Alo05 - Devotional Prayer - 1 John 5:14-15

This is our <u>FIFTH Msg</u> in this <u>special</u> series – <u>Alone With God</u>
<u>ALL based</u> on our <u>Daily Devotion Journal</u>

Do you have a DDJ in your hands – if not – Pls Ask

I <u>said</u> at the <u>beginning</u> of this <u>series</u>
that this <u>Devotional Process</u> – <u>that</u> we <u>call the DDJ</u> →

is <u>the ONLY thing</u> I've ever seen be <u>100% EFFECTIVE</u> in <u>bringing True Transformation</u> into a Christian's life

There are other things (we call <u>Spiritual Disciplines</u>) I've <u>seen</u> work a <u>PERCENTAGE</u> of the Time - on a <u>PERCENTAGE</u> of the <u>people</u>

But I have NEVER seen ONE Person - Make this
Devotional Process a Regular Habit in their Lives - Over Time

& **NOT BE** Truly & **Significantly Transformed** by it

The <u>DDJ</u> is really just <u>3 primary steps</u> to Devotion <u>MEDITATE</u>, <u>APPLY</u>, <u>RESPOND</u>

& <u>ALL 3</u> of those <u>Primary Steps</u>

<u>Must be Done</u> in an <u>Attitude</u> of <u>PRAYER</u>

There is **<u>Dedicated Prayer</u>** at the **<u>Beginning</u>** to **<u>prepare you</u>** for your <u>time</u> with <u>God</u>

& There is **Dedicated Prayer** at the **End** to **conclude** your **time** with **God**

& <u>in the Middle</u> – this <u>entire time</u> with the Lord is <u>WRAPPED</u> - & <u>IMMERSED</u> in Prayer

So - Let's PRAY - & we'll talk about it

The **word COMMUNION** is **most often** the **Grk** word **KOINONIA**

The word refers to - A Deep *Relationship of SHARING* – of *Oneness* - of *Having in Common*

<u>The Verb KOINONEO</u> means –
A Relationship or a Sharing – IN COMMUNICATION

Prayer is KOINONEO

A **Sharing** (a Relationship) with God – **IN Communication**

This Communion (Sharing) with God - called Prayer It is the Conduit of our Relationship With God

Prayer is **WHERE** our **Relationship with God** - **EXISTS**

Before the Fall - Adam & Eve had Full Communion with God Sin Destroyed that Communion Jesus Christ Restored that Communion PRAYER is Practicing that Restored Communion

& it is that "Ongoing Communion" that "Koinonia with God" that Radically Transforms our Lives

THAT is what **'Devotional Prayer'** is **ALL About**

& Praying (in that Communion w/ God)

WITHIN our Devotional Time

Is one of The Most POWERFUL Ways - we can Pray

If we will learn to

<u>Pray to MEET God</u> – <u>Before</u> our <u>Devotional Time</u>

<u>Pray THRU-OUT</u> our <u>Devotional Time</u> – <u>In Communion</u> with God

<u>Pray to FINALIZE</u> our <u>Devotional Time</u> with God →

Then - <u>Over time</u> - We <u>will develop</u> One of The <u>Most Important Fundamentals</u> for the Christian life →

Which is - Aligning Our <u>HEARTS</u> - with the <u>Heart</u> of God & <u>Aligning</u> Our <u>WILL</u> with the <u>Will</u> of God . . .

1 John 5:14-15 (ESV)

14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that <u>if we ask anything according to his will</u> he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

One of the Most Powerful things in the Christian Life

Is KNOWING that you are ASKING for God's Will

& KNOWING that He will Bring HIS WILL to PASS in you life

All we have to do – is Know HOW
WE can get into ALIGNMENT with God's Will

& <u>Learning</u> to <u>Approach</u> the Word of God <u>The way</u> we've been <u>studying</u> in this series

WILL DO THAT for you

So – <u>I want</u> to go <u>thru</u> the <u>Daily Devotion Journal</u> <u>One more time</u> with you (for 5th week) →

SHOWING YOU what I mean by "WRAPPING" (Saturating) this entire time - in Prayer"

But <u>FIRST</u> – <u>Let</u> me <u>give you</u> some <u>Encouragement</u> <u>about</u> this <u>whole Process</u> – From <u>George Mueller</u>

George Mueller is known as one of the Mightiest Men of Prayer - In the last 200 years

He Financed the Care for over 10,000 orphans in total all thru Prayer & Faith Alone

