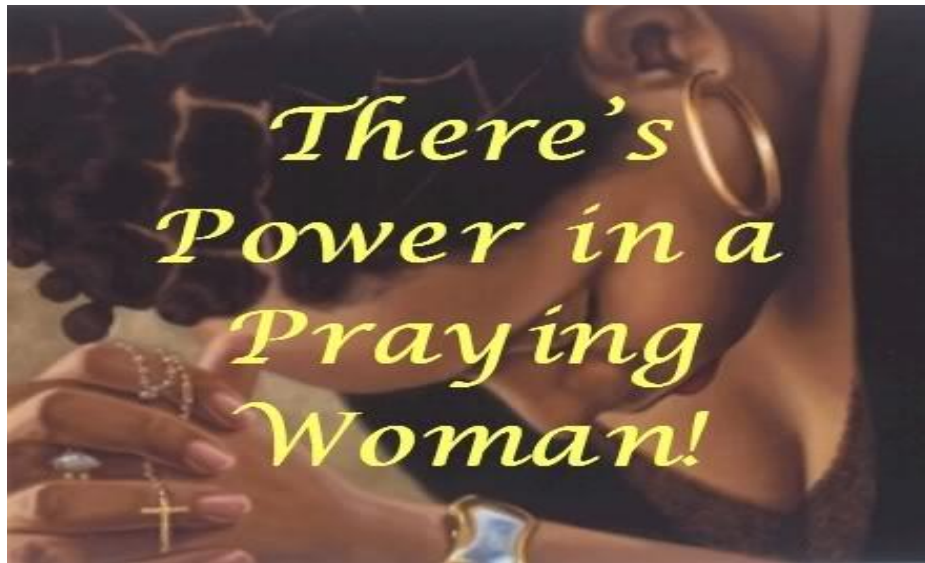


# Turning Point Mission Center

(A Holy Spirit & Truth Church)



**Women's Ministry presents**

## **"Living a Devoted Life"**

Matthew 18:19 "..., if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

**2010 Women's Prayer Breakfast**

**Sunday, May 23, 2010**

**8:00 a.m. thru 10:00 a.m.**

**Elder Michael F. Owen, Senior Pastor**

**1814 Shady Lane Drive**

**Jackson, MS 39204**

**601.372.1080 or 1.866.395.6873**

**[www.lighthousept.org](http://www.lighthousept.org)**

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## **"Living a Devoted Life"**

**2010 Women's Prayer Breakfast**

**Sunday, May 23, 2010**

Opening Song & Prayer ..... Sis. Tasha Hobson  
Scripture ..... Sis. Sadie Palmer  
Musical Selection..... Sis. Crystal Carter  
Prayer of Dedication..... Sis. Hope Cleveland  
Devotion to God ..... Pastor Arnette D. Owen  
Prayer of Dedication..... Sis. Tonya Blevins  
Devotion to Family ..... Deaconess Monica Surrell

### **Prayer Breakfast**

Prayer of Dedication..... Sis. Lamerica Thomas  
Devotion to Service..... Elder Minnie J. Brooks  
Prayer of Dedication..... Sis. Lee Kennedy  
Devotion to A Balanced-Life..... Mother Mary Gardner  
Pampering Yourself Sis. Rebecca Deering, MaryK Consultant  
Closing Remarks ..... Deaconess Monica Surrell  
Benediction ..... Pastor Arnette D. Owen

# DEVOTION TO GOD

By: Pastor Arnette D. Owen

**1 Corinthians 10:31** *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

What is the definition of devotion? **Committed love:** deep love and commitment; **dedication:** great dedication and loyalty; **enthusiasm:** strong enthusiasm and admiration for somebody or something; **religious fervor:** fervent religious or spiritual feeling; **act of devoting:** the act of devoting something or being devoted to a particular purpose. **Synonyms:** piety, devoutness, religious zeal, religious fervor, religious observance, dedication, consecration, commitment.

What does glorify mean? To worship or offer praise to a God. It also means to extol or to praise God.

There was a couple; the wife was devoted to her husband’s career. She sought opportunities to keep his name before the public and government officials as well as major investors, businessmen and developers. She constantly searched the internet and local publications to identify potential jobs, projects and speaking opportunities for her husband who was a highly-skilled engineer and acclaimed lecturer. She invested her time, skills, knowledge, influence and devoted significant resources to create briefings and talking papers for her husband to keep him abreast and on top of his game; she used all of her skills, attributes and resources to make sure her husband was

knowledgeable of the latest development in his field and had the most up-to-date information and technology available; she also made sure he was dressed appropriately, that is, his suit, shirt, socks, shoes and accessories all matched.

She religiously made tremendous calls to get his name on the guest lists of different social functions in the city and surrounding communities and national conferences. In addition she made sure her husband got various opportunities to pitch a bid on the different government contracts and meet with the decision-makers. She used her resources and influences to get her husband appointed to various boards and committees that would advance his career. She invested her entire life in taking great care of her husband by praising, encouraging, and nurturing him with the expressed purpose of making sure her husband was successful and had a great career. Everyone knew that she cared about her husband and would do anything within her power to promote and advance his career.

*Would you say that this wife was devoted to her husband's career?*

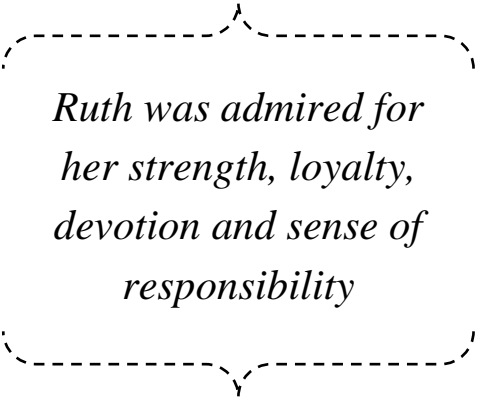
Another example of devotion is Ruth to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth replies “..., *Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried:...*” (**Ruth 1:16-17**). The scriptures illustrate the loyalty of Ruth to her mother-in-law. Devotion, love and concerns are reflected in Ruth's response. Our

devotion to God should exceed our loyalty, love, faithfulness and commitment to anyone or anything, in this world.

