

EVERY-DAY RELIGION

By Keith Greer

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’” {Hebrews 3:12-15} What does the Christian need from his religion every day?

Let God say something to you. *“Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine... Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” {1 Timothy 4:13,15,16}* All along life’s pathway, God’s people need to listen for His instructions. When we study and learn His word, we allow God to talk to us, and we hear His voice. {2 Timothy 2:15} Only by considering the words given in His Divine message can we know what He demands of us as we live in this world.

Say something to God. *“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.” {James 5:16-18}* God’s children need to communicate with Him; prayer is the avenue through which we do this. Each of us needs to have a regular prayer life. {1 Thessalonians 5:17} God hears His children and desires that they make their needs and requests known to Him. {1 Peter 3:12; Philippians 4:6}

Say something for God. *“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” {Philippians 1:27}* We must live lives that speak the things of God to the world. When we allow our lights to shine, we glorify Him. {Matthew 5:16} Godly lives speak volumes and show a sinful world a better alternative.

Do something for God. *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” {1 Corinthians 15:58}* We walk according to our faith. *“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” {Titus 2:12}* One needs to live the type of life before mankind that clearly shows the better paths to walk in life are those ordained and taught by God—not by men!

Give something to God. *“But this I say: ‘He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.’” {2 Corinthians 9:6,7}* We receive so much from God’s bountiful hand—can we just take His blessings and give nothing in return? We need to give something back. {Acts 20:35} One way to do this is by conforming ourselves to His pattern. {Romans 12:1,2}.

Recall something of God's goodness. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."* {James 1:17} If every child of God takes a good look at his life, surely he can see how much He continually gives us. Do we really appreciate all the good things of this life that we have been given and are provided by the wonderful God we serve?

So many blessings God richly bestows on us each and every day. Do we forget where they come from and why He gives them to us? Sadly, so many of God's people fail in giving him the continual thanksgiving for the blessings in their lives on a regular basis. Be thankful! Can you see that our religion must be a daily affair while we faithfully seek to serve our Lord? ***