

03-04

MAR

1
8

APR



Glow in the Dark

DEVOTIONS FOR TEENS

A WORD FROM THE GLOW TEAM . . .

BEFORE ANY OBJECT CAN GLOW, IT MUST FIRST ABSORB LIGHT. IN THE SAME WAY, ANY CHRISTIAN MUST ABSORB THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD ON A DAILY BASIS IN ORDER TO GLOW IN THIS DARK WORLD.

We are committed to exalting Christ by providing material that helps students know and pursue Christ above everything else in their daily lives.

This book, written and designed with students in mind, seeks to display the matchless value and surpassing worth of Christ so that students who know and pursue Christ will learn to treasure Christ supremely.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Transforming Power	Jed Gillis
2	Who Do You Imitate?	Jed Gillis
3	Singing a New Song	Jeff Gwilt
4	Forsake Worldly Wisdom.....	Matt Sands
5	Living Out Godly Wisdom	Matt Sands
6	Assembling Together, pt. 1	Charles Brown
7	Assembling Together, pt. 2	Charles Brown
8	Why We Need a Redeemer, pt. 1.....	Ben Murray
9	Why We Need a Redeemer, pt. 2.....	Ben Murray
10	Why We Need a Redeemer, pt. 3.....	Ben Murray
11	God Speaks, I Respond.....	Doug Stewart
12	Developing Character.....	Jose Esquibel
13	Four Expressions of Faith	John Van Gelderen
14	God's "If...Then" Offer	John Van Gelderen
15	Who Hates Authority	David Young
16	The First Thing Jesus Wants Us to See in Heaven.....	Larry Key
17	Let Your Light So Shine	Charles Brown
18	What Will Move You?	John Goetsch
19	What's the Point?.....	Brandon Carmichael
20	The "Good" Man is the Grieved Man	Jacob Langdon
21	Daylight Outweighs Darkness When Spring Begins	Dave Hansen
22	Then I Could Be Happy.....	Charles Brown
23	God-Focused Prayer	Jeff Gwilt
24	Known by God.....	Doug Stewart
25	Behind Enemy Lines	Tom Wiggs
26	Knitting Together	Tom Wiggs
27	Seeing Paul's God	Tom Wiggs
28	Kaleidoscope of Creativity.....	Tom Wiggs
29	God Always Listens	Myles Gardner
30	A Mushy Love Story.....	Shawn Rittmiller
31	Christ Humbled Himself	Russ Stockman

32	Only a Fool Would Not Believe in Jesus	Dave Hansen
33	That I May Know Him.....	Jacob Langdon
34	Bondage to the Law, pt. 1	Doug Stewart
35	Bondage to the Law, pt. 2	Doug Stewart
36	How is Your Faith?.....	John Goetsch
37	Ted and Gerald Ford	Jeff Gwilt
38	The Way Up is Down.....	Russ Stockman
39	God Speaks, I Respond.....	Doug Stewart
40	Moving On	Jose Esquibel
41	A Special Letter.....	Mike Wallace
42	Salvation to Those Evil Assyrians? Yes!	Samuel Dalton
43	Live for Christ and Not the World	Russ Stockman
44	Good Citizenship.....	Russ Stockman
45	Ordained to Work	Timothy Lyzenga
46	A Good Work Ethic.....	Timothy Lyzenga
47	Future Dreams.....	Shawn Rittmiller
48	Put Others First!.....	Russ Stockman
49	The Reason for Rules	Samuel Dalton
50	More Rewarding than a Video Game	Shawn Rittmiller
51	Life and God	Timothy Lyzenga
52	Our God—The Only God.....	Steven Ostten
53	Seven Spiritual Things to do Each Day	Robert Pophal
54	Good Addictions	Mike Wallace
55	Jesus Bought What?	Doug Stewart
56	Do You Understand the Gospel?	Jeff Gwilt
57	Are You a Christian?.....	John Goetsch
58	Whom Do You Serve?	Brandon Carmichael
59	Moving Forward as a Disciple: Baptism	Charles Brown
60	Moving Forward as a Disciple: The Lord's Supper	Charles Brown
61	I'm Stressed	David Young

GOD-FOCUSED PRAYER

I want my prayers to be more God-centered. If you stop and notice your own praying, does it focus mostly on God and praise to Him? Or like me, are you going on and on about yourself and your requests? Take a look at Psalm 86. Here the psalmist is in the midst of a great trial, fearing for his life. But his concentration is decidedly upon the Lord. By my count, David refers directly to God 48 times in the 17 verses of this prayer-psalm. Yes, he mentions his needs, but his soul is lifted up to God (v. 4). He knows he's in physical danger, yet he pours out worship for God's mercy, grace, faithfulness, forgiveness, and steadfast love.

