to meet with God. I’m going to talk to God. I haven’t talked to God today. If he’s my life, if he’s my salvation, if he’s my strength, if he’s my song, if he’s my provision, if he’s my rock, if he’s my defense, if he’s my strong tower, then how can I go through the day without talking to him? I’m going to stop right now and talk to God.”

We have to stop and shut out the world and say “Okay, right now I’ve got to meet God. I’ve got to spend some time with God. I’ve got to get alone with God. I have to have this time be real; I have to have a real, relational time with the Lord. I have to interact with God instead of with the world. I have to feed my spirit instead of my flesh.”

One of the key purposes of fasting is to recognize that feeding your spirit is more important than feeding your flesh. I know that’s a revelation to some of us, but it’s true. Consider Jesus in the wilderness. There’s a time we have got to spend with God, meeting him, talking to him. Relating to him. And that feeds us in a way that even if we turned rocks into bread it wouldn’t satisfy us because we don’t live on the things of this world. We don’t live on the things of the flesh. We live on every word that comes from God, right? We have to get our priorities right. We’ve got to fight to do this.

This is my only point this message, *we have to fight to have time quiet time with God.* I know it’s hard. But if we want to be transformed we’ll spend time with him and we will start seeing things differently and we will start responding and reacting to things differently. And suddenly we will understand that God is giving us the desires of our heart because of our trust in him, because of our relationship with him. And the desires of our heart are the ones that he has put there while we have spent great time with him.

The Psalmists had to fight to get to this point. Our key verse Psalm 119:147-148 says:

Psalm 119:147–148 (NLT)

147 I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your words.

148 I stay awake through the night, thinking about your promise.

All the heroes of the Bible have fought to spend time alone with God, to make sure that they were in that place with God. And when they weren't, God had his ways of helping them get there. He has his ways of helping us get there too, doesn't he? It's easier to spend time with God by choice than by chastisement or by circumstance. But God knows that it is worth it, whatever it takes to get you in that place where you're relating to him on a regular basis.

Jesus had to fight to be alone with the Father. Just like the Psalmist did, just like the heroes of the Bible did, and can you hear me please, just like we do. Jesus had to fight to be alone with the Father. In Luke Chapter 5 it says *huge crowds would gather to hear Jesus. But Jesus would withdraw to desolate places to pray.* We remind people gently, that the best thing we as leaders can do is spend regular time *not* meeting the needs of the church, but instead meeting our need for God. It's much more valuable and it's much more important.

In Mark 1:33 all of the crowds are at Peter's Mother-in-Law's house and the whole town was lined up there for Jesus to heal them of all kinds of diseases. But Mark 1:35 says:

Mark 1:35 says - (ESV)

35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Jesus routinely said no to the demands of the people so that he could say yes to the demands of the Father. *Jesus routinely said no to the demands of the people so that he could say yes to being alone with God.* He taught his disciples the very same thing; he constantly taught them to do the same thing. How much more do we need that? How much more? It's not a trite answer when you come to us saying you need this or that and we ask you how much time you are spending with God every morning. How often are you really going face-to-face with God? Tell me about the regimen you have of getting alone with God in a way that you can both hear from him and respond to him. You may say things are too tough to be doing that. But maybe things are tough because you are not doing that. I promise you it has that level of impact, that level of change.

So the first big hurdle is just getting Christians to believe this is necessary. Because, again, (most of you know this, I teach best with sarcasm and cynicism) most Christians believe their primary activity is to be served by either the church or by God. It's not.

Your primary activity is to be immersed in your relationship with God. Your personal relationship. That's why we fight so hard to not allow you to "spectate" here. Because that's a terrible thing. God doesn't want spectators. He has all of creation singing his glory. He doesn't need spectators. He wants participators. This is where it begins.

It's hard to make the commitment; it's hard to say yeah I need to do that. And then if you do, here's what Christians say: "I don't know what to do when I do have that alone time with God."

Can I just give you one mandatory requirement? Please listen carefully to this. The number one absolute without question requirement for your quiet time, your devotional time with God is you must use the Bible. *You must use the Bible*. I know "The Daily Bread" is easier to read. Listen, there's a place for "The Daily Bread" and other devotions like that. When you want to meet with God, you need his Word.

Here's is the problem. You realize that the Christian marketing machine operates like the world's marketing machine. Let's just be honest. The Christian publishers are in the business to sell you stuff, to make money. And so they are always pulling out these devotions because we want something light and simple, superficial and quick that we can read while we are texting and putting on our makeup and driving to work. So they sell these books, and we buy them by the millions and we make all these publishers so rich. But those books are not supernatural. They are not *God breathed*. They are not God's Word to you.

