



HOW TO HAVE A DEVOTIONAL TIME

Church Resources

Adapted from Dudley Daniel

How to Have a Devotional Time

Daniel 6:10 (Seeking the Lord)

A "Quiet Time" can involve the following "ingredients":

1. **Presence** - realize His presence
2. **Praise** - rejoice in His person
3. **Ponder** - read the Word
4. **Purpose**
 - ❖ Re-consecrate
 - ❖ Obedience to Him
 - ❖ Trust in Him
5. **Prayer** - rely upon God

Why Are Devotional Time's Important?

1. **It is the secret of, and essential for, Christ-likeness.**
 - ❖ You become like those whom you spend time with.
 - ❖ You grow in grace and spiritual maturity when you spend time with Jesus.
 - ❖ You need: group prayer, public prayer, seasons of prayer but even more so, the quiet time.
2. **It is being alone with God. This requires becoming disciplined!**
(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Here are some suggestions:

a) ***Devotional time is ideal early in the morning.***

- ❖ ...when you are fresh and alert
- ❖ ...when there are fewer distractions

Try to have set times.

- ❖ David's example (Psalm 55:17)
- ❖ Daniel's example (Daniel 6:10)
- ❖ Jesus' example (Mark 1:35) He went alone, even from those He loved, to be alone with His Father.

b) ***Pick a quiet place.***

c) ***In the evening. After a hard day's work.***

- ❖ Jesus did, after He fed the 5000 (Mark 6:46-47)
- ❖ Thank Him where He has undertaken for you
- ❖ Praise Him for His provision, protection and mercies
- ❖ Seek forgiveness if and/or when you have failed

3. It is a two-way dialogue as well!

- ❖ God speaks to you
- ❖ You speak to God

How Do I Have a Devotional Time?

❖ **Realize His Presence**

- ❖ Don't rush, rushing is a tragedy
- ❖ When we rush, we miss the essential ingredient of fellowship/friendship
- ❖ Remember, you are representing Jesus to the world
- ❖ Come quietly, unhurriedly (Isaiah 40:31 "... they that wait up on the Lord...")
- ❖ Take time to think about Him and know that He is there!
- ❖ Listen to worship music or create your own psalm of praise

❖ **Rejoice in His person – who and what He is**

- ❖ Worship and enjoy Him
- ❖ Declare Psalm 103
- ❖ Thank Him for who and what He is:
 - All His goodness*
 - His grace*
 - For saving you*
 - Keeping you*
 - Defending you*
 - Providing for you*
 - Friends and family (Paul did! Ephesians 1:15-16)*
 - Everything (Ephesians 5:20)*

❖ Know His Name:

- JEHOVAH:** Covenant Keeper
- JIREH:** Provider
- NISSI:** Protector
- M'KADDESH:** Sanctifier
- SHALOM:** Peace
- TSIDKENU:** Righteousness
- ROHI:** Shepherd
- SABAOTH:** Lord of Hosts/Armies (Romans 9:29)
- EL-SHADDAI:** God Almighty
- ADONAI:** Master

ELOHIM: God of Gods
EL ELYON: Lord Most High

❖ **Read the Word – Ponder**

(Systematically, not haphazardly or randomly).

Absorb and memorize parts

Read from both the Old + New Testaments daily

Start at Genesis and Matthew (*The Bridge website has a reading plan*)

Approach it reverently

Read it methodically

Search it expectantly

Ponder it prayerfully

Apply it personally

Obey it instantly!

Expect to see Jesus in every page

Ask God to teach you His ways through it

❖ **Purpose**

Re-consecrate

Give God total obedience in all things

Trust Him

Be filled with expectation – the victory is already won!

❖ **Prayer: really pray, relying upon God**

Pray to God the Father, through the Son (Jesus), in the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18) *“For through Him (Jesus) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”*

Pray on the merits of Calvary, the shed blood (Hebrews 10:19-22)

Pray under the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Pray in simplicity, speak freely to God

Keep praying, not just once! (Ephesians 1:15-22)

The Importance of Prayer

1. **In Jesus' life** (*Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12*)

The word prayer, in connection with Jesus, is used 25 times in the gospels

2. **In His present ministry**

(Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34)

3. **In the early church**

(Acts 6:1-4; Ephesians 1:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10; 2 Timothy 1:3; Romans 1:9-10; Colossians 1:9)

4. **The Bible tells us to spend time in prayer**

(Ephesians 6:18 – ‘watching thereunto’ in the KJV translation mean literally “being sleepless thereunto”; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 ‘pray continually’)

5. Lack of prayer means lack of power

- ❖ “We could be more effective if we talked less to men about the Lord, and more to the Lord about men” – Anonymous
- ❖ “The man – God’s man – is made in the closet.” – E.M. Bounds
- ❖ “How is it that Jesus, who needed to pray so little, prayed so much; while we who need to pray so much, pray so little!” – Major Allister Smith

Hearing God’s Voice

Hebrews 1:1-2, 3:7-19

- ❖ Hundreds of people in the Bible “heard God speak to them” (*ie. Elisha 2 Kings 6:8-17*)
- ❖ Since then millions of others have Him speak to them.
- ❖ Sometimes many of us are not too sure how He speaks today

If the local church is going to fulfill its purposes in God, its reason for existing, then ALL of us as the priesthood of believers are going to have to have heard God, and continue to hear God.

