



260
*Appointments
With God*

**Hebrew
(Daily Devotion)**

260 DAILY DEVOTION SCHEDULE

(FEB.-MAR. 2012)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2/19	2/20 Phm 1	2/21 Heb 1	2/22 Heb 2	2/23 Heb 3	2/24 Heb 4	2/25
2/26	2/27 Heb 5	2/28 Heb 6	2/29 Heb 7	3/1 Heb 8	3/2 Heb 9	3/3
3/4	3/5 Heb 10	3/6 Heb 11	3/7 Heb 12	3/8 Heb 13	3/9 1Tim 1	3/10
3/11	3/12 1Tim 2	3/13 1Tim 3	3/14 1Tim 4	3/15 1Tim 5	3/16 1Tim 6	3/17
3/18	3/19 2Tim 1	3/20 2Tim 2	3/21 2Tim 3	3/22 2Tim 4	3/23 1Pet 1	3/24
3/25	3/26 1Pet 2	3/27 1Pet 3	3/28 1Pet 4	3/29 1Pet 5	3/30 2Pet 1	3/31

Daily Devotional now available online:
www.peoplesgospelchurch.org/devotional/

260 Appointments With God

Walk through the New Testament in One Year

QUIET TIME - QT 5 x 5

WHAT IS QT 5 x 5?

QT – Quiet Time with God

5 Days of devotion each Week. Use the other two days for make-up or Scripture Meditation:

When you have QT, you spend:

- **5** minutes to quiet down, then read the passage slowly,
- **5** minutes to think over the passage asking the Holy Spirit to show me the relationship between the passage read and my present situation, as well as appropriate response.
- **5** minutes to pray and journaling.

Check this on How to have a devotional time?
www.discipleshiptools.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=36981

5 SHORT PRAYERS:

Throughout the day, you pray one or more of these 5 prayers:

- God, I belong to you.
- Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.
- Lord, save me.
- Father, I thank you.
- Lord, I love you.

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

If possible, read the whole chapter to see the full picture of what is happening here. Then focus on the following section.

INTO THE DAY

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
I didn't have time to pray.

Troubles just tumbled about me
And heavier came each task.
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered,
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I tried to come into God's presence,
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"Why child, you didn't knock."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on grey and bleak,
I called on the Lord for the reason—
He said "You didn't seek."

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

<http://www.stmarksversailles.org/activities/prayer.html>

CHAPTER 1

¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

MEDITATION

1. Read these few verses a few times. Become familiar with the words and try to memorize it.
2. Spend time meditating on the passage. If possible, stand in front of a mirror and see my own reflection in the mirror. How incredible it is that Jesus is to be like a mirror to reflect God's image to the world! Then consider the monumental act of holding everything together. He is indeed the backbone of human history! Is my knowledge of God different from what is described here?
3. Stand in front of the mirror and look at my own reflection again. And ask God for the courage and guidance to help me mirror Jesus to the world, reflecting him as I go about every day.
4. Consider how I might reflect Jesus today – and do it.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

Stay with God for a little longer. Continue to converse with God and listen to what he wants to tell me. Then write down any thought and/or prayer in the "Spiritual Journal" book.

CHAPTER 2

6But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?

7You made him a little lower than the angels;
you crowned him with glory and honor

8 and put everything under his feet.”

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. 9But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

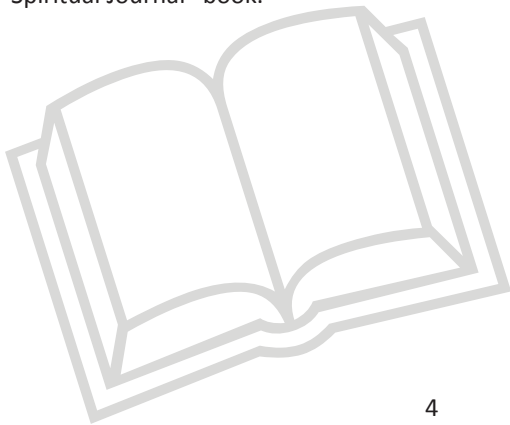
10In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

MEDITATION

1. Read the passage aloud once.
2. Then read the passage again slowly. What words or phrases capture my attention the most? Pause for a moment and ask God to help me understand them and continue to meditate on them. Why do I think those words or phrases fascinate me? Are they related to what is going on in my life right now – feelings, circumstances, decisions, etc.?
3. Pray that I will be continually fascinated by God’s glory, honour and majesty.

