

Retreat

A Day of Consecration:

If your heart is set on serving Christ, it will be wise to regularly take time away to meet with God who has brought you to this place and will bring you to where he wants you to go.

To fully benefit from this retreat, take at least a full day away to be alone with your Father (Luke 5:16). Include fasting, if you are able, for this purpose of prayer.

As Jacob would not let go unless the LORD blessed him (Genesis 32:26) and Moses would not go into the Promised Land unless the LORD's presence went before him (Exodus 33:15), so you should not set out on this path of preparation unless you first seek that assurance of the blessing of his presence.

Lifelong Learning of Wisdom

What we want you to grasp on this day and all the days of your life is that the Lord wants to teach you HIS ways. In these years of preparation he wants to make you a "polished arrow" (Isaiah 49:2). When you look back you will see that you have been "taught of God" (John 6:45). However, even when you are launched like an arrow, the learning does not end. It will require intentionality to continue in the posture of a learner as a student of God's Word and God's Ways.

During your day away with the Lord, take the time to "look back" at the lessons the Lord's has taught you, "look up" to where God has placed you now in his providence and "look forward" in faith to what God yet has to teach you. In seeing the blessing of taking this day with the Lord (a "Lifelong Learning" exercise) you will have a pattern to continue doing this throughout your life of learning.



This Lifelong Learning exercise can be best summarized as the pursuit of wisdom:

“Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget,
and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.
The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.”

Proverbs 4:5-7

Wisdom is what you are seeking in this training. Wisdom must continue to be your lifelong pursuit. During your day away seek with all your heart the One who has become for us wisdom from God.

“And because of him you are in Christ Jesus,
who became to us wisdom (σοφία, sophia; insight, specialized knowledge) from God,
righteousness and sanctification and redemption..”

1 Corinthians 1:30



1. Looking Back: Past Ebenezer Stones of Remembrance

“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, ‘Till now the LORD has helped us.’”

1 Samuel 7:12

- Take 1/3 of the day to “look back” over all that the Lord has taught you throughout your life.
- Make a list, a table, a timeline or a ‘mind map’ of those themes and lessons the Lord has taught you and has helped you with ‘until now’ (Ebenezer)
- Take a picture of your work and upload or type up in the box below



2. Looking Up: Present Providential Position (Ephesians 5:15-16)

“Look carefully then how you walk,
not as unwise but as wise making the best use of the days are evil.”
Ephesians 5:15-16

- Take 1/3 of the day to “look up” to God in how he has placed you providentially in your present situation.
- Make a list of the circumstances, people and place you are in now that positions you for learning from him. Reflect on how God has prepared you for this season of learning.



- How can you 'redeem the time' you have in these days to devote yourself to the pursuit of wisdom. Set up your schedule and parameters for the diligent prayerful study of the Word without neglecting the priority of marriage (if married), family, church and work.

3. Looking Forward: Future Faith in the Faithfulness of God

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

Hebrews 10:23-24

- Take 1/3 of the day to 'look forward' with faith in God's faithful work in you (Philippians 1:6)
- Write out a list of areas you need to grow in grace. Pray through these areas and write out goals for growth in character, convictions, and competencies.



- Pray and seek to put into words what God has put on your heart to do for him (Nehemiah 2:12). Reflect on how God has shaped you for future service.