

Carrying The Essentials With Us

Just before I walk out the door to the outside world I do a quick check to be sure I have the essentials. A simple pat of my pockets completes the check assuring me of the presence of my cell phone, car keys, comb, pen and wallet. I am ready to take on the challenges of the day. The car keys enable my car to operate, the GPS on my phone provides directions, and the comb helps me to look presentable when I arrive. The wallet contains my driver's license, giving me the right to operate a vehicle. And the pen is always with me to take note of something I need to remember. Missing even one of those items, I would be operating at a disadvantage for whatever life throws my way.

The car keys and cell phone are probably the most common essentials for me. The cell phone provides world-wide voice connectivity and its GPS navigates me around obstacles in my path. Many cell phones have been renamed Smart Phones because of their internet connectivity and a variety of other apps. One of my apps is an NIV Bible. By having it on my phone I am never out in the world without access to the Word of God.



Let's get practical. We don't have the time to search the Bible for every interaction, conversation or decision. Even though we may have the Bible in our pocket it is important to have its content residing in our heart. We need to know what it says about the temptations we face every minute of our life. Psalm 119 takes a special interest in the place of God's word in the life of the believer, because the Word can steer us away from making mistakes. It says, *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you (Psalm 119:11)*. Some versions of the Bible use the word "treasure," giving God's word the significance of being precious in our hearts. The word "hidden" means that, by our nature, we should not only **know** what God's Word says but that it **controls** our everyday life.

As a believer entering the world each day, take with you the essentials you might need. Among whatever you deem to be essential take with you the Word of God in your heart, so that it may guide your actions that day and every day.

The Bible Says: *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).*

Because God's laws are for our good we need to write them on our heart. (Deuteronomy 10:13).

Question: What essentials do you need to stay grounded in the faith and make righteous decisions throughout your day?

Prayer: Dear Lord. As we start each day we hope that we are prepared for the challenges we may meet. Most important of all is that You and Your Word are written on our hearts and controls our emotions and actions. Amen.