And I don't mean to slam them. Listen, most of those great Bible teachers don't write their own devotions. The publishers do. They hire editors and ghostwriters to pull stuff out of their books and create those things because they know they'll make a few million bucks on it. Stop it. Buy the Bible and meet God in his Word.

Only about the Bible is what the Psalmist says in Psalm 119:105.

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Only about the Bible does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say:

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man (& woman) of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 3

Only the Bible. I know I was a little hard on all those devotions, I am sorry. I am actually going to recommend a couple in just a minute, but the only ones I am going to recommend are the ones that are all scripture. So those ones are okay.

Listen, the Bible is a supernatural living communication. It is as Jesus is the LOGOS, the expression of God; the Word is the LOGOS, the communication of God. It's living and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword, that's what Hebrews 4:12 says. For the Word of God, not the devotional book.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

That's what you want. You want to say, "Okay God, go ahead." Here's the other thing. We can't be afraid of using the Word of God. Like, thinking, "I don't want something that's going to tell me that I shouldn't be doing what I'm doing. I want something that will encourage me."

Listen, what you need is to be transformed. And the Word of God will do that. *The Word of God will do it.* Don't be afraid. Don't be afraid of the Word of God. God loves you. You were already dead in your sins when Jesus Christ gave his life to save you. And there's nothing that can separate you from him. And if he gave he gave his life to save you when you were already dead, how much more so will he give you everything you need today. So, if the Word says something that stings a little, thank the Lord for it. You don't have to be afraid. That's the way we are transformed. That's the way transformation begins.

You have a High Priest (in Jesus) who knows all your struggles. Can I just tell you something? Jesus knows. *Jesus knows.* He knows. And he isn't shocked. And he doesn't love you any less. But it is a little odd when we think he doesn't know. And when we refuse to address the sin or the darkness in our lives with him because we think somehow he doesn't know. Let him know. He loves you. He's the High Priest that has been tempted with all that you've been tempted with yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

The point is you've got to go to the throne room. We have to get in to the throne room. We have to say, "Right now, I'm going in. In the righteousness of Christ, I'm going into the presence of God and I'm going to deal with the King."

Like Isaiah said, "Woe unto me for I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in a people of unclean lips." And the Seraphim says don't worry and he takes a coal from the altar and touches his lips, signifying cleaning and cleansing for Isaiah. Yes, you should go in with reverence and awe, but you should go in. "God I'm here to talk to you. God, I'm here to see you. I want to know what you say."

We need to have the commitment that King David had in Psalm 27:8 David says to the Lord:

Psalm 27:8 - (ESV)

8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

You've asked me to come into the throne room God, so I'm here. I'm here. Speak. Word of God speak. Do your work in me. The primary way that God has made for us to relate, for us to be transformed by him is through his Word, lit alive by the power of the Holy Spirit and then in the communion of prayer. Based on his Word, led by the Holy Spirit, as Romans 8:26 says, we can commune with the almighty, life changing eternal God.

We teach people to do this with a simple form called the "Daily Devotion Journal." You can find this at calvarynuevo.org or wordbymail.com under resources. You can also get it on the wordbymail phone app. Search wordbymail, no spaces in your app store, download the wordbymail phone app. This form is under resources.

We've been using this form since 2009. Because there was a time when we said we are either going to teach people how to follow Jesus or we are shutting this church down. The last thing we wanted to do was have another spectator environment. We said we are going to teach people how to follow Jesus or quit. And so this form came out of this, the question "What is our basic need to help people follow Jesus?" So this form came out of that. It's not magic. There's nothing special about the form. Most people after they get used to this form, move on to doing it themselves.

First it has a place for what Scripture you are reading. I'm going to tell you how to get scripture in a second.

Next it says Pray. Just slow down and pray. Get alone with God and pray.

Next, Meditate. Get a scripture, meditate on it. Just slow down. That's the biggest deal isn't it? Slow down, read that scripture, chew on it. To meditate means to mutter, to chew. Mutter to yourself, just chew on that scripture. About twenty or thirty minutes.

Then it says to write out phrases or sentences that stand out to you while you are meditating. I did this with Psalm 119:9-11 last night for you. So this is this verse in my words. I'm not applying it, or responding, I'm just writing out in my own words the text.

How can I keep my way pure Lord? By guarding all I do with your Word. With my whole heart I will seek you. Don't let me wander from your commandment. I've stored up your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Many of you will know that is almost verbatim in that scripture, those verses. But that is just the result of meditating on those verses.

But then once you get it in your mind, once you've really spent some time meditating on it, you've got to say, "So what? What now God? How does that apply to me? How does your living and active and powerful Word apply to me today? How does this apply to me personally, to my life today?"

