

YOUR WEEKLY WALK DEVOTION: Apr. 15-21, 2024

Weekly e-mail devotion based on the sermons of the previous week and other select scriptures. These devotions are provided to help you in your walk with the Lord.

A few years ago, I took the Book of Proverbs and wrote a short leadership encouragement based on one verse from each chapter of Proverbs. For the month of April, I am going to share these leadership encouragements with you through the Book of Proverbs. Sunday's devotion, while focused on a verse from the morning's sermon, will have a leadership tip based on that verse as well.

While you may not think of yourself as a leader, the truth is, all of us are leaders of some sort. Whether you are working in a secular job, or trying to manage your home, or are a student or single, all of us are leaders. We lead through our lives and in our homes, and as well, learn to be led by God. I will also share a leadership quote for the week.

For the month of April, this daily walk with the Lord is based on four daily actions:

1. **READING** God's Word.
2. **THINKING** about God's Word.
3. **PRAYING** God's Word.
4. **LEADER LIGHT**: leadership insights to apply based on God's Word.

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. (Eph. 4.11)

It is the vision of Bethel Baptist Church to be the life of Christ in the world through every ministry it is involved with, through every member who is part of the Bethel family of faith, and through every method it uses to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world.

Leadership quote for the week: "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best." (St. Jerome)

Monday, Apr. 15

READ: Prov. 15.22: Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.

THINK: The word of the God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit are two of the wisest counselors we will ever have. To ignore them is to walk in ignorance. Then with the godly counsel of a few Christians whom we trust, our decisions will more than likely please the Lord and we will find success.

PRAY: Father, help me to seek and follow the direction of Your Holy Spirit with faced with making decisions.

Leader Light: Leaders are decision makers. Leaders gather all the information they can on an issue, review the information they have, and make their decision. Leaders stick with their decisions unless added information becomes known later than would have altered that decision. Decisions must also not be delayed. Failure to act or failure to decide when necessary is failure; others are counting on the leader to act and give direction.

Tuesday, Apr. 16

READ: Prov. 16.12: It is an abomination for kings to commit wicked acts, for a throne is established on righteousness.

THINK: All elected officials need to give this verse of scripture thoughtful consideration. There is no authority but that of God, and all authority is God-given. God allows people to attain positions of authority for His purposes, and to do evil and wicked acts in that position is to pervert the will of God. God lifts and God can bring down (ACTS 12.21-23). All through the Proverbs we learn there is our way and there is God's direction. When we let the Lord lead, when we rely on the counsel of the Holy Spirit we will never go wrong.

PRAY: Lord help me to understand I am where I am because of Your divine purpose; help me honor You where I am.

Leader Light: Anyone in a position of authority or leadership is there because God put them there. When a leader uses his position for evil, he has misrepresented the God who put Him there and has brought shame and disrespect on the character of the Lord. We all are to reflect the character of our heavenly Father. When our leadership is based on truth and righteousness, then God is honored, and the leader shows he understands who gave him that authority in the first place.

Wednesday, Apr. 17

READ: *PROV. 17.9: He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.*

THINK: First, God's word tells us we have an obligation to call other Christians on their sin, in private, if we have first-hand knowledge of it. Correction must be done in love with the goal of reconciliation and not judgment because we can sin just as easily as they did. Second, even when we know of sin, we are not to gossip about it, that does not honor God and only causes dissension and division in the body of Christ.

Prov. 10.12 tells us this same truth. If we, as children of God, are more focused on loving one another in Christ we will be focused on reconciliation and restoration, or preserving the unity of the spirit, rather than allowing rumors to spread or being the cause of division.

PRAY: *Lord help me to live for unity and restoration in the church.*

Leader Light: Leaders have a responsibility to preserve unity and to work for unity. Leaders must confront when necessary but always with the goal of restoration and respect. Leaders must work hard to weed out rumors and their origins.

Wednesdays @ Bethel: the family place to be!

