



## DAILY TIME WITH GOD

Daily time with the word of God is indispensable in every Christian's growth and fruitfulness. A Christian's stability and usefulness in the kingdom of is measured by the time he spends with the Lord. It is my desire that for everyone who goes through this lesson a door will be opened for them, a door of a deeper intimacy with God. It is also my earnest prayer that he or she will always long to have a daily time with God.

***Jeremiah 9:23-24*** This is what the Lord says: ***'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord.'***

Wisdom, strength, and riches have one thing in common: they are the source of boasting to those who have it. In the quoted scripture above, the Lord exhorted us not to boast of these things but to boast about Him, that we understand and know Him. Here are some thoughts on boasting...

- You cannot boast of something you don't have.
- Boasting involves proclamation – proclaiming to others what you have.
- If we cannot keep ourselves from boasting, we'd rather do it right by boasting about God.

Now, before anybody can boast of his understanding and knowledge of God, there are two basic things that must be done.

- First, he must enter into a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12-13).

- Secondly, he must spend time with God. Spending time with God is not easy because it requires diligence and discipline. It is also a lifetime exercise. However, this is the best way of accurately understanding and knowing God to enable us to boast the Godly way.

Spending time with God is commonly referred to as quiet time, time alone with God, personal devotion with God, listening room, etc. No matter what it is called, the essence is the same. **Christians ought to have a daily time with God.** Ideally, it has to be just you and God.

**Daily time with God is defined as a daily scheduled personal time of worship, meditation (Bible), and prayer that is centered on God.**

There are four areas covered in this study: Biblical Foundation, Guiding Principles, Models, and Suggested Sequence of daily time with God.

## **I. BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF DAILY TIME WITH GOD**

### **A. *Exodus 16:13-21* – Giving and Gathering Manna**

There is a wide gap separating the land of bondage (Egypt) and the land of promise (Canaan). This gap is called wilderness. Wilderness is a wide tract of land that is uncultivated and uninhabited by human beings because it is barren. To reach the promised land, the Israelites had to go through this barren land that produced no food. However, as they were traveling on this wilderness, God gave them the manna (bread from heaven – v. 15, 31) to be their daily provision.

Nevertheless, the people had to do something before they could partake of the provision.

- They must go out and gather it for themselves. God does the providing and the people must do the gathering. This requires action.

- They have to gather the manna daily because it is given on a daily basis. This requires habit.
- The manna they gathered for the day is only good for that day. They cannot store it except for Sabbath because it will be rotten the following day. This requires diligence and discipline.
- The manna has to be gathered before the sun grows hot because it melts in the heat of the sun. This requires promptness.

In our daily time with God, our manna is the Scripture written in the Bible that we partake each day. Thus, we have to do it with diligence, discipline, eagerness, and regularity. We should not procrastinate but do it promptly. The more we delay, the greater the chances would be to miss the daily nourishment that God has provided and prepared for us. Furthermore, let us strive hard to make this daily time with God our daily strong habit.

## **B. *Exodus 29:38-45* – The Daily Offering**

Offering is one essential part of biblical worship. This is brought into the place of worship in many forms and many ways according to God's prescriptions. The daily offering is one of the offerings commanded by God for His people to be carried out regularly, everyday – morning and evening for the **following reasons**:

- It was a pleasing aroma to the Lord.
- It was God's meeting place for individual believer and for the community represented by the individual.
- It was a place where God spoke, revealing Himself and His will.

In our current context, the daily offering is done through our daily time with God. Our offering is our bodies (Romans 12: 1-2) as well as our praises and thanksgiving (Psalms 50:14, 23; Hebrews 13:15).

This is the best time in our life to have that intimacy with God our Father. This is also the indispensable time to hear God speaking to us, revealing Himself and His will in a more intimate and clear way.

### C. **John 21:1-14** – Breakfast Fellowship

In this passage we see the fourth appearance of the resurrected Christ as recorded in the gospel of John. Here, Jesus appeared to His disciples after their tiresome and frustrating night of fishing. The reason for this is that they caught nothing after spending the whole night fishing. Their frustration however, was turned into joy and excitement when they had the largest catch ever in their entire life. This happened because they obeyed and followed the instruction of Jesus.

There are four statements made by Jesus Christ in this passage that supplement the truths taken from the preceding passages regarding the daily time with God.

- **v.5 – “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”** A probing question digging into the real condition of a current situation.
- **v.6 – “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.”** A specific instruction addressing the need of a current condition. A challenge to obedience.
- **v.10 – “Bring some of the first you have just caught.”** A command to be willing to share the blessing.
- **v.12 – “Come and have breakfast.”** A direct and clear invitation to partake of the provision that God prepared.

In our daily time with God, the Lord helps us to see the real condition of our lives, tells us what to do and how to do it, blesses us so we can be a blessing to others, and invites us to partake of the provision He prepared so that we will be refreshed, renewed, strengthened, and nourished for His service.

