

WINTER JAM 7-DAY DEVOTION

The Winter Jam family congratulates you on your decision to surrender to Jesus.

This decision is amazing but check this out, your salvation experience was just the beginning. It is actually the first step toward an extraordinary moment you will find yourself doing sometime in the future. That moment is described in the Bible. Revelation 4:10 says, "The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast *their crowns* before the throne, saying, Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created." Revelation 4:10 NASB

Everyday of our lives is a full-on ride toward the day we find ourselves actually doing Revelation 4:10. Yea, that's you and I and a bunch of other believers being mentioned in that verse, cool, huh? You may ask yourself, "Why are these people casting their crowns before the throne of God?" Because their love for Jesus is more important than anything else; treasure, rewards, status or even fame. He is their God and they are His people. And so are you and I. This 7 day devotional journey is designed to be a spiritual tool to help you on this awesome journey of casting your crowns at the feet of Jesus!

Through an Acrostic of the word CASTING, you will learn seven elementary principals that will **JUMPSTART** this journey for you. Don't be mistaken, they may be elementary in principal but they are enormous in power! So much so, that if you do these seven things for the next seven days, you will discover an amazing new life! Start today and stay committed!

DAY 1

Connect with God every day in prayer!

James 4:8 says to "draw near to God and He will draw near to you." NKJV

Jump:

Everybody knows that you start acting like the people you hang out with. God rewards "God likeness". Prayer is just spending time alone with God and communicating with him.

Start:

Follow this simple plan to get you started with God through prayer. Take time every morning and find a quiet place. Close out distractions and fix your mind on God. Since we are headed toward the journey of casting our crowns before Jesus let's use the acrostic (c.r.o.w.n.s.) to serve as a prayer point guide. You may find it helpful to print this out and put it in your Bible.

C- Commit your time to God by just saying something like, "Dear God here I am. I desire to be with you. I have things on my heart that I want to talk to you about. My heart is open to hearing what you desire to speak to me about." Then...

R- Read some Psalms to God. Just go through the Psalms and find one that resonates with your heart and read it out loud! He delights in hearing his children praise him and adore him though what has been declared about him in His Word. Then...

O-pen your mind to the Voice of truth and close out all negative thoughts from the enemy, Satan. You just read out loud what His word says about Him, now read out loud what His word says about you! Start today by reading Romans chapter 8 out loud. Do it now. Read it again, slowly. See it? Yea, you are loved and always will be, no matter what. Now...

W- Write out the things that are on your heart. Sins you are dealing with. Struggles you are facing at school and in your life. Things that you need or desire to see happen. Write them out, then go through the list and just talk to God about them. Ask him for help and after you do, read Hebrews 4:16. Feast your eyes on that Scripture Buffet again, this time read it slower. He will help you in your time of need. Then...

N- Never be guilty of not asking because you think that your requests are insignificant to God. He says in I Peter 5:7, "...cast your cares upon him for he cares for you." And in James 4:2 "...you do not have because you do not ask..."

S-surrender your request to His will. Matthew 6:33, say's "...seek first the Kingdom of God, and these things will be added to you..." what is that all about? Simply put it means that as we surrender all of our wants, desires and ambitions so that God's will can be accomplished for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom, then He's got our back! He will take care of you and answer your prayers.

DAY 2

Psalm 119:112 says, "I have *inclined* my heart to perform your statutes forever..."

Adjust your life for spiritual growth.

JUMP: The guy who wrote the book of Psalms said he "inclined" his heart. That means he worked at getting his heart to do God's will. Spiritual growth does not just happen. You have to work at it. The key is not simply working harder but working smarter. Making a few adjustments in your life will make all the difference in your spiritual life.

START:

Consider these simple steps to get your heart "inclined".

