



Read the following verses:

Mark 1:35-37 (NIV)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Luke 5:15-16 (NIV)

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Why do you think Jesus got up so early in the morning or headed off to lonely places to pray?

Do you find it hard to relate to Jesus' discipline to get alone with his Father and talk, especially when it was at very inconvenient times or places?

Why do you think he was so compelled to spend time with the Father?

When a guy and girl are attracted to each other, they find the time to spend with each other. It doesn't matter how busy their day is or how long their "to do" list is, they will find the time to connect. **WHY?**

Do they think it is an inconvenience to have to work their schedules such that they can spend time together? Why or why not?

What are some extreme examples when you have made time to spend with someone you were dating?

At what times are we most motivated to spend increased time with God?



If these were the only times you spent with someone you cared for, what would the relationship be like? How long would it last?

Relationships ultimately need to be built on the basis of enjoying each other, not a desire to “use” the other for our own purposes.

Psalms 37:3-6 (NIV)

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. ⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: ⁶ He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

What three directions are given in this Psalm in order to experience joy in your relationship with God and effectiveness in life?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Why would prayer be less effective if any of these three approaches to God were missing?

- 1) **Without trusting God:**

James 1:6-8 (NIV)

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.



2) Without enjoying God:

James 4:3 (NIV)

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

3) Without committing our way to the Lord

Before you start to pray, it might be good to ask yourself these three questions?

- 1) Am I trusting God will do what is right and care for me in the process?
- 2) Am I enjoying God?
- 3) Am I following God's path or my own agenda for this day, week or life?

Jesus enjoyed relationship with the Father and because he did, he was in a position to hear the Father's will for his life.

John 12:49-50 (NIV)

For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

**Wouldn't it be amazing to hear from the Father what we should say and how we should say it?
When do you think Jesus heard all this from the Father?**

Jesus also knew he was fully dependent on the Father to lead him and empower him to do what he wanted done on earth.

John 5:19 (NIV)

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.



What do we mean when we say Jesus was dependent on the Father?

Why do we tend to operate independently of God?

Jesus expresses the true nature of our dependence.

John 15:1-11 (NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

What does Jesus mean when he says, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you"?

How will this type of relationship affect our prayers?

The Keys to effective Prayer are:

- 1) Trusting God will always provide for you and always do what is right.
- 2) Enjoying God – focus on your relationship with Jesus Christ as you pray.
- 3) Commit your day to God – obey him in whatever he asks you to do.

Prayer is not about getting what you want.

Prayer is about enjoying God and depending on him for everything.

How can you schedule your life in such a way to make your relationship with God a priority?



New Testament (27 books)				
History (5)	Paul's Letters to Churches (9)	Paul's Letters to Individuals (4)	Others' Letters (8)	Prophecy (1)
<p>Matthew Mark Luke John</p> <p>Acts</p>	<p>Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians</p>	<p>1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon</p>	<p>Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude</p>	<p>Revelation</p>

MATTHEW – ACTS

- Matthew:** Matthew writes to a Jewish audience to show them that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophecies regarding the promised King. Note how the genealogy in Matthew 1 centres around King David (Matt. 1:1, 17) and that Jesus is a legal heir to the throne.
- Mark:** Written to a Jewish audience in Rome, Mark only includes information that speaks to that crowd. He sets out to show that Jesus' accomplishments, miracles and teachings authenticate him as the true Son of God.
- Luke:** Luke's goal is to set the record straight concerning the accurate history of Jesus Christ. He writes primarily to a Greek audience emphasizing the humanity of Christ, as the second Adam. Salvation is available to all people, not just the Jews. Note how his genealogy (Lk. 3:38) traces right back to Adam, the son of God. The title, Son of Man, is used frequently of Christ.
- John:** John states his purpose for writing in Jn. 20:31-32, to show that Jesus is the Son of God and that by believing in him you can have eternal life. John uses much imagery from Genesis 1 to show how Jesus is initiating a New Creation and a New Exodus.
- Acts:** Also written by Luke, this book continues the historical account of how the Holy Spirit builds the church after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 1</p> <p>John 14:27 (NIV) <i>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.</i></p>	<p>Take the simple phrase, “my peace I give you”, and allow it to embed in your mind.</p> <p>Think through every implication you can of those five simple words.</p> <p>Stress the various words as indicated below to gain new insights and perspectives. Allow this phrase to repeatedly run through your mind all day.</p> <p>Whenever you feel stressed or frustrated, come back to the truth of this verse.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">My peace I give you My peace I give you My peace I give you My peace I give you My peace I give you</p> <p>This passage is very familiar, but don't be tempted to rush through it. Read it over and over again really focussing on every aspect of what it says. This passage can be life transforming!</p>	<p>What can you apply from this passage today?</p>



In the space below write out the 5 Historical books of the New Testament.

M _____

M _____

L _____

J _____

A _____



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 2</p> <p>1 John 4:18 (NIV) <i>There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.</i></p>	<p>Take the simple phrase, “perfect love drives out fear”, and allow it to embed in your mind.</p> <p>Think through every implication you can of those five simple words.</p> <p>Stress the various words as indicated below to gain new insights and perspectives. Allow this phrase to repeatedly run through your mind all day.</p> <p>Whenever you feel anxious or afraid, come back to the truth of this verse.</p> <p><i>perfect</i> love drives out fear perfect <i>love</i> drives out fear perfect love <i>drives out</i> fear perfect love drives out <i>fear</i></p>	<p>What can you apply from this passage today?</p>

In the space below write out the first 5 books of the New Testament.

M _____

J _____

M _____

A _____

L _____

To what category do these five books belong? _____



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 3</p> <p>Colossians 1:21-22 (NIV) <i>21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.</i></p> <p><i>22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you <u>holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation</u></i></p>	<p>Consider as many implications as you can from these few verses.</p> <p>How do these verses contrast with what you feel/believe about yourself?</p> <p>Which statement do you struggle with the most?</p> <p>If you truly believed these words, how would they transform your life?</p> <p>What would you stop chasing?</p> <p>How would your sense of worth be elevated?</p> <p>How would this affect your prayer life?</p> <p>Which phrase really stands out to you today? Why do you think that is?</p>	<p>What can you apply from this passage today?</p>

In the space below write out the first 5 books of the New Testament.

M _____

M _____

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Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 4</p> <p>John 15:7-8 (NIV) <i>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.</i> ⁸ <i>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples</i></p>	<p>You might want to read John 15 to get the whole context of this passage. The first phrase is the key, "remain in me".</p> <p>What does it mean for me to remain in Jesus?</p> <p>How will that affect what I ask for?</p> <p>Am I bearing much fruit? Why or why not?</p> <p>Am I faithfully remaining in Jesus or am I trying to create life through my own efforts?</p> <p>Don't rush over this passage. There is a lot to absorb here.</p>	<p>What can you apply from this passage today?</p>

In the space below write out the first 5 books of the New Testament.



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV) <i>Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.</i></p>	<p>Do I have some prayer requests that might not be answered because I have not had others pray with me?</p> <p>Has my pride prevented me from humbly expressing my concerns to others who would lovingly pray with me?</p> <p>Have I given the body of Christ the opportunity to become unified over a matter that God does care about?</p> <p>Have I experienced the presence of Jesus and his Holy Spirit in the midst of a prayer time with others?</p> <p>Would I like to?</p>	<p>What can you apply from this passage today?</p>

In the space below write out the first 5 books of the New Testament.