## II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DAILY TIME WTH GOD

- A. Daily time with God is essential and indispensable to every Christian.
- B. Daily time with God is the time we get our consistent and continuous spiritual nourishment. **Matthew 4:4**
- C. Our survival and victory over the enemies' wiles and attacks is dependent on our daily time with God.
- D. Daily time with God is the time we clearly get and receive fresh revelations from God concerning Himself and His will upon our lives.
- E. Daily time with God is the most appropriate time we can fully express our intimacy with our heavenly Father.
- F. Daily time with God is the best time to bring before God our desires, petitions, intercessions, burdens, fears, failures, needs, etc.
- G. Any time of the day can be used for our daily time with God. Morning, after we wake up, however, is the best time. If you can make it before sunrise, it would be best.
- H. Be prompt to do your daily time with God because the blessing for that day will not tarry to wait for you. Procrastination distances you from the blessing.
- I. Exert discipline and diligence until daily time with God becomes your strongest daily habit.

## III. MODELS OF DAILY TIME WITH GOD

## A. Biblical Models

- **DANIEL**

Daniel 6, Daniel was thrown into the lion's den because he refused to give up his daily time with God. Nevertheless, God shut the lions' mouths and Daniel remained unharmed until the rescue came.

- **DAVID**

*Psalm 5:3 – “In the morning O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. Psalm*

*59:16 – “But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for You are my fortress, my refuge in time of trouble.*

*Psalm 88:13 – “I cry to you for help, O Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before You.”*

- **JESUS CHRIST**

*Mark 1:35-37 – Jesus spends time in prayer before sunrise.*

*Luke 6:12-13 – Jesus spends the entire night in prayer.*

*Luke 22:39-46 – Jesus' regular venue for prayer.*

- **DISCIPLES**

*Acts 1:14 – “They all joined together constantly in prayer...”*

*Acts 2:42 – “They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

*Acts 10:9,30 – “About noon (3:00 p.m.) Peter went up on the roof to pray.”*

## B. Non-Biblical Models

- Secret of Greatest Missionaries (7,700 Illustrations #4534)  
Men who have accomplished most for God were men of prayer. Wesley spent at least two hours each day in prayer. Samuel

Rutherford rose at three O'clock in the morning to wait upon God. John Fletcher was said to have stained the walls of his chambers with the breath of his prayers.

David Brainerd died at the age of 29, Henry Martyn at the age of 31, yet their names stand out as among the brightest stars in the missionary firmament. These young men left a profound influence in the Christian service not by their actual labors which were cut short, but by their prayer life.

- Washington's Devotional Life (7,700 Illustrations #4524)  
Robert Lewis of Fredericksberg, VA was Washington's private secretary. During the first part of presidency, he said that he accidentally witnessed Washington's private devotions, both morning and evening. He saw him in the kneeling posture, with an open Bible before him; and he said that he believed such was his daily practice. His custom was to go to his library at four o'clock in the morning for devotions.
- Luther & Other's Devotional Life (7,700 Illustrations #4614)  
Martin Luther set apart his three best hours for prayer. Said he, "I have so much to do, that I cannot go on without three hours a day of prayer".

General Henry Havelock (1795-1857), British general, rose at four, if the hour for marching was six, rather than lose the precious privilege of communion with God before setting out.

Sir Matthew Hale (1609-1676), English jurist said, "If I omit praying and reading God's word in the morning, nothing goes well all day."

## **IV. PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DAILY TIME WITH GOD**

### **A. Planning**

- Determine your venue. It must be a place free from external interruptions.
- Set the time – This is the schedule and duration.

### **B. Prepare the things you will need**

- Bible
- Notebook for journaling
- Pen/pencil
- Guitar and songbook (optional)
- Music player and worship tapes (optional)
- List of prayer requests

### **C. Suggested sequence**

- Start with prayer of Praise and adoration
- Praise and worship (your option)
- Scripture reading, memorization, meditation
- Journaling
  1. Write down the verse that blessed you that day
  2. Write down some thoughts Ideas that the Holy Spirit might reveal to you in the process. If there is non don't worry just skip this part for next time.
- Pray the scripture that blessed you for yourself, family, church, and community
- End the session with a song of thanks or a prayer of thanks

## **V. CONCLUSION**



## NEVER FOUND THE TIME

[Author Unknown]

I knelt to pray, but not for long. I had too much to do.  
Must hurry off and get to work, for bills would soon be due.  
And so I said a hurried prayer, Jumped up from off my knees.  
My Christian duties now were done, My soul could be at ease.

And through the day I had no time, To speak a word of cheer;  
No time to speak of Christ to friends, They'd laugh at me I feared.  
No time, no time, too much to do. That was my constant cry;  
No time to give to those in need – At last was time to die.

And when before the Lord I came, I stood with downcast eyes;  
With His hands He held a book – It was the book of life.  
God looked into His book and said, “Your name I cannot find,  
I once was going to write it down, but never found the time.”

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## INTO THE DAY

[Author Unknown]

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish I didn't have time to pray  
Troubles just tumbled about me and heavier came each task.  
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered, He answered, “You didn't  
Ask.”

I tried to come into God's presence, I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided, “Why child you didn't knock?”  
I wanted to see joy beauty, But the day toiled on grey and bleak,  
I called on the Lord for the reason – He said, “You didn't seek.”

I woke up early this morning, And paused before entering the day.  
I had so much to accomplish, that I had to take time and pray.