It’s important that we know how to seek His face, both individually and collectively. We are going to have to know the difference between what only God can and will do and what only we can and must do.

Hearing His voice and seeking His face are two of the things that only we can do – God can’t do them for us!

Things That Will Help You Hear God Speak

1. KNOW THE WAYS THAT GOD SPEAKS TO US

❖ **Through an audible voice**

Old Testament example: Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:4 – 4:17)

New Testament example: Christ’s baptism (Matthew 3:17), Paul’s conversion (Acts 9:4)

❖ Through the Bible

Sometimes He leads us to go and open our Bible. Sometimes He gives you a chapter and a verse. Sometimes while you are reading in your daily devotions or studying your Bible He 'quickens' (makes alive) a certain portion of scripture.

"Thy Word is a lamp... a light." – Psalm 119:105

❖ Through the inner, audible voice

This can sometimes be the nudging of God in your imagination or impressions. The feeling of being compelled or led to do something, go somewhere, say something. This will never contradict the Word of God – the Bible.

Here are some reminders about hearing the voice of God:

- ❖ The devil can't read your mind, nor can anyone else! (1 Kings 8:30 "... for You alone know the hearts of all men.")
- ❖ Submit your heart, mind and imagination to God's will... then ask Him to speak to you.

Not every thought you think is yours. Your thoughts can originate from three sources:

- ❖ **SELF**: Romans 6:11 "count yourself dead"
- ❖ **SATAN**: James 4:7 "resist the devil"
- ❖ **SAVIOUR**: James 4:7 "submit yourselves to God"

Some of the differences between God's guidance and the devil's voice are:

- ❖ Satan drives – God draws
- ❖ Satan condemns – God convicts
- ❖ Satan causes panic – God gives peace

❖ Through the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12)

Old Testament Example – Elisha + Gehazi (2 Kings 5:26)

New Testament Example – Ananias + Sapphira (Acts 5)

❖ Through Visions

Old Testament Example – Isaiah 6

New Testament Example – Paul's Macedonia call (Acts 16:9)

❖ Through Dreams

Old Testament Example – Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2,4)

New Testament Example – Joseph's call to a far country (Matthew 1:20)

❖ **Through Angels**

Numbers 22:32

❖ **Through People**

God can communicate His will to us even through ordinary conversations!

❖ **Through Circumstances**

God can arrange circumstances in order to tell us something.

❖ **Through an Animal**

Numbers 22:30

❖ **Through Songs and Hymns**

Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19

❖ **Through Creation**

Romans 1:18-32

❖ **Through Conscience**

Romans 2:15-16

2. CHRIST MUST BE LORD OF YOUR LIFE

- ❖ Submission to His Lordship protects you from other supernatural powers.
- ❖ You must be willing to do His will before you even know His will, choosing obedience regardless of the 'cost'
John 7:17 "If anyone chooses to do God's will, He will find out whether My teaching comes from God."

3. GUARD YOUR HEART

- ❖ *Psalms 51:10* "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."
- ❖ *Matthew 5:8* "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."
- ❖ *Proverbs 4:23* "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

4. MOVE IN FAITH + OBEDIENCE

- ❖ *1 John 1:17* "If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship"
- ❖ "And without faith it is impossible to please God..." (Hebrews 11:6)
- ❖ Obedience is Jesus' love language (John 14:15)

5. LIVE A LIFE OF PRAISE + WORSHIP

- ❖ "God inhabits the praises of His people." (Psalm 22:3)
- ❖ His presence brings His guidance.
- ❖ As you thank Him for what He has done, it changes your perspective and it changes the atmosphere!

6. CULTIVATE SPIRITUAL GROWTH + MATURITY

- ❖ Maturity ensures that you are willing to follow

7. FAST AS THE LORD LEADS

- ❖ Acts 13:1-3
- ❖ Fasting from food, social media,

Why Does God Speak to Us?

- ❖ **To reveal Himself to us, because He desires relationship!**
Genesis 3:8-9, Abraham was called 'the friend of God', John 15
- ❖ **To reveal His heart and character**
John 3:16, Psalm 116:5
- ❖ **To reveal His will**
When you have questions, he wants to share His heart, Psalm 18:30, Jeremiah 29:11
- ❖ **To give us revelation**
He wants us to see what He sees so that we can do as he would do, to guide and counsel us and our choices.
Ephesians 1:17
- ❖ **To encourage us**
Psalm 55:22, Romans 8:31-39 – we are more than conquerors through Christ!