Worrisome thoughts can run this way and that in our heads. What we should do is herd all those needs and requests to God. We can leave our petitions with the Lord, saying with the psalmist, *"For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone"* (v. 10). We all tend to go off in many different directions. So David prays, *"unite my heart to fear thy name"* (v. 11). Unite my heart. Make me whole-hearted toward You, Lord. Single-minded to reverence You in love. Charles Spurgeon says, *"Our minds are apt to be divided between a variety of objects, like trickling streamlets which waste their force in a hundred [little channels]; our great desire should be to have all our life floods poured into one channel and to have that channel directed towards the Lord alone."* Good stuff! May God be the center of our lives, and the center of our prayers.



DATE: Friday, March 23



READ: Psalm 86



KEY VERSE: Psalm 86:10

For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.



THOUGHT TO GLOW:

Make God the center of your life, and the center of your prayers.



AUTHOR:

Jeff Gwilt
Pastor, Indian River Baptist Church,
Indian River, MI

SEEING PAUL'S GOD

For the entire first chapter of Colossians Paul has been captivated with Christ. But, Paul cannot just think about Christ. His magnificence and beauty causes him to desire to proclaim Christ, no matter the cost. This is a sightseeing trip that has life transforming effects. Christ does this!

Paul rejoices he is able to suffer for the Body of Christ. He rejoices that he is able to minister (serve; be a servant) for the Body of Christ. Paul is so overcome by the opportunity to tell of the astounding treasure he had found: Christ.

As you read this chapter of Colossians I hope you have been blessed with a renewed appreciation for and enthusiasm about Jesus Christ. But verses 26-27 force us to look up again. Paul has tried to stretch his language and use any word possible to help us understand the wonderful magnificence in Christ. The object of this chapter was Jesus Christ, God. However, when words no longer work Paul shows us himself. He shows us a life overtaken by the majesty he has tried to describe. If the words did not work, consider instead the immense impact Christ has had on Paul. This hard to be described but now understood mystery is everything. Paul's words were not totally sufficient and my words also fail. But consider these words...

What does "riches" mean? What feeling or image does it bring to your mind? What does "glory" mean? Is it the same as 'mediocre' or 'boring'? What does the noun "hope" mean? Do you have the hope described here?



DATE: Tuesday, March 27



READ: Colossians 1:1-29



KEY VERSE: Colossians 1:27

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:



THOUGHT TO GLOW:

If these words are not enough, consider instead the immense impact Christ had on Paul.



AUTHOR:

Tom Wiggs
Youth Pastor, Lifeway Baptist
Church, Ellettsville, IN

GOD ALWAYS LISTENS

Try to imagine how many times you have prayed in your life. Now, try to imagine only being allowed to pray 20 or 30 times ever! God doesn't set a limit for how many times we can pray; He wants us to come to Him whenever we want. It is good to have a schedule when it comes to praying or reading your Bible, but many times people just end up reading or praying so they can get it out of the way instead of meditating on it.

You might notice that in Psalm 5, in every verse, David is praying to God. In David's prayer, he is acknowledging what God says He will do not only to the wicked but also how He will love and protect His children.

Now some people might take this the wrong way thinking whenever they pray, God will do what they want Him to do. You might think that if God does not answer, He is not listening, but God always listens. This is why David says in verse 7, he will "come into thy house" and worship God.

A couple of weeks ago I prayed to God for Him to use me for His glory. A couple days later, I was asked if I wanted to write a Glow devotion. At first, I didn't think much about the connection, but I slowly realized this was God's answer to my prayer. God does listen, and He does answer your prayers just not always in the ways you thought He would. God is loving, and He will provide for His children. In the meantime, trust Him and be patient.



DATE: Thursday, March 29



READ: Psalm 5



KEY VERSE: Psalm 5:1

Give ear to my words, O Lord,
consider my meditation.



