



THE “HOW-TO” OF MEETING WITH GOD EVERY MORNING

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Here are my “tried and true” steps to create an exciting,
meaningful daily devotional time.

I pray my approach will help you in your desire to
“walk with God.”

4. Pray Scripture

This is the most revolutionary and most meaningful of all of the ideas I’ve learned. Before I was introduced to praying Scripture, I would pray predictable prayers, “God bless...” It was boring, repetitive and frankly, quite meaningless. But praying Scripture means that you never have to pray the “same old thing in the same old way” again.

Here is how to begin: Choose a familiar passage, perhaps Psalm 23. Now pray the Psalm inserting your name or the name of a family member. “Lord I pray today that Susan might delight to be your sheep and to want nothing as much as she desires you. Thank you that you provide for her; keep her from fear and lead her in paths of righteousness for your name’s sake...” etc.

Space forbids many more examples, but after you have prayed some of the Psalms, graduate to the prayers in the epistles of Paul (e.g. Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14, etc.), and pray these prayers for your children or grandchildren. Then, you will also be able to pray the rest of Paul’s writings; indeed, almost any passage can be turned into a prayer. For example, spend a few weeks praying Ephesians chapters 4-6 for your family and church. You will discover that the Holy Spirit will guide you to interpret these passages as prayers that are perfectly in line with God’s will.

Remember that our first task is to have delight in God’s presence. But that can not be done in a day or two; it can only be developed by a daily walk with God. Begin to meet with Him today and you will be grateful you did in the days to come. You’ll discover that when you begin with God in the morning, you are conscious of His presence throughout the whole day. And, what could possibly be better than that?

1. Set aside time in the morning

Although I as a pastor can pray and study the Bible later in the day, I’ve discovered that if I don’t begin the day with God, my schedule (and the devil!!) will see to it that I don’t have any exclusive time reserved just for Him. So, if you are not already having this “quiet time” you will have to get out of bed 15-30 minutes earlier than usual, but don’t be distressed, God will make up the lost time for you. Really, He will!

2. Pray before you get out of bed

I have a habit of praying a short prayer soon after I awaken. I say, “Today Lord, glorify yourself at my expense.” And then I add a short prayer affirming that I intend to “walk in the Spirit” throughout the day, in total dependence on Him.

3. Read a chapter of the Bible

Yes, it is OK if you begin with passages that are familiar and then graduate to those that are more obscure. Always answer these three questions: First, what does this passage teach me about God? Second, is there a promise I must believe? And finally, is there a command I must obey? When you close your Bible, you should have at least one clear idea that you can carry with you all day. This is what the Bible calls “meditation,” which is accompanied by much blessing (Read Psalm 1 if you need to be convinced!).