Ruth refused to leave her downcast mother-in-law despite the fact that there was nothing besides loyalty that bound Ruth to Naomi. She did not know what would become of Naomi if she were to leave her. Naomi was a widowed woman forced to leave her land at the death of her husband who did not have any family in that land. She had no children, no wealth, and she was reaching the age where she could no longer bear children. Essentially she was no viable use to anyone and would have been forced to become a member of the poor if Ruth had left her.

It is Ruth's loyalty and unswerving devotion to her mother-in-law which reflects the qualities and attributes of our devotion and loyalty to God. Everything we do should have a godly influence and tone so that everyone in our sphere can have the opportunity to see God's love and mind interwoven in our deeds, actions, thoughts and conduct of our affairs.

Ruth is praised for her devotion, loyalty, stamina and perseverance while working in the field. Ruth faced several challenges being a foreigner. For one, the Hebrew laws of slave ownership did not apply to her and if she weren't under the protection of the Lord, then she



*Ruth was admired for her strength, loyalty, devotion and sense of responsibility*

would have probably been someone's slave for many years. Also, were she not the wife of a native of Bethlehem then she would have found it very difficult to find another husband.

Ruth repeatedly demonstrated her loyalty to Naomi, her mother-in-law, by giving herself to the much older Boaz on Naomi's behalf to ensure that Naomi was cared for. God blessed her with a child for all her good deeds. Ruth's first child was a son named Obed. It was through this long line of succession, King David and Jesus Christ, our Most High King, came forth. God rewarded Naomi for all her tribulations in the form of her daughter-in-law Ruth, who was better than "seven sons". Ruth was admired for her strength, loyalty, devotion, and sense of responsibility at least in relation to her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Although God has created us in His image, we are still free moral souls; that is, we are given a choice to love, trust and obey God. God does not force His creation to love, trust, obey, and serve Him. Hence, "*devotion*" is a state of the mind or of the heart. So, once we come into the realization, that "*everything is dependent upon God for life*", we then recognize that He deserves our devotion; and our joy, happiness and fulfillment in this life, all rest in our passion, obedience and faith in God's wisdom, knowledge and riches. Therefore, devotion is that state of the will in which "*everything*"--our whole life, and being, and possessions, are a continual offering to God; i.e. are continually devoted to God. True devotion, that is, an individual act, or feeling, must, of necessity, be the supreme devotion of

***Devotion is a state of  
the mind  
or of the heart!***

the will, thereby extending to all we have and are--to all times, places, employments, thoughts, and feelings, for God's glory.

**1 Corinthians 10:31:** *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* In other words, everything we do must be to glorify God.

Devotion is that state of mind in which "all" our actions performed are done with a single purpose, that is, *to the glory of God*. Our whole life is a continual offering to God. Yes, we perform other duties during our vocation in this life, but everything we do is to be done in such a manner that it brings glory unto God and yields blessings to mankind. There should be no area in our lives that are off limit to God; and all our thoughts, actions, deeds or purpose are done to glorify God and amplify His name. Living a life that is devoted means that we are living a purpose driven life and seek to bless God through our living.

God is pleased when His children's life blesses Him and draws people to Him. In other words, others' lives are enriched and blessed as a result of being in the presence of those living a life devoted to God. God's Spirit is active in their lives and His love is manifested in all their dealings and interaction with others. A Christian that is living a devoted life actions, motives and word can be trusted by others and more importantly by God. A person living a devoted life can be

A person living a devoted life can be trusted to protect God's name and demonstrate His characters in their daily walk of life.

trusted to protect God's name and demonstrate His characters in their daily walk of life.

Devotion to God means that in our actions of our daily lives, we are worshiping God, even though we might not be in a church or religious setting. In other words, we have a singleness in our purpose, that is, endeavoring to promote God in everything we do and to everyone in our sphere.

As Christian women, if we are not truly living a life that is devoted, no matter whatever zeal we might manifest, if it is *not* to glorify God because we are converted, we are in danger of inevitably losing our souls. Yes, we might be devoted to our families, careers, religious works, etc., but if our duties and work performed are primarily to support our dreams, gain honor, recognition, obtain benefits or reach some other goal or aspiration, then we are fooling ourselves; when Jesus returns, we will fair no different than the wicked, eternal damnation will be our fate. Perhaps, you might faithfully read and study your Bible, or some other religious material, faithfully attend church functions and services; and even perform your duties in an exemplary manner, God is not pleased with unholy, selfish service.

**Job 34:21-22** *“For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.”* God knows your heart, so He knows if you are truly living a devoted life. He sees all things and reads your heart. There is no fooling God. You cannot out-smart God. Devotion to God

must permeate your life and become a way of life and control everything you do, say and think. Living a life that is devoted to God will enable you to be devoted to your family, devoted to serving others, as well as, devoted to yourself. A life that is devoted to God brings balance into your whole life and directs your pathway in life.

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”* Living a life devoted to God brings a deeper appreciation of God’s love and His mercy. Christian women living a life devoted to God experiences bountiful blessings and gifts which she uses everything within her to bring glory, honor and recognition to God’s kingdom. As we fall deeper in love with God and acknowledge that all we have belongs to Him, joy fills our hearts. It is awesome to know that God has faith in us and love us, thereby bestowing such marvelous gifts, equipping our minds with His knowledge and filling us with His Spirit to do exceeding and great work in His name. Therefore, living a life devoted to God is indicative of our actions, love, passion and faithfulness in whatever we do, it is done with our whole might with delight and joy unto God.

**Romans 12:2** *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Living a devoted life in God outweighs anything this world can offer. When God is the center of our existence, He lives in our hearts and it is a delight to live for Him and through Him. Our

lives are enriched and truly blessed because Jesus dwells within our hearts and controls our actions – thoughts, deeds, desires, and will. We no longer desire to do our own things, because our minds have been transformed and we now have the mind of Christ Jesus working in us.

There are great benefits and joy in living a devoted life, especially one that is devoted to God and basking in His joy. **Psalms 28:7** *“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”* Living a life devoted to God is filled with peace in God and His divine protection and knowledge. God gives those who trust Him the strength to face life’s challenges and injustice. No matter what we face or find our hands to do, we should do it to the glory of God with meekness, power, and joy.