& his <u>"SECRET" combination</u> of <u>Using God's Word</u> <u>in His Prayer</u> <u>Is a lesson</u> that's <u>been taught</u> a <u>Million times</u> (I'm sure)

Here is a quote from one of his books describing his approach to such powerful prayer

George Mueller

Now ... after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon His precious word, I begin to meditate on the word of God, searching, as it were, into every verse, to get blessing out of it.... The result I have found to be almost invariably is this; that after a very few minutes my soul has been led to confession, or to thanksgiving, or to intercession, or to supplication; so that, though I did not, as it were, give myself to prayer, but to meditation, yet it turned almost immediately more or less into prayer. When thus I have been for awhile . . . I go on to the next words or verse, turning all, as I go on, into prayer for myself or others, as the Word may lead to it.

Possibly the Mightiest Man of Prayer of the 1800's
Is describing (in essence) - what we are teaching in this series

That's because he helped me develop the DDJ years ago

Ok - Now . . . Let's go thru the DDJ One More time (& last time)

1ST – You PRAY to prepare yourself
You Pray to shut everything else out – to Get alone w/ God

You Pray to make your heart Ready to HEAR from God & more important – to RECEIVE what God is saying to you

THEN – As you **MEDITATE** on the scripture – **you're in** that **time** of **PRAYER-Communion** with God - **in His Word**

You're reading the Word slowly - You're Mulling it over →

& **you** are actually **COMMUNICATING with God in PRAYER according** to what you're **reading**

You're hearing from Him in His Word & you're "Working thru it" in PRAYER

& **THAT** is where your **Paraphrase** of the Scripture **comes from**

AS you writing out this Scripture in your own Words
It is the outcome of your Meditative Communion
With God - IN PRAYER

THEN - Your APPLICATION is your Inward Acknowledgement

of <u>what God</u> is <u>Specifically Pointing At</u> in your <u>life</u> . . .

<u>In-Line</u> with <u>this Scripture</u> - & <u>For THIS Time</u> in your <u>life</u>

& this <u>Inward Acknowledgement</u> is <u>accomplished</u> (Acknowledged) <u>IN PRAYER</u>

As you Interact with God – According to this Scripture
To HEAR what HE is saying to YOU – Personally – In it

THEN – Your RESPONSE is a Commitment to God – In PRAYER of what you are going to actually DO →

<u>about what</u> The <u>Holy Spirit</u> has <u>IMPRESSED on you</u>
<u>In-Line</u> with this <u>Scripture</u> - & <u>AT this time</u> in your <u>life</u>

Do you see how this **Entire time** with God is **IMMERSED** in an **Attitude of PRAYER**

So – it's **only fitting** that we **CLOSE this time** with the Lord – **WITH PRAYER**

& THAT is the LAST STEP on our Daily Devotion Journal

The <u>Journal Page</u> simply says <u>PRAY:</u>
Write your prayer to God in response to this scripture

& this prayer can take MANY Different Directions

But it NEEDS to be "IN RESPONSE" to what you've just gone thru with the Lord, in His Word

This <u>FINAL Prayer</u> is the <u>wrap-up</u> of your <u>Communion with the Lord</u> during this <u>Devotion Time</u>

You've HEARD from the Lord
In Your MEDIATION on His Word

You've **APPLIED** what the **Holy Spirit** has **Impressed on you**To **your life** – **Personally** & **Specifically**

You've committed to a **RESPONSE** of Action In **OBEDIENCE** to What **God** has **Shown** you

Now – What do you say to God about all that?

WHAT is in your HEART at this end of this Devotion Time
That you need to pour out to God in PRAYER?

Maybe Your INITIAL Prayer would be "Lord, SAVE ME!" - as Peter prayed in MAT 14:30

Or <u>Maybe</u>, "Holy Spirit Come Alongside me & HELP me"
As <u>Jesus Promised</u> the <u>Holy Spirit</u> would in <u>JOHN 14:16</u>

<u>Maybe</u> it's, "Lord, Transform me by the Renewing of my Mind with this truth you've given me today" – As <u>ROMANS 12:2</u> calls us to

That is ALL GOOD - & That is ALL according to Scripture

But – the Very BEST way we can Pray to Finish this Life Changing Devotion Time with God

Is to <u>WRITE OUT</u> a Prayer – that is <u>Kind of a SUMMARY</u> of <u>What</u> we've <u>experienced</u> – <u>during</u> this <u>time with God</u>

So – <u>Let's take a Look</u> <u>at one more</u> Completed <u>Daily Devotion Journal</u>