THOUGHT TO GLOW:

We can come to God
whenever we want, but
not out of selfishness.



AUTHOR:

Myles Gardner
*Teen Writer, Lifeway Baptist Church,
Ellettsville, IN*

BONDAGE TO THE LAW, PART 1

The idea of getting an inheritance can be a bitter-sweet thing. When my grandmother died, it was in her will that I receive her bedroom furniture. I have had that furniture in my home for 13 years. I am very thankful to have it, but I received it at great cost; the death of my grandmother, whom I loved!

In our verses, the child (heir) and servant are both under authority and controlled. Before my grandmother's furniture was in my possession, it sat in my uncle's garage for about 4 years. It belonged to me, but I did not "have" it yet. Although it was mine, my uncle had the control (authority) over the furniture.

Before we trust Christ, "*when we were children*," we were in bondage to the law. It was our authority, harshly binding us and furiously teaching us (3:23-24). This isn't necessarily a bad thing. In fact, the law is given to us by God for a very good reason—to show us our need of Christ!

This text forces us to ask a very personal and hard question. You may have to think this through for a while. "Is your life characterized by a sense of bondage?" I'm not talking about living at home, or going to school! I am talking about the condition of your heart. Do you feel like no matter what, you never measure up? Maybe you feel that no matter how hard you try you are a spiritual failure. Maybe you simply feel like you can never do enough right. Maybe you're still in bondage to the law.



DATE: Tuesday, April 3



READ: Galatians 4:1-7



KEY VERSE: Galatians 4:2

But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.



THOUGHT TO GLOW:

Christ sets prisoners of the law free.



AUTHOR:

Doug Stewart
Assistant Pastor, Lifeway Baptist
Church, Ellettsville, IN

GOD SPEAKS, I RESPOND

Today, you get to simply answer some questions based on the passage your pastor exposed to you today. Take a minute to write the verses in the "Text" section that your pastor preached today. If you were not able to be in church today, use Ephesians 1:1-10 as your text.

1. What specifically does this passage teach about the greatness of God?

2. What all does this passage teach about man?

3. What part of this passage would you say highlight's God's grace most clearly?

4. How does this grace create or mature your faith?

5. What is the main point of this passage? (Write this in the "Thought to Glow" section.) Also, what would you say is the key verse of this passage? (Write it in the "Key Verse" section.)



DATE: Sunday, April 8



READ:



KEY VERSE:



THOUGHT TO GLOW:



AUTHOR:

Doug Stewart
Assistant Pastor, Lifeway Baptist
Church, Ellettsville, IN

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

This world is full of pain, frustration, and death. You can try to run away from it; you can even try to distract yourself from it, but all of these things will fail and leave you hurt and hopeless.

GOD The Bible is God's story of rescue and it begins with Him. God is perfectly holy and separate from sin (Isaiah 6:3). God made the world perfect and created us to worship and praise Him (Revelation 4:11); but something went terribly wrong.

MAN In the Garden of Eden, man rebelled against God, and the consequence was severe (Genesis 3)! A consequence that the earth and mankind would have to endure forever. This explains all the pain and frustration, but what about death? Because God is holy, He cannot tolerate sin. Sin separates us from God (Romans 5:12). Just as the consequence brought death to our physical bodies, it also brought eternal separation from God in Hell (Matthew 25:41 and 46).

CHRIST But God, who is rich in mercy and love sent Jesus Christ to rescue us (Luke 19:10)! He did this by taking our place (1 Peter 3:18). He died on the cross to take the punishment of our sin. Three days later, He rose from the dead gaining final victory over death and securing eternal life (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

RESPOND This rescue cannot be earned. It is actually offensive to God to try to earn it. Salvation is freely given to all who confess their sin (repent) and put all their trust in what Jesus did for them (believe). This is faith! Romans 10:9 tells us, "that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

If you have never placed your faith in Jesus alone to save you, why not do that now? *"Dear God, I know that I have sinned against you and deserve Hell. I now receive Jesus Christ who died in my place and rose again, as my Savior. In Jesus name, Amen."*

If you trusted Christ as your savior, let others know. Tell your parents, pastor, friend, **or us!**

CONTACT GLOW PUBLICATIONS

877-645-2194

info@glowpublications.com

www.glowpublications.com



Glow Devotions



@GlowDevotions

