

Drawing Near

The Daily Discipline of Time with God



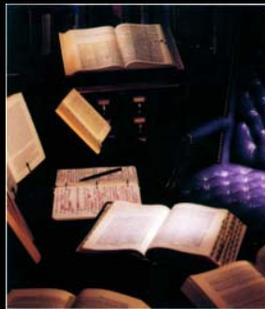
The Biblical Priority of Daily Bible Study & Prayer

Some Biblical Arguments

- It was a requirement for Israel's leaders (Deut. 17:14-20).
- It has always been the practice of the godly (e.g., Joshua 1:8; Job 23:12; Ps. 1:2; 119:97; Acts 2:42; 17:11; 2 Tim. 1:3; 2 Tim. 4:13)
- It is a God-given desire of every true Christian (1 Pet. 2:2).
- Christ rebuked people for not reading or knowing the Scripture (Matt. 12:3, 5; 19:4; 22:31; Mark 12:26).
- Paul commanded Timothy to immerse himself in the Scripture (1 Tim. 4:7-8).
- The daily discipline of prayer and exposure to the Word results in sanctification and spiritual progress (John 17:17; 1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The Best Time & Place

- Schedule time as part of your first morning activities.
- Choose a time that is available and workable most mornings.
- Choose a place that is quiet and light, but not too comfortable.
- Set a target time to begin and end.
- Be flexible.



The Essential Elements

- Bible reading – exposure to the entire content of Scripture.
- Bible study – disciplined, regular, in-depth study of a biblical book or passage.
- Prayer – both interjectory prayers of the moment, as well as several scheduled times each day to pour out your heart to God.
- Music – the Spirit-filled expression of praise in song in the heart and with our voices.
- Meditation – the choice to think deeply about our Lord, His works, and His Word.

A Possible Order

- Begin with a brief time of prayer.
 - Read a prayer from *The Valley of Vision* by Arthur Bennett, as a starting place for your own prayer.
- Reflect on a Psalm.
 - Read a Psalm.
 - Refer to a study resource to make sure you understand what the Psalm teaches.
 - Pray & meditate through the Psalm.
 - Let your study, and what you have learned about God drive your praise and confession.

A Possible Order

- Read a significant portion of Scripture.
 - Establish a workable plan to read through the Bible in a year to two years, depending on your reading speed.

Reading Your Bible

- Anyone can read through the Bible aloud in about 70 hours.
- At about 15 minutes a day, it takes less than a year.
- Donald Whitney suggests several practical approaches:
 - Read 3 chapters daily and 5 on Sundays.
 - Read an equal number of chapters from 5 sections of Scripture; begin at 1) Genesis (law); 2) Joshua (history); 3) Job (poetry); 4) Isaiah (the prophets); and 5) Matthew (the New Testament).
 - Read an equal number of chapters from 3 sections of Scripture; begin at 1) Genesis; 2) Job; and 3) Matthew.
- There are also many good reading plans available:
 - A daily Bible (www.christianbooks.com)
 - The reading plan in *The MacArthur Study Bible*
 - The plan included with this journal.

A Possible Order

- Read a significant portion of Scripture.
 - Establish a workable plan to read through the Bible in a year to two years.
 - Use different translations.
 - Don't do this reading in a study Bible.
 - Force yourself to read quickly to gain the sweep of biblical revelation, to increase your knowledge of biblical content, and to be confronted with the major themes of Scripture.
 - Use a schedule like the one included instead of one that is tied to specific dates; if you miss a day, you can simply start the next day where you left off, without being discouraged.

A Possible Order

- Study a paragraph of Scripture.
 - In addition to reading a Psalm, and reading through the Bible, you need to set aside some time each day to study through a biblical book or an extended passage.
- Pray.
 - Finish with an extended time of prayer.
 - Follow the pattern our Lord gave in The Lord's Prayer.

A Summary

- Begin with a brief time of prayer.
- Reflect on a Psalm.
- Read a significant portion of Scripture.
- Study a paragraph of Scripture.
- Pray.



Drawing Near: a Spiritual Journal

- Tabbed Dividers
 - **Scripture**
 - *Reflections in Psalms*
 - *A Year's Reading Plan*
 - *Bible Study*
 - **Prayer**
 - *The Glory of God*
 - *The Kingdom of God*
 - *The Will of God*
 - *The Needs of Life*
 - *The Confession of Sin*
 - *The Growth in Holiness*
 - **Music & Praise**
 - **Meditation**
 - **Sermon Notes**

<p>Drawing Near</p> <p>Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to come the full glory by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and since we have a greater priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19-22</p>	<p>personal information</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____</p>
---	--

