

The Intentional Living Center®



STRENGTH IN SOLITUDE

90 DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MEN
TO DEVELOP A SUCCESSFUL FOUNDATION IN CHRIST

Strength in Solitude

*90 Daily Devotions
for Men to Develop a Successful
Foundation in Christ*

*But they who wait for the Lord
shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.*

—Isaiah 40:31



Introduction

Within the pages of this book you will find 90 daily devotions for men to develop a successful foundation in Christ. ***Strength in Solitude*** was designed to help you slowdown from the madness of life, and plug into the true source of strength. Each devotional includes scripture, a powerful story and an encouraging One Thing you can do to draw closer to God.

Find strength for your day by first recognizing where ultimate strength comes from. God wants you to fully and completely turn everything over to Him; your worries, your weaknesses and your whole life.

At the Intentional Living Center, it's our hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit leads you into the very presence of God through the habit of daily devotion with Him. Start now – don't wait another moment to surrender each step of every day to Jesus.

The Intentional Living Center Team

Accidental Apologies

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1: 9

Gary was an attorney whose practice revolved around defending people involved in automobile accidents. There was one principle he drilled into his clients' heads endlessly. "If you're involved in an accident—no matter what's happened—don't ever say 'I'm sorry.'" Saying sorry was an admission of guilt and could cause his clients to lose a case before it had begun. "Better to wait until we get into court," Gary would say, "and let the facts be presented. Then let the judge or jury decide who is truly at fault."

Meanwhile at home, Gary noticed that his wife Sandra was increasingly short-tempered and often responded with a distinct lack of respect, even derogatorily. Soon he realized the problem: He had adopted his "never say you're sorry" policy himself, and taken it to the house. For every shortcoming or failure to follow through, Gary had an excuse—another person to blame, a mitigating factor, a counterargument. But his successful workplace strategy was a disaster on the home front.

The healing of his marriage began with two simple words: "I'm sorry." That humble admission of guilt, Gary discovered, held more power than any legal brief or courtroom argument. Are you willing to be wrong in order to make things right?

Today's One Thing

If you need to, apologize to the one you love—without reservation and without commentary.

Going Deeper

Ephesians 4: 25-32; Matthew 5: 21-24

Repent and Run

Repent, therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.

Acts 3:19

Criminals—arsonists in particular—are often nabbed by authorities because of a single, stupid, predictable trait: they are drawn back irresistibly to the scene of the crime. Investigators often scrutinize video of spectators gathering around the police tape following a fire because there's a good chance the person who started it will be in the crowd, having returned to view his malevolent accomplishment.

A similar quirk of human nature can trip you up as you try to avoid those same old familiar sins. You return, time and again, to the same old places, same old routines, same old habits that got you in trouble to begin with. But Scripture urges you to “repent,” which doesn't just mean saying you're sorry. It means turning around and running the other way—as far and as quickly as you can.

What are the things that hinder your spiritual growth, harm your relationship with God, and hurt your ability to be a testimony to others? Repent and resolve to make a complete about-face today. Don't return to the scene of the crime. It's forgiven—and forgotten forever—by God.

Today's One Thing

Replace a routine that subjects you to weakness or temptation.

Going Deeper

Ezekiel 18: 27-32; John 8: 1-11

Missing the Maestro

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Psalm 34: 8

The young man took his place next to a wall, inside the entrance to a busy Washington, D.C., subway. He took out his violin and began to play. For 40 minutes, his music sweetly filled the hall. A total of 1,097 people walked by. Only seven of them stopped to listen. Several times, children tried to stop but were promptly pulled along by their parents. The nearby lottery machine received more attention than the man with the violin. When it was over, he had collected \$32 and change.

He was not homeless, but rather one of the world's premier violinists, Joshua Bell, conducting an experiment. The instrument he played in the subway was handmade in 1713 by Antonio Stradivari—purchased by Bell for \$3.5 million. On any given night, patrons will pay as much as \$250 each to fill a hall of almost 3,000 seats at New York's Lincoln Center to hear him play. Perhaps even some of those who rushed by, unseeing and unhearing ... busily on their way to work, were among his fans.

There is beauty in what God has set before you today. Will you stop and listen to the music, or will you miss it in the hurry to be somewhere else?

Today's One Thing

Enjoy your world today by taking it in from the perspective of a child.

Going Deeper

Psalm 34: 1-8; Matthew 6: 25-34