

How To Spend One Hour with God

There are three ways to enter into God's presence. Begin with the method you respond to best:

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Reading the Bible
- 3) Personal Worship

1. **Preparation Time** - settle in and focus on God.

Ask God to help you spend this time with Him profitably.

Allow God to speak to you.

Declare your intention to obey what God asks you to do.

Preparation Pointers:

- 1) Use resources - Bible, note paper, hymnal, worship choruses.
- 2) Be yourself - talk to God naturally and personally.
- 3) Be comfortable - location and posture.
- 4) Don't do all the talking - allow God to speak and respond.

2. **Waiting Time** - find strength in waiting on God (Isaiah 40:31).

What to do during waiting time:

- 1) Let God love you - you have worth and value because of Jesus Christ.
- 2) Let God search you - an expression of His care, when you are convinced of God's love.
- 3) Let God show you - in preparation for what God has planned for the day.

3. **Confession Time** - unconfessed sin is a roadblock to answered prayer.

Comments about confession:

- 1) Confess sin immediately.
- 2) No one is beyond the need to confess, regardless of position or title.
- 3) God is never surprised by what we do, so be honest.
- 4) God will always tell us when we've done something wrong.
- 5) If sin is tolerated, it will increase - and could consume us.

4. Bible Time - learn to pray the word of God into your life.

How to Pray God's Word:

- 1) Make God's Word personal.
- 2) Read and respond to what you read.
- 3) Stop wherever God's Spirit speaks to you.

5. Meditation Time - consideration, response, and application of Bible reading.

How does what I read apply to:

- 1) My relationship with God.
- 2) Myself.
- 3) My spiritual journey.

6. Intercession Time - praying for others.

Thoughts about intercession: (I Timothy 2:1-4)

- 1) It is important to pray for others.
- 2) Learn to pray a blessing on people.
- 3) Express thankfulness for others.
- 4) Pray for leaders over you.
- 5) * Prayer can change the atmosphere of a situation.
- 6) Intercessory prayer pleases God.
- 7) We find the heart of God through intercession.

7. Petition Time - praying for our personal needs.

How to petition God properly:

- 1) Praying "Thy will be done" is an admission that our motives and petitions could be impure.
- 2) Be honest with your feelings, problems, and needs - God already knows.
- 3) Talk to God about the little things that concern you.
- 4) Keep a personal journal of lessons learned and answers to prayers.

8. Application Time - demonstrate love for God by obedient response.

He who prays and prays, but acts not on what he knows, is like the man who plans and plans but never sows.

9. **Faith Time** - praying in faith, believing for positive results in line with God's will.

This active prayer of faith, according to Hebrews 11:1-2, conveys expectation that God can, and will, bring about desired results to accomplish His purposes.

10. **Praise and Thanksgiving Time** - our verbal expression of gratefulness for who God is, and what He has done.

The difference between praise and thanksgiving:

Praise recognizes God for who He is.

Thanksgiving recognizes God for what He has done.

When I praise God, He inhabits me.

When I thank God, He blesses me.