

## Prime Time – *Time alone with God*

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### Getting close to God

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The most important time of every day in the life of a believer is the time that is dedicated to meeting *alone* with God. This special time is an essential key to developing a close walk with God and ensures steady spiritual growth.

In this special time of intimate communication with God we learn:

- More of His plan for our lives
- More of His guidance, and
- More of His nature.

Christians who live victoriously agree that having a “prime time” session with God is the most vital part of their day.

The Bible implies in several places the need for us to discipline and devote ourselves to having a special time every day with God and His Word. Note: This discipline is for our benefit, not God’s.

What do the following references say to you about having a special time with God?

Psalm 1:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Having a special time with God does not just happen naturally. It requires commitment and dedication to the following “prime time” disciplines:

- Plan
- Place
- Bible study, and
- Prayer.

## Plan

Without proper planning, distractions, interruptions and conflicts will prevent us from having a special time with God. Satan is the master of distractions and disturbances, and will do everything in his power to keep us from this important time of intimacy with God. So, planning to meet with God alone is critical to your journey with Him.

Some Christians have found that early morning is the best time for them to meet with God, others prefer late at night. There is no right or wrong time for this special meeting. The important thing is to plan a time when you can be alert and able to think clearly. As a starting point, set aside ten to twenty minutes – ten minutes to read the Bible and five to ten minutes for prayer.

When did the psalmist and Daniel plan to meet with God?

Psalm 55:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:97, 164 \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 6:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Start slowly, be consistent and let this time grow naturally.

## Place

Finding a place that is free from distractions and interruptions is the next key to enjoying a special time with God. If possible, find a place where you can pray aloud and even sing. This will help to safeguard your mind from being distracted.

What was Jesus' discipline in this matter?

Mark 1:35 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Bible study

The winning combination of a prime time session with God is Bible study and prayer. There are two ways to go about Bible study during your devotional time.

One way is to use a good Bible-based devotional book that is recommended to you.

The Journey Series<sup>®</sup> books are excellent choices. This wide selection of 40 titles contain easy to understand biblical treasure maps that will help you make amazing spiritual discoveries in God's Word, guiding you safely and successfully in your journey with the Lord.

These books may be obtained through Cells-*church* Consultants International.  
(See Additional Resources, page 68, for more details.)

Another way is to have an independent study program. Following this approach, you would study the Bible one paragraph or chapter at a time, reading the passage slowly several times while considering some basic questions.

- a) Does this reveal to me any sins I should forsake?
- b) Are there promises to claim?
- c) Are there examples to follow?
- d) Are there warnings to consider?
- e) What does it teach me about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- f) What should I do about these things?

Using an inexpensive notebook to record daily discoveries will help to underscore learning and will aid progress and faithfulness in your walk with God. You may like to record any discoveries and decisions you make to live differently for God.

Two Timothy 3:16-17 gives four practical reasons why we should develop a keen interest in God's Word.

List these reasons in the space below:

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer

God's Word is *bread* for the soul and prayer is *breath* for the soul. Prayer is simply speaking to God with words that are natural and comfortable to you. Prayer is of equal importance with God's Word in our prime time sessions with Him. Prayer is an important discipline in the life of every growing believer. God wants to speak with us throughout the day, every day – "without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Here are some prayer tips to consider:

- As a starting point, five minutes of your time each day should be spent alone with God in prayer.
- Pray aloud if this helps to keep your thoughts focused.
- Use the Prayer Guide shown on the last page of this book to aid your memory (cut carefully along the line and store it for regular use in your Bible).

Remember: *Quality* prayer is more important than *quantity* prayer.

## Practice

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The following Bible passages are ideal for practicing the above approach to having prime time sessions with God. Choosing one passage, follow the above steps and share the results with the person who is coaching you in your spiritual growth journey.

- Romans 12:9-21
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Philippians 4:4-13
- Colossians 3:5-17.

## Summary

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Your spiritual growth is largely dependent upon the quality and consistency of your prime time sessions with God. As you meet with God each day in this special way, the Lord will reveal to you *the next step* in your growth journey with Him.

Remember: *"The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord"* (Psalm 37:23a).