Bear it in mind that no particular acts, or fervor, or gushings of emotion, or resolutions, or purposes of amendment, or of future obedience, are devotion. But devotion is that state of the will in which the mind is swallowed up in God, as the object of supreme affection, in which we not only live and move in God, but for God. In other words, devotion is that state of mind in which the attention is diverted from self, and self-seeking, and is directed to God; the thoughts, and purposes, and desires, and affections, and emotions, all hanging upon, and devoted to him. Living a life devoted to God flows to every area of our lives and shapes our perspective and actions. There is nothing we seek to do without consulting God because our whole purpose is to please Him and glorify His Holy name.

## **Several mistakes commonly believed to be “Devotion to God”**

1. **Colossians 3:17, 23** *"And whatsoever ye do, in word, or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him; and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."*

Many imagine that there is a real distinction between devotion and other duties, as if a person could be doing their duty without regards to devotion to God. The duties of devotion are generally supposed to be closet and family prayer, reading the scriptures, together with singing and praying in the public exercises of God's house. These are called the devotional parts of worship, while the preaching and hearing are called less devotional. On the day of worship (Sabbath) “Christian” people imagine themselves to be devotional, while on the weekdays, excepting in those few acts which they call religious duties, they are serving themselves, and are supremely devoted to their own interests.

God is not pleased; hence all such ideas as these arise out of the total absence of true devotion; individuals who entertain such views have not yet understood what true religion is.--Nothing should be performed that is not done to the glory of God. A person that is truly converted, by the Holy Spirit, is as truly devotional in their daily business, as on God’s Holy Sabbath. The business of the world is performed by a Christian in the same spirit, and with the same design as she prays and reads her Bible, and attends the worship of God on the Sabbath. If this is not the case, she is not living a devoted life to God.

2. Some Christians, who seem to do all for God, and are manifestly in a devotional state of mind, do not, after all, seem to realize that every act devoted to God is as acceptable as prayer or praise. If, by necessary duties, they are kept from spending much time in their closets or doing those spiritual things you enjoy, do not be deceived by Satan. Yes, Satan seeks to take advantage of your ignorance by bringing you into bondage. He endeavors to persuade you that you are neglecting your duties to God by attending to other godly things. Christians who are living a life devoted to God should understand that if the providence of God confines you at home to nurse the sick, or prevent you from observing those hours of secret prayer which you sincerely desire to observe, you are not to be brought into bondage by Satan making you feel guilty, if these other duties are performed for God.

**3. Romans 6:13** *"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."* Others are sincere in their devotion, but limit their thinking to certain duties, i.e. that a person may pray sincerely, and from the right motives, and yet be worldly in the transaction of business matters. This is not pleasing to God for we are to yield all our members, faculties and attributes as instruments of righteousness unto God. Devotion to God cannot be sincere any further than it annihilates selfishness. Devotion and selfishness are eternal opposites.

4. It is a very common idea that we are to be more devotional at times and in certain places, i.e. more religious, on the Sabbath, in church or in secret and social prayer, than at other times and in other things. But God's word shows that whatever we do--whether we eat or drink--at all times--in all places--and in all things--we are to do all for the glory of God, that is, we are to extol and worship Him.

5. Many mistake the release of emotion for that of the will or heart to be spiritual and devotion. This is manifest in the individual's life. Many commonly witness the overwhelming release of their emotions through their weeping, shouting or even an apparent break down of a changed person. They promise reformation and entire consecration to God, but seemly trade with them the very next day, and if you were to carefully observe them, you will find them supremely selfish. In other words, they are *not* devoted to God, but to their own interest even to the point of taking advantage of others to benefit themselves.

6. Many mistake the consecration and devotion of the creative mind for that of the heart. Such individuals can write poems, preach powerfully, innovative sermons, or even write religious articles --they can talk, and pray, and preach, and exercise any degree of zeal in the cause of religion, and yet meet them on any ground where the deep foundations of their hearts are developed, and you find they will be supremely selfish. It is all dependent on the state of mind and consecration to God by absolutely surrendering one's will and mind to God.

7. Many expect devotion without faith in God. This is naturally impossible. The mind cannot be devoted to God without trusting and obeying the true and living God. **Hebrews 11:6** *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

8. Another common mistake believed is that an individual can be devoted without a hope, and may consecrate their whole being to God, while she thinks nothing of her own salvation. Faith must be combined with hope in the expectation of salvation according to God’s word.

9. Many do not distinguish between that naked faith in the simple truth, which invariably produces devotion, and their ever varying states of emotion, which they are prone to call religion. Simple faith in the character of God, as revealed in the Bible, naturally and necessarily leads to a spirit of consecration to God. However, there can be various emotions, without any true godly devotion.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# DEVOTION TO THE FAMILY

By Deaconess Monica Surrell

According to ancient Israel tradition, there were four units of society, descending in size: the tribe, which functioned as a single unit; the clan, a loose association of extended families living in the same area and having common ancestors; the family household, which extended family members often lived in adjoining homes acknowledging rights and duties in relation to other members (Leviticus 25:25, 47-49; Jeremiah 32:6-15); and the nuclear family, consisting of parents and unmarried children.

There were two spheres of influence within the family: women's, and men's. The two groups listened to each other's opinions, but maintained separate powers within their separate spheres. Ideally, neither group dominated the other (1 Tim 2:12).

The women's sphere was the household and everything that related to it (Titus 2:5). A woman made the decisions within her household. Women performed tasks together, gave each other support and help, and had their own stories, jokes and entertainment (Proverbs 31:20,26).

The matriarch was the woman within the central family with the highest social standing, and she received the greatest respect. She was responsible for the well-being of all the members of

the clan, and was expected to oversee all the tasks mentioned in Proverbs 31. She made the day-to-day rules for the clan and resolved disputes between women. The women of the central family shared in the status of the matriarch and supported her in her duties and responsibilities.

There were various grades of status, and married women might be wives or concubines. A concubine was a secondary wife, or a wife without dowry, and therefore of lower status than a wife. She had fewer legal rights than a wife who had brought bride-money into the family (Genesis 21:10).