Here's my answer on these three verses. I say, "*This is as big as it gets. Yet it's so simple. It's simple, but it's not easy. God has given me all I need to guide and direct my life by his Word and by his Spirit. All I have to do is apply it. Use it as a guard. Use it as a fence around my actions. Passing everything through God's Word. But to do that I have to stay in his Word. I have to spend the time with him in his Word finding what I need for direction and genuinely applying it to my actions by the power of the Holy Spirit and I have to do it daily.*"

That's the application. It's not Bible study, it's not preparing to study, it is personal. God this is what I need. I need to be so full of your Word that it builds a fence, a guard around my actions.

And then I need to respond. Do you know that if you are not responding to Jesus Christ, you have no relationship with Jesus Christ? Husbands, if you are not responding to your wives, you have no relationship with your wife. Same with your children, or anyone else that's meaningful to you. *No response, no relationship.* Same here horizontally, same vertically with God. "What's my response God, I hear you. I know what you're saying to me. I hear what you're saying, I apply it to my life, what am I going to do about it? *What am I going to do about it?*"

And so I wrote here, *“I’ll continue to spend time in his Word learning how to find what I need for specific issues. And just spending time with the Lord. (Which is really hard for preachers to just say, I’m not going to prepare a message, I’m just going to spend time with the Lord.) Listening to what he says and then responding to him.”*

And then at the end it says Pray. Write this scripture out as a prayer. I wish I had time to teach you about how to pray the scriptures. We do have a message on that in “The Fundamentals” series called “Praying According to God’s Word.” Get that message to learn how to pray the scripture. I will give you a couple of book references to help teach you that. But at the end of this Daily Devotion Journal is me writing these three verses out as a prayer. It’s the scripture written as a prayer.

I know most of you have heard it before. But I am going to keep saying it because I know the power it brings into the Christian life. Make yourself time for God, and then meditate on his Word, apply it specifically to your life and respond. Meditate on it, apply and respond to it and learn how to write it as a prayer.

I would like to say many have been dedicated to meeting the Lord each morning. We’re going to continue standing up here and saying we need to be doing that until there are many of us doing it, and many lives transformed. I will just tell you one thing. Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald’s makes you a hamburger. So stop thinking you’re a Christian because you’re sitting in church. Just stop it. You’re a Christian if you have a real relationship with Jesus Christ. A real two-way relationship where he speaks to you and you respond to him. Where he leads and guides you and you follow him. And that doesn’t happen in church, it happens out there in the real world.

The question is where do you get scripture? On the back of the devotion are instructions and on the bottom half are ways that we can help you do it. The website where you will find appropriate scriptures is calvarynuevo.org. You’ll find everything you need under the tab titled “Resources.” There is a phone app, [wordbymail](#), which you can find in your app store on your phone.

What we’ve done is compiled scriptures, here’s a list of the ones we’ve compiled. Anger, Anxiety, Comfort, Depression, Faith, Fear, Forgiveness, God’s Will, Holy Spirit, Hope, Lust, Overcome Addiction, Overcome Idolatry, Overcome Unbelief, Patience, Peace, Prayer, Repentance, Reviving Your Soul. Nineteen different topics to date. We’ve compiled scriptures by topic, and it gives you thirty to forty days to be immersed in the scripture on one topic. It will change your life. All you have to do is ask. Come back to

the connections center and ask. Call us and ask. E-mail us and ask. Ask and we'll help you.

There are a number of books that compile scripture by topic, call us or e-mail and we will get you those book names. There is one especially unique devotion book many of us have used called "Daily Light on the Daily Path" which uses the very words of scripture.

And then I just want to mention the power of praying scripture. We love to teach people how to pray God's Word and we would love to teach you. We have a message in "The Fundamentals" serried devoted to this. There are also two books I recommend that write out scripture as prayer for you.

#1) "Life Changing Moments with God" – by David Jeremiah

#2) "Praying God's Word" – by Beth Moore

I guarantee if you will create a daily, dedicated quiet time with God, and if you will learn to meditate on God's Word, especially focused on the same subject for thirty or more days, your life will be transformed. If you don't do it you will be the same that you are today for the rest of your life until you do it. You'll be the same that you are today until you start meeting Jesus Christ in a real, personal, relational way. Do that and it will radically change you.

Let's pray. *Heavenly Father, we just thank you for the exhortation that we're Christians because we have a relationship with you. You are our Lord because we actually follow you. Lord your life is in us because it actually changes us. It impacts us. We sense your hand upon us, we sense your leading, we know that you are guiding and directing, Lord. We pray God that we would be inspired, convicted, exhorted and encouraged to have a real meaningful relationship with you Lord; a relationship where we actually spend time with you. May we meet you daily, trusting that you'll transform us through your Living Word and by the power of your Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen.*