1. Set your alarm clock to get up 30 minutes earlier in the morning to pray and read your Bible.
2. Change your radio station to a Christian station that will fill your mind with God thoughts.
3. Avoid listening to things that bring you down instead only focus on listening to the people that build you up.
4. Read Christian books. Recommended reading: "I am not but I know I am" by Louie Giglio; "The Barbarian Way" by Erwin McManus; "Glory Revealed" by David Nasser; and most importantly "The Bible" by God.

DAY 3

Ephesians 5:18b, 19 says, "...be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." NIV

Sing to God through Spiritual Songs!

JUMP:

When someone gets drunk they are under the influence of an intoxicating substance. We are not to be controlled with alcohol but with the Spirit of God! How do you let God intoxicate you and put you under His influence? You just read about it in Ephesians. We are to sing spiritual songs. It has a "Spirit filling" effect on us.

START:

Begin your daily prayer time by listening to Praise and Worship CD's while you follow along with the words and really catch the heart of the Worship leader. One of the best songs ever for this exercise is a song by NewSong from their Album "Rescue" entitled "Before the day".

DAY 4

Psalm 119:89 "Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in Heaven." NKJV
Titus 1:2 " ... a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, Who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time..."

Track down God's promises in His word and cash in on them!!

JUMP:

God speaks and He always does what He says. It's settled! Did you know that the Bible is filled with things God has said He will do for you? You need to find out what they are and place your faith in God's faithful Word.

START:

Go to www.tonymolan.org and click on Tony's Journal. Download Tony Nolan's devotion called, **Spiritual Ketchup**. It will help you learn some key questions to ask while you are reading your Bible to help you milk it for the most! Read these verses in the Bible. They will bless ya real good! Psalm 103:12, 2 Cor.12:9-10, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 147:3, 1 John 1:9

DAY 5

Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let 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."

Involve yourself every week in a community of other Believers.

JUMP:

You are now in the family of God. Hang out with your new brothers and sisters in the Lord at a Local Church. God knew we would need to be encouraged by other believers as we grow up in our walks with Him. Listen and learn from a gifted preacher and teacher who can guide you through God's word.

START:

Find a Church today. Pray and ask God to guide you to one. Then put some feet to your prayers. Call one of your Christian friends or a family member and see if they can recommend one. Or you can find one online at <http://www.sbc.net/churchsearch/default.asp>. Just follow the directions and you will have contact info to a good Church near you. Call the Church and connect with a pastor or youth pastor and tell them that you are a new believer. Ask for help getting connected to other new believers your age. The local church will become your matrix for staying online with the abundant life.

DAY 6

Read James 1:5 and 5:16

Never let “secret sins” render your prayers powerless.

JUMP:

Someone once said, “sin thrills and then it kills, it fascinates then it assassinates.” This is true. Nothing comes close to being able to destroy your prayer life like sin does. It’s important that you don’t let it lead to the death of your prayer life!

START:

Take the time today to invite a friend to be an accountability partner with you. Meet with them once a week for encouragement and empowerment. When you meet ask each other the following questions.

1. What has God done in your life this week that we can celebrate together?
2. Is there a secret sin that you need to confess to help you tap into James 5:16?
3. Are there other concerns that you have that I can pray with you about?
4. As your brother/sister what can I do for you today?

Day 7

I Corinthians 10:31 "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

Glorify God in all that you do!

JUMP:

Before you gave your heart to Jesus, you were all about something...all about baseball, football, boyfriend/girlfriend, shopping, web surfing...now you are called to be all about God! Let God's interest, God's passions, God's desires, God's Goals and God's allegiances become yours.

START:

One of the biggest steps you can take to help you do this is to make this 7-day JUMPSTART a lifelong JOURNEY. Consider yourself JUMPSTARTED! Now, keep it going in your life and God will become more real to you everyday. Be faithful to your local Church. Be there on Sundays and get involved in a Ministry. Remember you are now a part of the Body of Christ and He wants to live through you to help others get this same salvation that you received. Enjoy the journey!

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