

Morning Time with God

(A practical methodology by Gregg Stutchman)

The purpose for this time with God is to grow closer and closer in your relationship with Him. This time is relationship oriented. In it you are not trying to become a theologian, or dissect prophecy, but to draw intimately close to the Savior. Certainly understanding prophecy and bible doctrines is important. However, this methodology does not focus there, but on building an intimate relationship with Jesus. The joy of the Christian life comes when the heart falls deeply in love with Jesus, which is very different than simply having head knowledge of Bible facts.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

“If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him.” Christ’s Object Lessons Page 129

METHODOLOGY

(Take time each day to follow the three steps noted below to build a stronger relationship with God.)

1. Pondering His love.
 - a. Take one text, a promise or an inspirational passage that speaks to you of God’s love, care and the hope we have in Him. Read and ponder it until it sinks in and completely touches and subdues your heart.
 - b. Ask God to speak to you through this passage. Consecrate your entire being to Him and give Him your heart anew this day.

2. Letter to God. (Some people call this journaling)
 - a. Start with gratitude. Thank Him for every blessing you can think of. Ask Him to uplift before your mind things for which to be grateful. Go into detail as you tell God how thankful you are. Later, when you go back and read your letters, being reminded of God’s loving care and answered prayers in the past will strengthen your faith and fill you with more gratitude.

Suggestions of things for which to express gratitude:

 - Blessings received, regardless of how small.
 - Sweet experiences you’ve had, regardless of how small.
 - Answered prayer.
 - People in your life; family, friends, etc.

Needs that have been met.

Incorporate praise texts as you write. Use the scripture as a communication aid or tool.

- b. Then: Share your needs with Him.
Claim promises that are applicable for your needs. God loves to be taken at his word.
- c. Prayer for others
Ask God to uplift before your mind people or situations for which you need to pray. Then pray for those people and those needs. Be as specific about sharing the need as you can. Again, claim God's promises for each situation.

3. Eating spiritual food

- a. This is Bible study which focuses on growing closer to Jesus, on knowing him better, on falling in love with Him more and more. (Example: read through the gospels, looking for texts, stories, people who you relate to in your journey with Jesus. Walk with Jesus through the stories. Sit with him and listen to the stories he tells. Watch the little children crawl up on his lap and look into His kind, gentle face. Hear him say to the woman taken in adultery, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." Watch as he turns the hopeless, possessed demonic into a whole, sane man who sits at the feet of Jesus in worship and adoration. See the sweat fall like drops of blood from his brow as he suffers the agony of our sins in the garden of Gethsemane. Hear the clang of the hammer coming down on the nails as they are driven through those hands that brought healing to so many, now outstretched upon a cross, a cross that should have been ours. Listen to His words "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do," as he seeks forgiveness for those who are crucifying him. Visit the empty tomb, and see that he is risen. Be with Mary in the garden when she encounters the risen Savior. Hear his words, "I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you, that where I am, there you may be also."
 - b. Underline these special texts, type or write them in a special place as spiritual food to read and re-read over and over as time goes on, etching them into the conscious and sub-conscious mind until they become part of you, available to the Holy Spirit to use to speak to you just when they are needed.
4. Close with a prayer that Jesus will walk with you and help you to incorporate the sweet fragrance of His spirit in all that you do and say as you interact with all those with whom you come in contact.