Women were considered as those who molded and shaped the future. They were responsible for overseeing religious celebrations and traditions and supervising children's education. Proverbs 31 lists attributes of the role women play in a godly home: made clothes and tents for sale and for the family, was an ambassador and physical representation of her Lord and her husband by dressing herself well and attractively, kept herself physically and mentally fit, served as the first teacher to her children by giving them religious instruction, gathered food and assembled the overall diet of the household, oversaw the family business and administered finances, bought and invested in property, cared for the poor and widowed, organized chores for the household, oversaw the emotional and physical well-being of all in her household, and was always available to serve those in her family and community.

Although many society experts believe that the roles of women are subjective, the bible states that women have many primary and projective roles in the family. Men are commanded by God to be the "breadwinner," and many may find this as a contradiction in scripture. But if we examine the Word of God, we will see that God's original plan for the family unit consisted of not one, but two. Genesis 1:27-28 says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over ...every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Genesis 2:18 states: "And the Lord God ... (made) a *help meet* for (man)."

**Psalms 128:3** *"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table."*

The mother, wife and teacher of the family all are symbolized by a fruitful vine. She is loyal to her family; just like the nutrients flow through the vine and provides life to the plant, the mother, wife and teacher is the strength, stabilizer and connector for the family. A godly woman spends much time in prayer and laboring for her family. She is concerned and committed to supporting, loving, and encouraging her husband while at the same time she is equally committed to supporting, nurturing, motivating and developing her children. She is skilled in family finance, parenting, coaching, teaching, physical and spiritual food nutrition, communication and loving kindness.

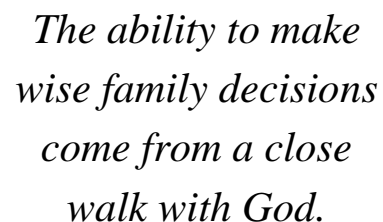
When her husband comes home and has been beaten up by the world, she is there to offer encouragement, support, understanding and motivation to help heal him and boost his belief in himself; that is he can success in spite of what he may be feeling! On the other hand, when the children are afraid, confused or just do not know what to do, the mother comes and brings comfort, relief, and hope to the child's heart. Just like the olive plants are considered among earth's choicest fruits, so a noble, loving and strong wife and dutiful children are the greatest gifts that a man can have here on earth.

A godly woman blesses her family with her skills, dedication and passion. She is loyal and dependable to her family. When her children do not know what to do, she becomes the psychiatry, or when her husband just looked all over the house, so he says, and can't find his checkbook, cell phone or perhaps his business report, then the mother comes and put her hand directly on the missing items. Amazingly, she has the strengths to labor continuously and wisely for her family. She knows how to stretch the dollar and still acquire a quality product while at the same time meeting the family needs and tactfully getting everyone what they need when the need it.

*A godly woman blesses her family with her skills, dedication and passion.*

**Psalms 52:8** *“But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.”*

The ability to make wise family decisions come from a close walk with God. Thus, the mother, virtuous woman, wife, teacher and queen of the family cause the family to flourish like a green tree and bear much fruit. The husband is blessed and the children are well behaved and blessed through her love and devotion. Her family trusts her wisdom, love, passion and dedication to know that some way and somehow, their *queen* will come through for them no matter what! That is, whatever they are facing, they know that they can count on mom, the queen, to make it happen. They have confidence in her ability to make things happen and do them in such a way that it seem effortless, and just a nature thing.



*The ability to make  
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**Psalms 144:12** *“That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:”*

A godly woman that is devoted to her family greatly blesses her family and leads them to walk in God’s prosperity. The queen of the family is devoted to the spiritual health of her family. She diligently studies God’s Holy Word and prays for spiritual understanding and boldness to live a devoted life to God and her family. She faithfully labors to plant the Word of God in her children recognizing that she is their teacher and her home is their first school. She is dedicated to ensure that her home is a palace where her sons are noble and her daughters are like princesses. She is devoted to training and rearing her children in the beauty of God’s character.

**Proverbs 31:27** *“She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.”*

This virtuous woman blesses her family through the richness of her dedication to their happiness and well-being; she uses her strength and honor to instill dignity, respect and faithfulness in her children by her precepts and examples. She gives them a smile when their heart is hurting; she gives them love when they need love, support and understanding the most. She also disciplines her children, with love, because she understands that she has a godly responsibility to rear her children for God. She is devoted to teach her children obedience because she knows that the home is their first school. She seeks to ensure that her children obey their parents so that they will learn to trust and obey God.

A godly women devoted to her family is committed to doing whatever it takes, in God, to bless her home through her life of consecration and service. As a virtuous women and queen of her home she uses all of her God given talents, skills and energy to make sure that her home is well managed and the needs of her family are met.

She does not spend her time in gossip and idleness, but rather uses her kindness and tact to bring joy into the home. The mother, a virtuous women, plays a vital role in the family. Contrary to some beliefs, her role is not limited to cleaning and cooking for her family. She helps to determine how the duties of the household are carried out. For example, Eve, the first mother, was not only the first to reproduce, but she also the first

to work alongside her husband tending to the fields, cooking and feeding the children, and teaching them right from wrong and instilling spiritual principles (Gen. 4:3-4) in them. Also, Sarah, Abraham's wife, was not only the wife of Abraham and bearer of Isaac. She also was the decision maker of who made up the household and the order of chores and responsibilities of those in the household (Gen. 16:2-3, 6).

A trustworthy woman (Prov. 31:11) was one who worked diligently (v. 13), and was wise in dealing with money and establishing and protecting property and the family's inheritance (1 Sam. 25:23-42). Titus and Proverbs admonishes women to be managers of the home and instill good and strong work ethic in their children. Rizpah embodied godly devotion by showing responsibility for protecting the name and honor of her children and those entrusted to her (2 Sam. 21:8-10). Zipporah was a prime example of protecting her child as well. Although she did not fully understand the process of God's covenant with His people, she was still obedient and protected her son's reputation and performed the ceremony of circumcision. A godly woman also has foresight when it comes to matters of the home. She is one who thinks ahead so that she may see problems to come and be prepared with solutions. The home is her first church. It is her royal throne where she not only serves, but she also protects, nurtures, nourishes and builds that it may itself serve as a place of growth, refuge and restoration.