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CHAPTER 3

7So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, 8do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, 9where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. 10That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways. 11So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ “

12See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. 15As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

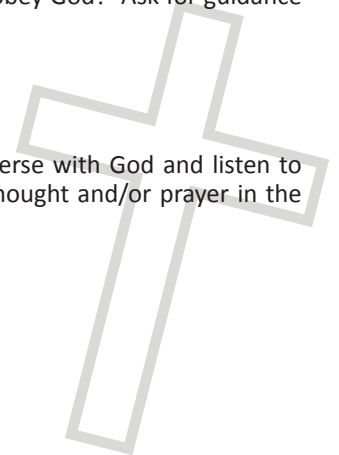
16Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? 18And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

MEDITATION

1. These verses warn against two enemies of the spiritual life: a hardened heart (v8) and unbelief(v12). The Exodus generation heard God’s word through Moses. However, they would not trust God and refused to obey Him. As a result, they found neither rest nor peace.
2. This is the same with us today. When we heard and responded to the message of Jesus, we are invited to experience a rest and complete inner peace. However, if we are not willing to trust God completely and refuse to respond his God’s voice, then we will not experience this peace of God.
3. Quiet before the Lord and reflect: Am I saved yet miserable? Do I believe God but still anxious? Have I repented yet unresolved? Could it be that I have hardened my heart, and am unwilling to obey God? Ask for guidance and a willing spirit to trust and obey God.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 4

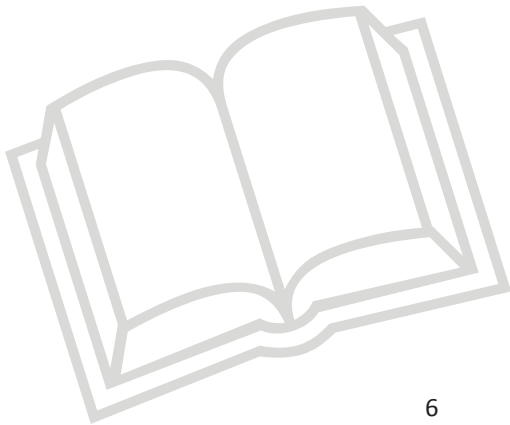
10for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. 11Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. 12For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

MEDITATION

1. Most of us believe that God's word is important. But if we are honest, reading the Bible sometimes feels like a chore – less than enjoyable. Now, think about how important the Scripture is to me. What if I were unable to read or hear anything from the Bible for a year? Would I miss it? Why or why not? What does "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight" mean to me? In what ways have I experienced God's Word to be precise and powerful, "sharper than any double-edged sword"?
2. Start praying by thanking God for the gift of His Word. Ask Him to give me more passion and desire for it. Give God permission to let His Word to make me "uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him" in the days and weeks ahead.
3. Memorize vv12-13 and use them as my prayer regularly as a way of asking God to make Scripture increasingly important in my life.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 5

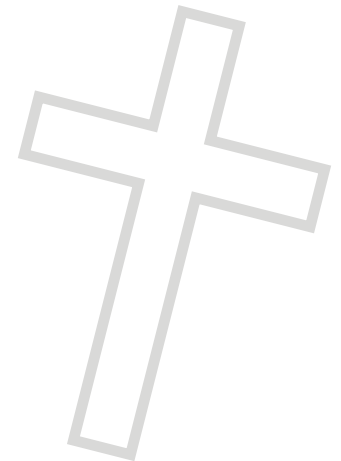
11We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

MEDITATION

1. We become mature in our faith by constantly using the truth God has revealed to distinguish good from evil. Don't mistake possessing information for maturity. The ability to quote long passages of Scripture or to argue theology is meaningless. What brings believer to maturity is the conscious effort of distinguishing between good and evil on criteria established by God's Word. The difference between "milk" and "meat" is found in neither the depth nor breadth of our knowledge in Christian doctrine, but in the way we live out the Word of God. For those who merely hear the Word but have no action, the truths they know are milk; whereas for those who not only hear but also act upon the Word of God, the same truths become solid and sustaining meat.
2. What is the one thing that I learn from God's Word today that I can apply to my life? How can I specifically apply it today or in this week? Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower and remind me to truly do this one thing I've identified today.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 6

13When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” 15And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

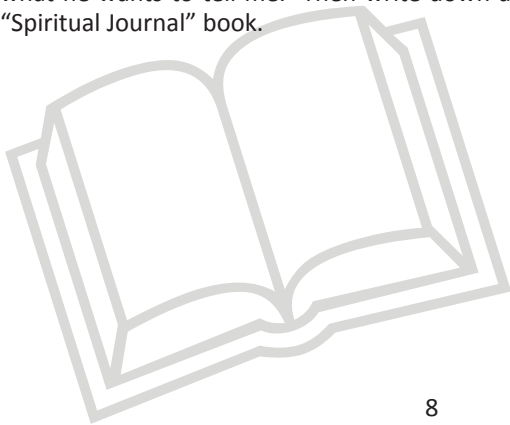
16Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. 19We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

