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SOLUTIONS ANYONE?		
Up earlier	Earlier is always better	Helps but no guarantee
Longer devotions	The longer the better	Actually longer can be more boring
Focus on theology	Theology is the gateway to God	But theology has buried many
Wait to be an older Christian	The older the better	There are 'dead' older Christians
Need spiritual experience	Special experience is necessary	Experiences are forgotten

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A Living Hope

- Standards for our spiritual lives
- What should a meditation time look like?
- How do we maintain effective times with God?

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**Exodus 33:7-11**

7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And it came about, that everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. 8 And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. 9 And it came about, whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the LORD would speak with Moses. 10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and worship, each at the entrance of his tent. 11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. (Exodus 33:7-11)

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

Discovering Exciting Devotions

- A special time
- A special place
- A special meeting
- A special word

Spending time alone with God

We come to delight in His grace, confess our sins, understand His will, discern His way, and obey Him.

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

1) Moses regularly met with God

Now Moses **used to** take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, **Whenever** Moses went out to the tent (8)

- Moses' special experience
- Moses' wanted to know God more
- Recognized life without God is empty

Intimacy demands regular meetings

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

2) Away from Distractions

Now Moses **used to** take the tent and pitch it **outside the camp**, a good distance from the camp.(8)

For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the sons of Israel, 'You are an obstinate people; should I go up in your midst for one moment, I would destroy you. Now therefore, put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what I will do with you.

Intimacy demands separation

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

2) Away from Distractions

Now Moses **used to** take the tent and pitch it **outside the camp**, a good distance from the camp.(8)

Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." (Genesis 6:3)

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

Intimacy demands separation

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

3) Moses met God

And it came about, **whenever** Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent (33:9)

- God with me
- Our Privilege

NO FAITH  
HAVING FAITH

His presence means everything

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

4) God spoke with Moses

And the **Lord spoke with Moses** (9)

- I want God to speak to me
- Misconceptions (Isaiah 59:2)
- Our relationship with our fathers
- God speaks today

God speaks to us through His Word.

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

God spoke with Moses

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.  
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

And the **Lord spoke with Moses** (9)

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; (2 Corinthians 4:5-7).

God speaks to us through His Word.

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**Moses versus Christians**  
2 Corinthians 3

Moses	3:2,7	Christians
Tablets of stone	3:3	Tablets of human hearts
Old Covenant	3:6	New Covenant
Fading glory	3:7-8	More glory
Veil needed	3:14-16	Veil removed

**Moses went in the tent while we are the tent!**

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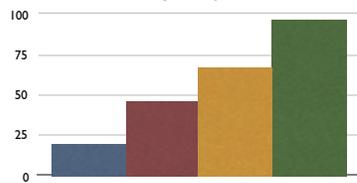
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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

What is normal?

- Isaiah 6
- Moses on Mount Sinai
- Moses went regularly into the tent




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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

Summary

"Then he said to Him, "If Thy presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. "For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Thy sight, I and Thy people? Is it not by Thy going with us, so that we, I and Thy people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight, and I have known you by name." Exodus 33:15-17

- Faith: I believe God wants to speak to me.
- Desperate: I really need God to speak to me.

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

The Secret?

Quick and easy. Like swallowing a pill!

Buy 'my' book.

Go to that conference.

Experience ....



Devotions is a spiritual discipline.  
Regular. Special. Helpful.

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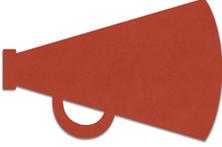
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**Deepen Your Roots #3**



So what keeps us from having good times with the Lord?

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

Factors for Great Devotions

**FAITH** is the expectation that God will speak to you during your time together.

**HOPE** is the delightful reliance on God because of His faithful care for you.

**LOVE** is the wholehearted devotedness to treasure what the Lord says to you.

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

The Big Adventure

**UNBELIEF** **FAITH**

But **GROW** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
(2 Peter 3:18)

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

Dynamic Meetings with God

Preparation of Heart → Become **desperate**. Pray until you need Him to speak to you.

Preparation of Place → Be undisturbed as much as possible (We get up early).

Preparation of Time → Be aware of **time** limits.  
\*Short  
\*Longer

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

**Getting ready**

- Start with a desperate prayer.
- Remind yourself of any important issues you are dealing with. Ask for wisdom, patience, etc.
- Find a passage. Never spend more than 1 minute looking for a passage. Better just to open.
- Don't use a passage you need to teach or study for devotional. He has other things to say to you.
- Enjoy!

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

**Seminar Exercise**

- Have a quiet time with the Lord in His Word
- 1) Hope: Tell Him what you want from this time together.
- 2) Read: Quickly pick a passage and carefully read.
- 3) Listen: Think about what He wants to teach you.
- 4) Identify: Clearly identify and summarize at least one item.
  - What does it mean to 'hear' Him?
  - Did He say anything to you?
  - How should it impact your life?
  - Will you obey by making the required changes?

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

**Philippians 3:12-14**

Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14, NASB).

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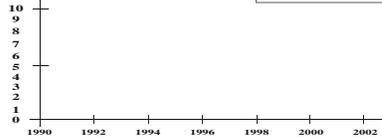
**Deepen Your Roots #3**

**3 Evaluating our Devotional Times**

Developing Quality Devotions

**#1 Investigate the Past**

For a deeper insight into your own Christian life, fill out the graph below. Draw a line graph of your Christian life below from 1990 until now. If you became a Christian, start from there. "Investigate" what your devotions have been like. Use the scale 0 (poor) to 10 (very good). Identify key peaks and valleys. Write down those things which have influenced your devotions in one way or another. Try to remember what events happened during the significant changes of direction.



What might have happened in the person's life? Where is he at now? What would you say to him as a teacher or sinner?

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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

**Discussion Questions**

- Reflect and graph the quality of your personal devotions since you became a Christian? What observations do you have?
- What was your relationship like with your earthly father? Did you have significant conversations? How has this shaped or influenced your relationship with your Heavenly Father?
- What would you want from daily meetings with God?




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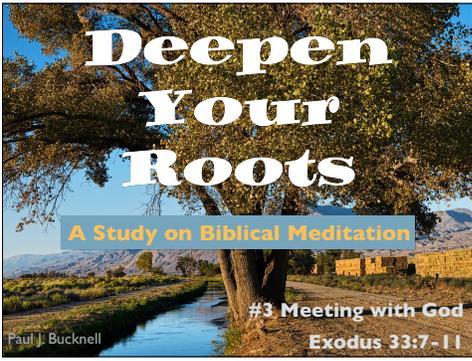
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**Deepen Your Roots #3**

**#2 Planning for the Future** Where do you want your devotions to be in the future? What special challenges will you have? What will make the difference for your success or failure?

10  
9  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0

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