**Here are some Characteristics/Attributes of a Godly  
Woman devoted to her family:**

- Trustworthy (Proverbs 31:11)
- Works diligently (Proverbs 31:13)
- Strength and dignity comes from her reverence for God (Proverbs 31:30)
- Wise in dealing with money, caring for others and encouraging and leading others (Proverbs 31:16, 20; 26)
- Protector of honor and loyal to children (2 Samuel 21:8-10)
- Temperate (Titus 2:4)
- Home managers (Titus 2:5; Proverbs 31:27)
- Respectful, loves and devoted to own husband (Titus 2:4-5)
  - Teach and encourage righteous living in their children (Proverbs 31:1-9)
  - Example of strong work ethic for their children (Proverbs 31:13-16,19,24)
- Willing and able to work with husband in ministry (Acts 18:18-26)
- Submissive to God's will through her husband's leadership (Ephesians 5:22-24,33)
- Constantly in prayer for family and others (Psalm 32:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Dedicates her children for service to the Lord (I Samuel 1:27-28)
- Has favor from the Lord (Proverbs 18:22)
- Practical; makes wise decisions and judgments (Proverbs 19:14)
- Slow to argue; has a spirit of meekness (Proverbs 25:24)



# DEVOTION TO SERVICE

By: Elder Minnie J. Brooks

**Romans 12:1** *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

Devotion means profound dedication, being totally committed to serve; Consecration; being set aside for purpose from a common to a sacred use with loyalty, and integrity surrendering oneself to a particular cause in the service of the Lord.

For example, *“a devotion to service”* is recorded in Numbers 25 describing those things which were devoted to the service of God. All the things willingly offered by the children of Israel towards the construction of the tabernacle were of this character. The offering of the princes recorded in Numbers 7 is also spoken of as "dedicating," and the material given *willingly* by the people was doubtless of this character too. As handed to Moses it was at once devoted to the service of God. No one would have attempted to reclaim anything so given; it was irrevocably given up to the service of God. With this in mind let us look again at Romans 12 and verse 1.

**Romans 12:1-2** *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by*

*the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

Paul, entreated the Romans as his brethren to give themselves wholly to the service of God. God's riches of divine mercy should move us into reverence, and obedience to the service of God. We have called attention to the fact of the children of Israel dedicating certain materials to the service of God, but here we go beyond certain *things*, and are faced with the fact that it is *ourselves* we are to dedicate, not merely that which we possess. It follows that if we dedicate ourselves to God all that we possess will be at His disposal also.

How can we repay such wonderful gifts? Our first duty is to search the scriptures to see what would make our Father happy? **Proverbs 23:26** provides the answer for us: "*My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*" **Romans 12:1** elaborates on this: "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*"

The phrase "present your bodies" includes not only a primary presentation of ourselves in full consecration, but implies a continuation of the living sacrifice to the completion of our work. In our original vow of consecration we offered our all to the Lord and his service: **all our time, our talents, our ambitions, and our fondest hopes and desires.** We must lay all (whole body) on the altar. Since our sacrifice is a living sacrifice (ourselves,) there is a constant tendency for it to get up and try to **regain our own will** but we have covenanted to keep

the sacrifice bound to the altar. **This is an hourly and a daily struggle.**

Every morning we present ourselves afresh to the Lord and ask his blessing that we may discern His will for us; therefore, it is a constant surrender of self-will and a daily waving of our offering before the Lord. It is not a grievous matter with us, but rather our daily delight, just as it was for our forerunner and example, Jesus Christ. Jesus put Himself willingly on the line for man-kind when He offered Himself as our living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God. Philippians 2:8 declares and being fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death on the cross. If we appreciate that which has reached us through the mercies of God, we shall yield ourselves and all that we have in willing service to God. **This is true *dedication*. It to be absolute, and without any reserve.**

*Every morning we present ourselves afresh to the Lord and ask his blessing that we may discern His will for us. Constant surrender of self-will and daily service!*

**Whatever is devoted to God must be characteristically holy.** One who is set apart for the services of God. Be ye holy, for I am holy. The word says, we are holy because we are the temple of God. 1 Cor. 3:17. According to Ephesians 1:4 God has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before Him in love. God is looking for holy vessels that are dedicated for His use alone, because the work of God is holy. We have been bought with a price – the infinite precious blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore,

we now belong to God. We no longer belong even to ourselves. We have been “separated” for God’s use alone. Something that is “holy” is reserved and can be used only for that dedicated purpose.

**God expects us to worship Him as an expression of reverence and thanksgiving to Him.** But God wants even more than that. God also expects us to be obedient to Him. He wants not only for us to love Him; He wants us to act justly towards each other, to show love and compassion to others. In this way, we present ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him. This glorifies God and it is our “reasonable service.” When we worship with an obedient heart and an open and repentant spirit, God is glorified, Christians are purified, the church is edified and the lost are evangelized. These are all the elements of true worship.

According to Galatians 6:10 devotion to service means that we do good unto all men as we have opportunity, especially unto the household of faith; that our love for the Lord, for the **brethren**, for our **families** and sympathetically for the **world of mankind**, will increasingly fill our hearts as we grow in grace, knowledge and obedience to the Divine Word of God.

**Devotion to service also means denying self.** Matthew 20:26-28 declares But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And *whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:* Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. Jesus denied

Himself to save the lost. This very example should be exemplified in our lives in giving of ourselves for the sake of others; doing good; being rich in good works; ready to give with cheerfulness; willing to communicate, and to take of every opportunity to serve according to the need.

If God has done so much for us, and so values us that He has done this to secure us for Himself, then ought we not in everything to devote ourselves to Him for His service today? It should be our *reasonable service* to give God our best of service. *It seems the least that we could do for one who has so loved us is to serve him in His prescribed way!* To do less is to really not appreciate what Christ has done for us! We could go further and say in view of what we know about sacrifice, we ought to give God our best. *Our attitude should not be what is the least I can do but what is the most I can do!* What is the best I can give? **Our reasonable service of WORSHIP!**

*When we worship with an obedient heart and an open, repentant spirit, God is glorified.*

Is our life in Christ the center point of our existence? Then this will be our sacrifice of thanksgiving. From one standpoint, doing these things will be a sacrifice—a sacrifice of time, money and cherished ambitions, because now there will be neither time or means for them. But from another standpoint it will be our great joy in this life, because the Lord promises us: "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Prov. 10:22). Is our lofty goal the completion of the race course and are we bending our all to win the great





# DEVOTED TO A BALANCED-LIFE

By: Mother Mary Gardner

When problems threaten to engulf us we must do what believers have always done, turn to the Lord for encouragement and solace (comfort). **Psalms 46:1** *“God is our refuge and strength and ever present help in trouble.”*

God walks with us, when things are really, really threaten, He scoops us up in His arms or simply sits with us in silent strength until we cannot avoid the awesome recognition that yes even now He is here.

