

Week 35

Lectio Divina

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” – Eph 3:17-19

Lectio Divina is the Latin term for divine reading; it was the common form of devotional reading for the first 1500 years of Christianity. Devotional Bible reading is different from studying. Devotional reading does not engage in the careful analysis of the text or the rigorous cross-referencing. Instead, devotional reading adopts the posture that the Bible is the word of God and that it contains a message for us today. When we study the Bible, we engage in careful examination and we are the examiners. In devotional reading we allow the Bible to examine us, we listen to the words and allow the words to search our hearts. We are seeking to “know” God in a way that “surpasses knowledge” and thus it is a way of knowing God that differs from the tools of knowledge.

Here are a few practical steps to engage in devotional reading:

- *Begin by trying to relax and release mental and physical distractions.*
- *Read the passage aloud, slowly. When a word or phrase catches your attention, stop. Allow those words to search you and listen to what God’s word is saying.*
- *Read the passage aloud a second time. Again, pay close attention to those words and phrases that capture your attention.*
- *Pray the passage aloud to God. As you pray, also express your response to what you are read-praying.*
- *End by sitting quietly for a moment.*

This Week

- Select a passage and practice devotional reading (*lectio divina*) several times this week. Use the same passage each day and watch it change and grow in meaning as you read it each time.
- If you need suggestions of passages consider Ps 57 (part of this week’s reading), Rom 8:28-30; Isa 54 or 55; Matt 5:7-15; Acts 2:42-47; Jer 7:1-11.

Week 35

Aug 29-Sep 4

<i>Sun</i>	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			<i>29</i>
Darrell Dunham	Love Compels Us (3)			
<i>Mon</i>	1Kng 6	1Cor 13	Prov 1	<i>30</i>
Bradley Taylor				
<i>Tue</i>	1Kng 7	1Cor 14	Prov 2	<i>31</i>
Janel Simpson				
<i>Wed</i>	1Kng 8	1Cor 15	Prov 3	<i>1</i>
<i>Thr</i>	1Kng 9,10	1Cor 16	Prov 4	<i>2</i>
Betsy Dunham				
<i>Fri</i>	1Kng 11	2Cor 1	Prov 5	<i>3</i>
<i>Sat</i>				<i>4</i>