MEDITATION

1. Slowly read the passage aloud twice, note the emphasis on “promises” and “hope”.
2. Reflect on the role of hope in my life. The opposites of hope are despair, suspicion, doubt, and cynicism. What does this passage tell me about hope?
3. Read the passage aloud one more time. Among the phrases, such as “swear”, “unchanging”, “take hold of the hope”, “firm” and “secure”, what words or phrases stand out to me? Why are they important for me today?
4. Walk through this day with an attitude of greater hope – expectancy, anticipation and trust. This is what everyday life in the kingdom of God looks like.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 7

15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, 16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” 18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless 19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

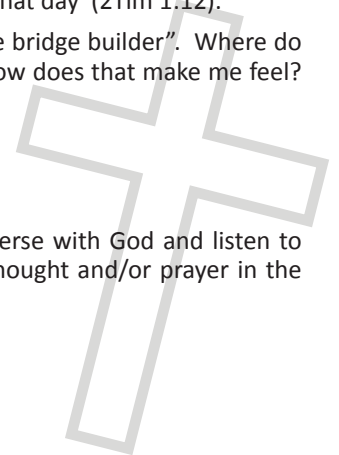
22Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. 23Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. 26Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. 28For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

MEDITATION

1. The word “priest” in Latin is pontifex, which means “bridge builder”. There is an impassable gulf separating us from God. Jesus Christ, being our High Priest, is the bridge builder from humans to God.
2. What does this permanent priesthood mean to us? It is God’s promise to us that, through Jesus’ resurrection and His role as the High Priest, God’s plan for our salvation is complete and “a better hope is introduced, by which we are drawn near to God” (v19). Note the phrase “save completely” (v25), which means that we are not only saved by Jesus from punishment for our sins, but also from sin’s insidious control of our thoughts and actions daily. Jesus is the source of our forgiveness of sin and renewal of life. All we need is to come to this perfect High priest in faith, and be “convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day”(2Tim 1:12).
3. Visualize the image of Jesus as my “priest – the bridge builder”. Where do I see myself, God, and Jesus in that picture? How does that make me feel? Share this feeling and thought with Jesus.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 8

8But God found fault with the and said: “The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. 10This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” 13By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

MEDITATION

1. “New” and “Free” are two catchy words for any salesperson. It also says here that the old system of Law didn’t work (vv 7, 9, 13) and was “obsolete and aging”. The New Covenant provides total forgiveness for all our wicked acts (v 12). Because Christ has paid the ransom, God no longer holds us accountable for our sins. The Old Covenant engraved standards that men were unable to meet on tablets of stone. The New Covenant engraves the desire to please God in our inmost being, and moves us to what Law demanded, but could not produce.
2. When it comes to faith, “new!” means for people who have tried everything else, and can turn to Jesus and find themselves forgiven and renewed. And, it is “free”. The salvation offered us in Christ, costs us nothing.
3. Meditate the following paragraph: *We ought to be Christians in large type, so that it would not be necessary for others to be long in our society, or to regard us through spectacles, in order to detect our true discipleship. The message of our lives should resemble the big advertisements which can be read on the street by all who pass by.* – F. B. Meyer
How big is my “Disciple billboard”? Pray that the Lord will enlarge it to become more and more visible to those passing by.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 9

23It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. 25Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

MEDITATION

1. There was a kidney patient, whose dialysis machine kept him alive. Yet he dreaded the process. The kidney dialysis machine that kept him alive also reminded him of his illness. He was not free, but bound to return to the machine to have his blood purified his again and again. Away from it, his sickness quickly took hold on his body, and sapped all his strength.
2. That’s just what Hebrews 9 says about the Old Testament system (vv 6-9). The repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament system reminded worshipers of their continuing desperate condition. But, the one sacrifice of Christ reminds us of His total victory. The blood of Christ has cleansed us from all sin! By one sacrifice Jesus has made us well, and guaranteed victory! We are the lame, called to leap and dance. We are the blind, called to see. We are the deaf who now hear. By the once for all sacrifice of Jesus, we are forgiven, made well, and called to face life rejoicing in the assurance that the victory we need has already been won!
3. Do I let Christ’s one sacrifice free me to live confidently and joyously? Do I let myself be dragged back into sin by the weight of my past? Remember, because of Jesus, the past has no hold on me anymore. Thank God for this.