Women of every generation have experienced adversity. This generation is certainly no different. But today’s women face challenges that previous generations could scarcely imagined. Thankfully although the world continues to change God’s love remain constant. And, He remains ready to comfort us and strengthen us whenever we turn to Him. **Psalms 147:3** *“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”* God has a plan, He will heal us. Not just our bodies, but our mind, body and spirit. **Psalms 34:18** *“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*

We as women are faced with issues about health, finances, relationships, families, jobs and countless other challenges of life. When you think of all that must be done on a daily basis, and you know what has to be done, but how to keep from becoming overwhelmed and maintain balance? God has a plan! **Joshua 1:8** “*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*”

*Since my body is God's temple, I will take good care of my body by getting the proper rest, nutrition and*

There has to be balance between the four most important areas: psychological, social, spiritual and physical. God indeed has a plan. **Proverbs 3:6** “*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*” There has to be psychological balance between the mind, will and emotions. **James 3:16-18** “*For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*”

We need physical balance in our lives – rest, exercise, work and recreation. It is important that you take time to praise God in the midst of the different tasks and activities to help refocus

your mind if you are stressed. Exercise could be as simple as should rolls. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Don't forget to pray! Don't forget to play. **Proverbs 17:22** *“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”*

The balance between family vs friends; believers vs non-believers, family is next after our relationship with God. Even though we should have some time to do something that you enjoy, we still must be balance in everything we do. Even something good, pleasurable and wholesome, temperance must be maintained. Just because you like doing it; family connection shouldn't slack because of friendships with non-family members.

In our socialization we come in contact with many different people; certainly not all are believers, but all are still God's people. Ministers will always take us to the treaded waters. **Ephesians 4:1-3** *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

Our spiritual life has to be balanced with prayer, adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. We need balance between worship (intake) and work-ministry (output). If your output exceeds your intake, then your upkeep will be your downfall. There should be balance between rest, exercise, work, and recreation. Social balance, family and friend

balance believer, non-believers. There is an area where moderation should not be considered, “The love of God”! It should be first and foremost. **Matthew 6:33** “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

There are seven first and foremost areas:

1. The Love of God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength;
2. Wholeheartedness – whatever the task may be, we are to do it with our whole heart to the glory of God;
3. Listening and speaking – be quick to listen (hear) and slow to speak;
4. Confidence in God – everything God does is worthy of our trust.
5. Commitment to God – in all our ways, we should trust and acknowledge God. He shall direct our path.
6. Communion with God – apart from God, we can do nothing. He is all-knowing, all-powerful and ever-present, so we can't fail resting in Him.
7. Discipleship – if we are not willing to give up all we have, we can't be Christ's disciple.

While we understand that no one will ever achieve perfect balance in this life time, but we do understand the biblical principle and seek to follow the examples of Jesus Christ in the way He matured and developed as a man. Jesus lean and depended upon His Father through regular prayer and obey His commands. **Luke 2:52** “*And Jesus increased in wisdom and*

*stature, and in favour with God and man.”* If we follow Jesus’ example, we will become better adjusted, more well-rounded and enjoy the kind of life that John describes in John 10:10b.

Jesus said, **John 10:10** “...*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*” Are you so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good, or are you so earthly minded that you are no heavenly good? If so, you are off balance.

**James 1:5a** “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally...” For the Lord give wisdom out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

In closing, for healthy, balanced living take these essential principles with you:

1. Offering and asking forgiveness – Ephesians 4:32; Acts 24:16
2. Living a joy filled life – John 10:10b and 15:11
3. Healthy and loving relationships – John 13:34, 35; Romans 12:16
4. Personal spiritual well-being – 3 John 2
5. Developing a faith/grace-based self-concept – Romans 12:3; 2 Corinthians 5:7
6. Discovering God’s purpose for your life – 2 Corinthians 5:15

**Devotion to A Balance-Life!**

How to Live a Biblically Balanced Life: By Dr. Steven C. Riser

**Texts: Luke 2:52** *“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”*

Philippians 4:5a (KJV) *“Let all men know your moderation.”*

## **Introduction**

Are you so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good? Are you so earthly minded that you are no heavenly good? If so, then your spiritual life is out of balance.

In this article we want to consider the need for and the importance of living a balanced Christian life. The road to becoming a healthy person isn't easy. It's not the road *“more traveled,”* but it's the road *“less traveled”!* It's not easy, but it's more than worth it!

What do you think is the most common New Year's resolution? That's right – lose weight! Did it ever occur to you that maybe we have the cart before the horse? Instead of focusing on the negative results of unhealthy practices, perhaps it would be better to focus on the causes of becoming a healthy person? For example: If we had the proper nutrition, adequate rest and regular exercise, we probably wouldn't have a weight problem in the first place. Losing weight could be seen as the result of practicing the principles which promote highly healthy individuals.

We need to personalize and apply this principle of living a balanced life because, the more specific we are about our destination, the more likely we'll arrive where we want to go. We're a work in progress and God isn't finished with us yet (Eph. 2:10). To get the most out of this article, you'll need to set goals and make plans to put this biblical principle into practice in order to live a more healthy and balanced Christian lifestyle.

Whom do you trust to define what constitutes a highly healthy individual? While all truth is God's truth wherever it's found, the Scripture is the final authority for health and wholeness. Christ is: 1) the Second Adam, 2) the sinless/perfect man and 3) we're to follow His personal example.

