

January Development Guide

SUBJECT: DAILY TIME WITH GOD



Our topic this month is about the keystone habit of the Christian life – **your daily intimacy with God**. When this is on track, everything else tends to get back on track. When this is off track, everything else tends to get off track as well.

Why do we struggle with having a daily time with God? It is often because we do not have a clear, simple, sustainable way to do it. In other words, we need a plan to help us.

Big-picture, there are 3 primary elements in a daily time with God:

- Worship - singing, praising, and expressing my love to God
- Prayer - asking, communicating, taking authority
- The Word of God - reading, speaking, and meditating

Today we are going to walk through a plan you can follow that includes all of these elements.

- The goal: to serve your intimacy with God
- The goal is NOT: to make sure you perfectly adhere to this plan.
- Be open to God leading you on divine detours!

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

We can use Jesus's model prayer as a framework for our time with Him.

**Adapted from the book 10 Steps Toward Christ by Jimmy Evans*

1. Thanksgiving, Praise, and Worship - “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name”

- Put on some praise & worship music.
- Thank God for what He has done.
- Worship Him for who He is.
- Psalm 103:1-5 is a helpful “menu” for language in worshipping God.

2. Surrender and Direction - “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

- A. Re-surrender your life to God's authority and direction (Romans 12:1).
 - i. *“I surrender my will, my body, my words, my mind to You...”*
- B. Ask for the Lord's direction and wisdom in the various areas of your life.

3. Daily Provision (Needs) - “Give us this day our daily bread”

- A. Bring your needs and desires to God.
 - i. Be specific, and ask in faith (Philippians 4:6-7)!
- B. Release your needs into the Father's care.
 - ii. *“Casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.”* (1 Peter 5:7).
- C. This can be a great time to ask God for “daily bread” (revelation) from your Bible reading time (Matthew 4:4) and even have your Bible reading time.

4. Forgiveness - “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”

- A. Ask the Lord to show you areas in your life that need correcting.
- B. Confess, repent of, and receive forgiveness for sin.
- C. Forgive and bless others who have offended or wronged you.
- D. Set your heart in advance to walk in forgiveness that day.

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5. Protection and Authority - “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one”

- A. Pray for the Lord’s continual guidance and protection throughout your day.
- B. Take authority in resisting every demonic attack in your health, finances, family, church, or nation (James 4:7).

6. Final acknowledgement - “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”

- A. Reaffirm and reacknowledge:
 - It’s about GOD’S kingdom – not my own.
 - It’s about GOD’S power – not my own.
 - It’s all for GOD’S glory – not my own.

We have touched on Worship & Prayer – let’s do the last part of our time – THE WORD

The Word

- **Read it**
 - Have a plan
 - Examples:
 - Read a chapter of Proverbs a day for a month.
 - New Testament in a Year Plan (read 1 Chapter, 5 days a week)
 - Bible in a Year Plan / Bible
 - Plans in YouVersion and online (printable)
- **Speak it**
 - Scriptural Confession linked
 - Scripture Confession books
 - Make your own
- **Meditate on it**
 - What is one verse/thought you got out of your Bible reading time?
 - Think about (or even talk out) that verse/thought for a minute or even throughout your day.

Throughout all of this – Write down what God gives you!

Resources:

- [Scripture Confessions book](#)
- [Scripture Confession from September 2021 DT Guide](#)
- [YouVersion Bible App](#)
- [The One Year Bible](#)
- [How Do We Communicate With God – Randy Bezet](#)
- [Habit #1 – Chris Hodges](#)