

So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

Acts 16:5

Store In My Heart

Psalm 103:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

One of the common themes among the Psalms is the offering of praise to God.

How often do you offer praise to the Creator? We often talk of the need to thank God, but do we consider the offering of praise as something we ought to do? Many of our songs are songs of praise and adoration. Singing a song of praise in worship is certainly something we should do, but let us also offer such praise as we go about our daily activities. We ought to honor and praise God continually.

Everyday we enjoy the blessings of a loving, merciful God. He has provided all we need for life and eternity. Joyful exaltation is one way in which we can show God our love and devotion. It certainly is deserved by our God.



First Things First

Zeke Flores

Every morning, I used to get up, shower, brew some coffee, check e-mail, surf Facebook, check the news, and do my daily Bible reading. Because I'm a creature of habit, I used to do those things in the same order every day.

I used to.

I still do the same things, but I've changed the order up a bit. Now, after I pour my coffee and BEFORE I check e-mail, surf Facebook, and check the news, I do my daily Bible reading. I made a decision some time ago that instead of engaging in secular pursuits first thing in the morning, I would practice a spiritual discipline and the benefit has been enormous.

Seeking a spiritual mind-set before I tackle any other chore has helped me to form an outlook for the day that enables a better perspective for everything that follows. You see, every day we have choices to make that will somehow shape our day. Some are pretty mundane but have some bearing on the rest of the day. What we wear, what we eat, the route we take to work will in some way, however small, affect us. What we choose to fill our minds with first thing in the morning will also affect us. If we choose intellectual "junk food" we can be sure that we'll be shaped somehow by it as the day wears on. Whether it's political squabbling on social media, news of community unrest on TV, or some task that needs attention, it will affect our mood and even

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach will get a heart monitor put in Tuesday.

Adene Gray has not felt well this past week.

Annette Gray had a mild case of shingles last week.

Tonight we start in 2Kings 13.

Wednesday we will start in Hebrews 9.

We only have about two months till our Gospel Meeting with Jared Hagan. Some announcements should be available by next weekend.

Start praying for our upcoming meeting.

our interaction with others. Our attitudes will be affected and when attitudes are shaped for the day, they affect others. But if we choose a spiritual discipline, such as prayer or Bible reading, to start our day, the concepts embedded by those disciplines will also help shape our day...for the better. Taking time at the beginning of a day, no matter how busy and chaotic it promises to be, helps us catch a breath, think on higher things, and builds a trust in God to help us through whatever the day brings.

So, tomorrow, after you rise and even if you have to get up a few minutes earlier to do it, begin the day with a spiritual discipline. Then do it again the next day, and the next day, and the day after that. Soon, you'll have built a habit that begins the day with the noblest of pursuits. First things first. Facebook can wait until later.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." -Jesus, **Matthew 6:33**

(I have always been more of an evening person than a morning person. Because of this most of the reading that I have done was late in the day or even at night. Closing my day with reading of Scripture was always a calming thing and reading at any time will bring benefit. Over the years though, I kept hearing advice such as Brother Flores gives in the above article. Several years ago I changed my habits a little and started doing at least part of my Bible reading first thing in the morning. It would be great if I could tell you that every day since that time has been easier and gone just as I expected. Of course we all know that does not happen in this world. I can honestly tell you though that my outlook for each day is better. I am a little more focused on the teaching and principles of Scripture as I start the day and that helps keep me on track with my spiritual life.

Starting your day with God, His Word and prayer will give you a positive and spiritual focus as you walk out into the world. Whether you are dealing with people, feeding animals, operating equipment or just walking through your property, such a focus is certain to help you get through the day better. So take a few minutes each morning to read God's Word. He will reward. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!