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CHAPTER 10

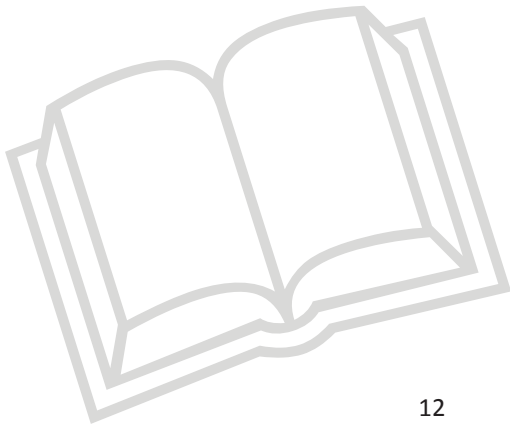
19Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

MEDITATION

1. Both v23 and 6:19 mention the hope: “hold unswervingly to the hope we profess” (v23) and “this hope” (6:19). What is “the reason for the hope” (1 Peter 3:15) that I have? Many Christians feel the tension of being Christians in this secular society and find it difficult to share their faith with others. When was the last time I felt free to express my faith in Jesus Christ and the hope that this gives me?
2. Christian fellowship and gatherings provide opportunities for believers to care for one another, encourage one another, etc. This week, share in my cell meeting the difficulty I have in sharing my faith with others. Ask the other members to pray for me and to encourage each other.
3. During my quiet time alone today take a moment to ask God for the strength to express my faith in all circumstances.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 11

1Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2This is what the ancients were commended for. 3By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

39These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

MEDITATION

1. If time allows, read all Hebrews 11, but focus on verses 1-3 and 39-40.
2. This familiar passage is often called the Faith Hall of Fame. Some of the people listed made great personal sacrifices to bring glory to God. We’ve all heard, and possibly even uttered, the saying “seeing is believing”. The writer of Hebrews begins with a definition of faith. Faith, he writes, is “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”. So, really, not seeing... is believing.
3. Pray: By God’s grace I want to live to the end in faith, knowing that I will not receive the promises on earth, but seeing them and welcoming them from a distance, I confess that I am a stranger and a pilgrim on the earth. Instead, I long for a better country, a heavenly one. In this way, God will not be ashamed to be called my God, for He has prepared a city for me. Like Moses, may I esteem reproach for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of this world, because I am looking to the reward.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 12

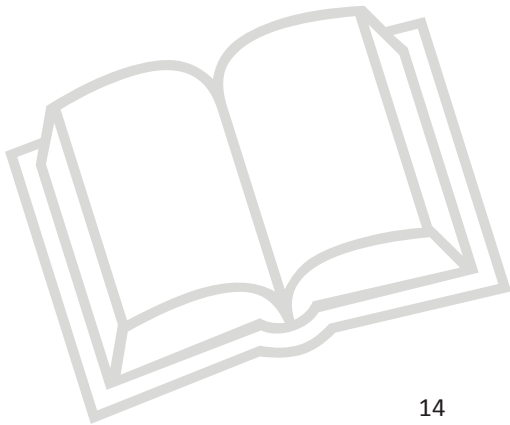
7Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. 12Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13"Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

MEDITATION

1. Read the passage aloud slowly. Read the passage again.
2. How might God use the "trouble you're in" to train you? Don't jump on the first thing that comes to mind. Sit quietly for a while and see what God brings to mind. How might I cooperate better with God in this training? Once again, the first thing that comes to mind might not be from God, but an old tape from the past. So take time to listen.
3. Pray. Ask the Spirit to search my heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Take some time to confess and repent before the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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CHAPTER 13

5Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" 7Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 9Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.

MEDITATION

1. Read the passage aloud. Spend time pondering the connection the writer is making between obsession with material possessions and the belief that God will never leave us or let us down. What do you make of this? How are the two ideas related to each other?
2. Take several minutes to explore my life in light of this instruction. How do I relate to material things? Do I often wish I had more? Do I feel that nothing can harm me because of what I have? What fears do I have about God letting me down? What would it be like to "be content with what I have"? Talk with Him about this subject. Attentively listen for his input.
3. Prayer. May I keep my life free from the love of money and be content with what I have, for You have said, "I will never leave you, nor will I forsake you." Pause to notice my internal reaction to what I'm saying. Ask God to change my reluctance and unwillingness.

PRAYER & JOURNALING:

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REFERENCE

1. NIV Serendipity Bible, Zondervan, 1988
2. NIV Study Bible, Zondervan, 1985
3. The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible, Harper San Francisco, 2005
4. The 365 Day Devotional Commentary, Larry Richards, Victor Books, 1990

This “260 Appointments with God series” is a joint effort of pastoral staff as well as members of Peoples Gospel Church. It is mainly intended for the use of members and is not for sale. This devotional material is also available at PGC website: www.peoplesgospelchurch.org/devotional/



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