How do you define a healthy individual? What does the Bible say about it? Luke 2:52 says: Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. Jesus grew: 1) psychologically, 2) physically, 3) spiritually and 4) socially. Jesus grew in relation to: 1) Himself, 2) God the Father and 3) others. Simply put: Healthy people function as God has designed and intended them to function.

In the Bible, health is viewed as completeness or wholeness. It's only when individuals are in good physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual condition that they can be said to be balanced and healthy. Consider the following two rhetorical questions: Can you be mentally, emotionally and socially healthy without being spiritually healthy? Can you

function the way God intends without being rightly related to Jesus Christ? No!

The Bible uses several terms to describe a highly healthy person:

1) Old Testament: *Shalom* – peace, which means may you experience all of God’s blessings.

2) New Testament: *Rapha* – describes the process of healing and God is the healer.

3) Jesus is described as the great physician (balm in Gilead) who heals our sin-sick souls.

4) Solomon connects our emotion health to our physical health. “*A cheerful heart is a good medicine*” (Prov. 17:22a). On other hand, guilt over wrong doing adversely affects our physical, spiritual, relational and emotional health.

5) The apostle John links our overall well-being to our spiritual vitality: *I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well* (3 John 2). A healthy person results in a healthy lifestyle and healthy relationships with God, him/her self and others.

6) The biblical view of health can be summed up in the word: *blessed*.

7) The “blessed life” is described by David in the Psalms and Jesus by in the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-12).

How do you know if your life is out of balance? Here’s a very simple way to identify imbalance: if we love anyone or anything more than God our lives are out of balance.

## **Why is biblical balance so important in the Christian life?**

1) Biblical truth pushed too far in either direction can become a heresy.

2) Anything displacing God's rightful place in our lives can become an idol. Even things that are good in themselves can become idolatrous – including spouse and children if we love them more than God. One way to think about your overall health is by using the analogy of an automobile. Cars have four wheels and it is important that they be properly balanced for a smooth ride. If the tires are unbalanced and you increase your speed, the ride will be very rough!

What do these four wheels represent? 1) Psychological, 2) Physical, 3) Social and 4) Spiritual dimensions of living. One way to increase your balance is to find your most deflated tire and expand or grow it. God is not so just concerned with your “*soul*”; He's concerned with every aspect of your being which includes the following:

1) Physical: Proper Rest, Nutrition, Activity (Work, Exercise and Recreation)

2) Psychological: Mental (Truthful), Emotional (Loving), Volitional (Obedient)

3) Relational: Family (spouse, children), Friends (including church), and Co-Workers.

4) Spiritual: Trusting and obeying God, knowing Christ and making Him known.

Maintaining a healthy, biblical balance is a lifelong challenge (involving negative consequences) and a life enhancing task (involving positive results). We also need to be aware of the twin dangers of: 1) extremism in one hand and 2) over-reaction on the other!

Extremism, caused by a lack of biblical balance, involves the tendency of some to go to extremes with what one believes or practices or teaches others. It is very much the problem of the Pharisees in Jesus' time. One of their stated goals was to live the letter of the law to very best of their ability. But this religious extremism caused them to become unbalanced and displeasing to God. Let's not think that this danger is insignificant or one with which only the Pharisees struggled. It is a problem for some people today.

Look at what Jesus said to the Pharisees in Matthew 23:23-24 and Matthew 23:27-28:

**Matthew 23:23-24** – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”*

**Matthew 23:27-28** – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear*

*righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”*

We use words like the radical right and the ultra left to describe the two extremes: These aren't always useful terms, for there's no solid accepted definition to go by. Usually we define these terms: liberals and conservatives based on our own subjective and personal perspective. Someone who is looser than we are is liberal: someone who is stricter than we are is conservative. The fact is that, "*You can fall off the log on either end,*" so beware of the two extremes.

Evangelical Christians try not to be so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good and not so earthly minded that they are no heavenly good. They are progressive in that there is always room for improvement and they want to improve. They are conservative in that that they want change based upon the true and unchanging values in God's Word. Change not rooted in or consistent with God's Word is not change for the better!

We need to be less concerned with what others think and more concerned with what God thinks. If God's position on something is conservative, that needs to be our position, regardless of where others stand. If God's position on something is liberal, that needs to be my position, regardless of where others stand. We need to be open to the idea that both extremes: the radical right and ultra left may both be wrong. We need to balance the whole Word and will of God, rather than over-emphasizing one aspect of it.

Extremism is frequently the root cause of both 1) false doctrine and 2) discord and division, therefore, let's beware of the potential dangers involved.

Over-reaction is similar to extremism, except here we're talking about how people react to things and not just how they act on their own accord. 1. Over-reactions come in response to something that someone else does. 2. Over-reactions often come in the guise of repairing a false teaching or division.

Repairing a false doctrine: If a Church promoted a works oriented salvation, it's possible to over-react and advocate "*cheap grace*" – a faith that is not preceded by repentance or followed by fruit, obviously both of these approaches are wrong.

Repairing discord or division: In an effort to promote unity, some have decided that it doesn't matter about doctrine. If truth matters, doctrine (teaching) matters! If a parent is too permissive in discipline, the other parent may over react by becoming too strict.

Balance is the key, with our eye always fixed on the Word and will of God, determined to know and practice those things that are both: true and loving. Balance keeps things in perspective: Let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. I am indebted to my mother in helping me to see the importance of balance. She used to say to me, "*All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.*"

## **What are some of the areas in which we need balance in our lives?**

1. First of all, we need balance between the different dimensions of our lives: a) Psychological, b) Social, c) Spiritual, d) Physical and e) Vocational.
2. We need psychological balance between the: Mind, Will and Emotions
3. We need balance in our physical lives: Rest, Exercise, Work and Recreation.
4. We need balance socially: family vs. friends; believers vs. unbelievers, etc.
5. We need balance in Christian doctrine: a truth pushed too far is heresy.
6. We need balance in our intake of God's Word.
7. We need balanced prayer: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication
8. We need balance in Christian discipleship: being a disciple and making disciples.
9. We need balance between worship (intake) and work – ministry (output). *“If your output exceeds your intake, then your up keep will be your down fall.”*
10. We need balance between biblically faithfulness and cultural relevance.