6:00 p.m.: family meal

6:40 p.m.: Elevate Kids

7:00 p.m.: Bible studies for men, women, youth, and co-ed

We are running our bus between the church and Vandalia. If you need a ride, please call the church no later than 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday, Apr. 18

READ: *PROV. 18.15: The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

THINK: The Holy Spirit of God gives us knowledge, insight, and guidance on how to live the Christian life. Wisdom is knowing how to live God's way, and how can we know apart from the counsel of His Spirit? Every day we, I, need to be praying for wisdom, for which direction to turn, and which direction to go, because apart from God, we are just lost.

PRAY: *Lord fill me with Your Spirit daily with wisdom, understanding, and common sense to do Your will.*

Leader Light: Leaders are readers, and leaders are learners. When you stop reading and stop learning you stop growing. One leadership expert has said, "When you are finished learning, you are finished!" God has so designed us to learn from His wisdom. The wise leader is the one who, with humility (v. 12) knows he needs to learn and is not too proud to be taught. Leaders who do not grow become ineffective as leaders.

Friday, Apr. 19

READ: *PROV. 19.5: A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will not escape.*

THINK: This same truth is repeated in v. 9 with the last line reading, "and he who tells lies will perish." God is the God of truth, which means there is nothing false in Him. And so should His children be, children of truth, children of integrity.

PRAY: *Lord thank You that You are the God of truth; help me to live as a person of truth.*

Leader Light: Leaders must be people of truth and integrity. If you are known for dealing with people honestly, for holding confidences, and having your word as your bond, you will be respected and trusted as a leader, the kind that honors God.

Saturday, Apr. 20

READ: *PROV. 20.13: Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes and you will be satisfied with food.*

THINK: Jesus taught that He had come to bring us, “life, and life abundantly” (John 10.10b). Jesus did not die on the cross and be raised on the third day so that we, as His church, would work ourselves to exhaustion simply because something had to be done. Jesus came to bring us a relationship of ‘being’ and not ‘doing.’ When we focus on being salt and light (Matt. 5.13-14), when we focus on sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning (Luke 10.38-42), then we will be in a better position to serve as God has designed us to serve.

PRAY: *Lord help me to lead others as I learn from You.*

Leader Light: Laziness and leadership do not go together. Leaders must be out front leading, learning, showing the way. The leader who leads with “open eyes” is the leader that knows there is always something to be done, something to be learned, a lesson to be taught, or a prospective leader to be mentored. If the leader is spending time at the feet of Jesus, the leader is better equipped to lead others. There is a time for rest and there is a time to lead. The wise leader allows God to show him the way and he will know what to do.

Sunday, Apr. 21

READ: *John 17.4: I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.*

THINK: Jesus came with the purpose of fulfilling the will of God on earth. Jesus would not allow Himself to go to the cross until everything that God had given Him to do was done. Then and only then would Jesus allow Himself to be arrested, tried, and crucified. Jesus left nothing out of all that God had given Him to do. In the accomplishment of God’s will, Jesus brought honor to God because God’s work and plan is perfect, and in accomplishing that will and plan, Jesus brought about honor and glory to God.

PRAY: *Lord thank You for Jesus who came to fulfill Your perfect plan for the benefit of sinful man.*

Leader Light: Leaders must learn the art of balance. On the one hand, leaders have jobs, goals, visions, etc., they want to accomplish or fulfill. Effective leaders are focused on accomplishing those goals for the good of the company or church or ministry. On the other hand, leaders are involved in helping people succeed in their jobs, in helping them mature in their spiritual growth. Wise leaders also understand that people are more important than programs. Leaders who learn the balance between the meeting/accomplishment of goals and the development of those they lead are the leaders who become great blessings for the ministry, church, or business.

Sunday schedule:

9:00 a.m.: Donut and coffee fellowship, Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m.: Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m.: morning worship

2:00 p.m.: Worship service at Brookstone Assisted Living

6:00 p.m.: Evening worship, children, and youth Bible studies.