& <u>instead</u> of <u>focusing</u> on <u>ONE Section</u>
I'd like to move a little FASTER thru it \rightarrow

So <u>you can see</u> how the <u>entire process</u> <u>REINFORCES</u> the <u>THEME</u> of the <u>Scripture</u> - & <u>How it APPLIES</u> to my Life

& <u>Today</u> - I'd like to <u>start</u> with <u>reading the Scripture</u> then reading thru My DDJ on the Scripture

& I hope you can SENSE the "COMMUNION with God" in PRAYER - that permeates the entire Devotion

God is GENUINELY Speaking something Crucial to me here Something that I Genuinely Needed to hear – ON that Day

The Scripture is Psalm 29 - & the reason | picked Psalm 29 is because that day was the 29th of the month

So – **Let's start** with the **Scripture** (follow me thru it)

Psalm 29 (NLT) \rightarrow \rightarrow

Psalm 29 (NLT) 1 Honor the Lord, you heavenly beings; honor the Lord for his glory and strength. 2 Honor the Lord for the glory of his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. 3 The voice of the Lord echoes above the sea.

The God of glory thunders. The Lord thunders over the mighty sea. 4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. 5 The voice of the Lord splits the mighty cedars; the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He makes Lebanon's mountains skip like a calf; he makes Mount Hermon leap like a young wild ox. 7 The voice of the Lord strikes with bolts of lightning. 8 The voice of the Lord makes the barren wilderness quake; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the Lord twists mighty oaks and strips the forests bare. In his Temple everyone shouts, "Glory!" 10 The Lord rules over the floodwaters. The Lord reigns as king forever. 11 The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace.

Powerful Psalm, right?

Ok - Here is my MEDITATION

[VIDEO - IMAGE = 01-Psa29-DDJ]

& Here is my APPLICATION

[VIDEO – IMAGE = $\underline{02}$ -Psa29-DDJ]

& Here is my RESPONSE

[VIDEO – IMAGE = $\underline{03}$ -Psa29-DDJ]

& Here is my Closing PRAYER

[VIDEO – IMAGE = $\underline{04}$ -Psa29-DDJ]

Now – Here's the POINT

<u>Do you think</u> that <u>Psalm</u> was <u>SPEAKING</u>

<u>to something Personal</u> & <u>Specific</u> in <u>my life</u> on <u>that Day</u>?

(you better believe it was)

& Do you think God GAVE ME something that day to RENEW My Mind - & thereby cont to TRANSFORM My Life? (you better believe he did)

& Can you see how much BETTER this is than me just Rattling off my Laundry List of Prayer requests to God that morning?

This **kind of time** with **God Done** on a **Regular Basis**

Will Radically Change the way I Think, & the way I Live

NOT because I'm <u>Demanding</u> - <u>MY WILL</u> be <u>done in Heaven</u>
But <u>because</u> I'm <u>Praying</u> - <u>GOD'S WILL</u> be <u>done on Earth</u>

God's Word REVEALS GOD to Me & it REVEALS God's WILL to Me

& Knowing - WHO God IS

& Knowing - WHAT God's Will IS →

Will Radically change my life !!

& <u>STARTING</u> – <u>COVERING</u> - & <u>ENDING</u> this <u>Devotional Communion time</u> with the Lord

by PRAYING In-Line with God's Word →

<u>Will FORCE</u> God's <u>Will</u> <u>into</u> your <u>HEART</u> & <u>into</u> your <u>MIND</u>

- & <u>Ultimately</u> you will <u>REMOVE yourself</u> <u>from</u> the <u>Throne</u> of your life - & You'll <u>PUT Jesus Christ There</u>
- & Your SELF-Will Will be replaced
 With God's Good & Perfect Will . . .
- & your Life will be Transformed

As Romans 12:2 says (NLT)

2... let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

So - NEXT WEEK - In our LAST Msg in this Series

We're going to talk about HOW to FIND the Scripture
That you will use in your DDJ's

We'll talk about the <u>POWER of FOCUSING</u> Your <u>Devotion Time</u> On the SAME TOPIC for 30 days in a ROW

& <u>We'll talk</u> a little <u>bit</u> about <u>how</u>
<u>To Approach Scripture</u>

SO THAT you'll know you're
"IN THE SAME LANE" – (in the 'SAME GENERAL AREA")

As God's Originally Intended MEANING of the text

So – **STAY with me**

& <u>LEARN how</u> to have <u>POWERFUL</u> – <u>Life Changing</u> <u>Devotional Time</u> with the Lord

Let's Pray

Communion