## **What are some of the areas in which we should not be moderate or balanced?**

1. Love God first and foremost: with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.
2. Zeal for the things of God – Never flag in zeal – maintain your spiritual fervor.
3. Wholeheartedness – Whatever your task, do it for God with all your heart.
4. Listen and speaking – be quick to hear and slow to speak.
5. Confidence in God – everything God does is worthy of our trust.
6. Commitment to God – in all your ways trust and acknowledge God.
7. Communion with God – apart from Christ we can do nothing.
8. Discipleship – if we don't give up all we have we can't be Christ's disciple.
9. Hatred of sin – Proverbs says that the fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.
10. Our pursuit of wisdom – Proverbs says, above all else, get wisdom!

We all know the importance of being proactive in preventing disease, don't we? The secret to becoming and staying healthy is: preventing "*disease*" or could we say, "*dis-ease*": 1) in body (physical); 2) in mind (mental/emotional/ volitional); 3) in spirit; and 4) in our relationships as much as possible.

If we're living a highly healthy life, we'll be too "blessed" to be too stressed or depressed. While genes are important, our

**daily lifestyle decisions** are more important (cf. appendix). Some scientists say in determining longevity: lifestyle is 80% and genes are only 20%.

What we're saying here is that, in large measure, we determine our own destiny as far as becoming and remaining a highly healthy person. Furthermore, the Bible teaches that we have a sacred duty to be pro-active about our own self-care. God says: our bodies are the temple of the Spirit and we need to honor God in our bodies. God wants us to be as healthy as possible but "*health*" must not become an idol.

### **What questions do we need to consider in becoming more balanced and healthy?**

1. What is my weakest health link?
2. What health principles do I need to learn and implement?
3. What rules am I breaking that I need to follow?
4. When am I going to start in becoming healthier?
5. What strategies will ensure my success?
6. Where is my life the most out of balance?
7. What is the single most important step that I can take right now?

By beginning with a single strategic step and continuing to improve on a daily basis, you'll be on your way to becoming a healthy and biblical balanced person. One helpful place to begin is to evaluate where you are right now. You can use the internet to take a worldview test or a lifestyle profile. Just as a car needs an oil change, you may need a check up from the

neck up. There are many different areas that affect our overall health.

**Here are just a few of the most essential principles for healthy living:**

1. Offering and asking forgiveness – Ephesians 4:32; Acts 24:16
2. Living a joy filled life –John 10:10b and 15:11
3. Healthy and loving relationships – John 13:34, 35; Romans 12:16
4. Personal spiritual well-being – 3 John 2
5. Developing a faith/grace-based self-concept – Romans 12:3; 2 Corinthians 5:7
6. Discovering God’s purpose for your life – 2 Corinthians 5:15

Just as a Church needs to be committed to becoming as healthy and balanced as possible, so does the Christian. We all aspire to be both biblical faithful and culturally relevant. We don’t want to be so heavenly minded we are no earthly good and... We don’t want to be so earthly minded that we are no heavenly good.

While no one ever achieves perfect balance in this life time, as we understand this biblical principle and seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ in the way He matured and developed (In wisdom and stature and favor with God and man – Luke 2:52) we’ll become better adjusted, more well-rounded and

enjoy the kind of life that John described in: John 10:10b, “*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*”

## **Appendix: Daily Dozen Decisions for Devoted and Balanced Disciples**

1. **Attitude:** I will choose and display Christ like attitudes daily. *I choose to have a PMA – a positive mental attitude and positively impact others rather than having a DRA – a dirty rotten attitude and negatively impact others.* (Phil. 2:5)

2. **Priorities:** I will determine and act upon biblical priorities daily. *I will prioritize my life and give focus and energy to those things that give the highest return for the kingdom of God.* (Matt. 6: 33)

3. **Health:** I will learn and follow healthy guidelines for daily living. *Since my body is God’s temple, I will take good care of my body by getting the proper rest, nutrition and exercise needed.* (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

4. **Family:** I will communicate and care for my spouse/children daily. *I will adopt a family based definition of success: “When those closest to me love and respect me the most.”* (Josh. 24:15b)

5. **Thinking:** I will practice and develop good (godly) thinking daily. *I will seek to cultivate the mind of Christ by thinking God’s thoughts after Him and by bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. I will think on things that*

*add value to myself and others. (Phil. 2:5; Isa. 55:8-9; 2 Cor. 10:5)*

**6. Commitment:** I will make and keep proper commitments daily. *I will commit myself to following through on what I believe God wants me to do. I will not live by human impulse but by the clear guidance of God's Word illuminated by God's Spirit. By the grace of God I will keep on keeping on. (Matt. 9:29b)*

**7. Finances:** I will make money ethically and biblically manage money daily. *I will earn money ethically, manage it biblically and share it generously. I will not make money my god, but I will learn to fear the Lord by offering to Him a tithe of my income. I will get out of debt and stay out of debt and be a faithful steward of all I give and all I spend.*

**8. Faith:** I will deepen and live out a vital Christian faith daily. *Since I can't please God without faith, by God's grace, I will trust Christ as my Savior/Lord and I will deepen and live out my faith daily.*

**9. Relationships:** I will initiate/invest in loving relationships daily. *Since we are relational beings, I will initiate and invest in establishing healthy relationships with others on a daily basis. (Prov. 18:24)*

**10. Generosity:** I will plan for and model a generous spirit daily. *In response to God's grace, I will live to give. I will plan for and model generous giving daily by giving of my substance/self as God directs.*

11. **Values:** I will embrace and practice biblical values daily. *Since life is not a dress rehearsal and I only live once, “I will embrace biblical values and practice them daily.”* (Eccl. 12:13-14)

12. **Growth:** I will make daily progress in the sanctification process. *Since I never out grow my need to grow, “I will develop and follow a personal growth plan for my life.”* (2 Pet. 3:18)

May God give us wisdom in our daily decision making and may He give us the desire and power to grow and develop in a way that is pleasing to Him.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Turning Point Mission Center Women's Ministry

Expresses our deepest gratitude for your support

Your presence has truly blessed our Annual Women's Prayer Breakfast. Thank you so much for coming, uniting in faith and tapping into the divine power of God through prayer.

May God's richest blessings rest upon you and your family as you seek to live a "*devoted life*"!