

Personal, Intimate Meetings With God Day By Day
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Calvary Bible Church
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Deut. 4:29, "But if you seek the Lord your God, you will find Him if you look for Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

II Chron. 7:14, "If my people will . . . seek my face . . . I will hear from heaven . . ."

II Chron. 15:1-4, "The Spirit of God came upon the prophet Azariah. He went to meet with the people and said to them, 'Listen to me. The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. ... And in their distress, they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and He was found by them.'"

II Chron. 33:12-13, "In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord and humbled himself greatly. And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea . . ."

Isa. 55:6, "Seek the Lord while He may be found."

Jer. 29:13, "'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord."

"If you seek me, you will find me."

"Intimate Meetings With God Day By Day."

"Intimate Meetings With God Day By Day"
is also called "Daily Devotions."

How did Daniel seek God? What did he do in his life that made him so strong at an early age and right on through his elderly years?

The Book of Daniel provides us with 3 pieces of circumstantial evidence that answers these questions.

A.) He personally knew the Word of God. In some way, either through his own personal reading and study or through someone having taught it to him, he had come to have a good understanding of what God's Word said. (Dan. 1:8-21; 9:1-2).

B.) Daniel got alone each day for a personal, intimate meeting(s) with God. And in these meetings, Daniel would talk to God. (Dan. 6:10-11).

C.) Daniel "meditated" that is, he pleaded with God for understanding and waited on God to talk with him. (Dan. 10:12-14).

II Timothy 2:7.

Joshua 1:8

Ps. 1

Gen. 24:63, "Isaac went out into the field one evening to meditate."

Seven practical steps to seeking God each day.

1. Be confident of this: God is eager to meet with you and He will let you find Him. Isa. 45:19, "I have not said to you, 'Seek me' in vain."

It is possible to go through life and live in the very world that God created and sustains you in every moment of every day and not know the owner of the house you live in! God is eager to make Himself known to you, but you must seek Him.

2. If you want to find God in your daily lives, you must set aside time each day to privately meet with Him-just you and God-for the purpose of developing an intimacy with God. This is what it means to seek Him.

And be assured of this: God knows when you don't really want to be with Him and when you are rushing into His presence and in those situations, you won't find God. He will hide Himself from you.

You can't rush into his presence. God rebuked and chastised his people for going through the motions, for assuming that the ritual was sufficient when they offered their sacrifices or paid their tithes. The same is true with devotions. God is not looking for a hastily time of Bible reading and prayer just so you can say that you did it or make yourself feel better about it. God wants you to really want to meet with Him because He really wants to meet with you!

When you rush into his presence and you rush out, do you think that He can't tell that you really didn't want to be there? If I come to visit with you and while I am there, I see you doing all sorts of things and sort of ignoring me or disregarding my presence, do you think I could not tell? When you rush home from work and on your way home, you are thinking of all earthly things that you need to do and sitting down and meeting with God is hardly on your mind, do you think that God cannot tell that you are disinterested in him?

3. Be like Daniel and don't give up just because God doesn't seem to be speaking and giving understanding. Wait on God. He will do what Paul told Timothy. "Reflect on what I am saying and God will give you understanding/insight into all this." This is what the blessed man does and what God told Joshua to do.

In his book entitled, "Ten Questions To Diagnose Your Spiritual Health", Don Whitney says this: "Meditate on Scripture. Note that we are to meditate, not merely read. Many languishing souls are assiduous Bible readers. Without the addition of meditation, warned the great man of prayer and faith George Muller, 'the simple reading of the Word of God can become information that only passes through our minds, just as water passes through a pipe.'"

4. Write down your meditations-what God is saying to you. Keep a record of what God has said to you and what He is showing you. This is really what the Psalms are! They are written meditations/records of man communing with God.

Whitney also says, "We remember little (if anything) of what we have read. So much processes through our brains; if we don't absorb some of it we will be affected by none of it. Without absorption of the water of God's Word, there's no quenching our spiritual thirst. Meditation is the means of absorption. Spend 25-50% of your Bible intake time meditating on some verse, phrase, or word from your reading. Ask questions of it. Pray about it. Take your pen and scribble and doodle on a pad about it. Look for at least one way you could apply it or live it. Linger over it. Soak your soul slowly in the water of the Word, and you'll find it not only refreshes you, but prompts a satisfying thirst for more."

5. Be like Jacob and wrestle with God. Refuse to let God go until God has "blessed you." (Gen. 32). Don't get up and leave-keep reading/meditating/prayer-until you know that God has spoken with you and you have encountered God.

George Gardiner, a highly successful pastor of by-gone years, said that another pastor came to him and told him that his own sermons were dry and he couldn't decide what to preach upon from Sunday to Sunday. Pastor Gardiner told him to go home, get on his knees, lay his Bible on a chair and begin to read it and refuse to get up until God had spoken to him-until he had heard the voice of God.

6. Do what God tells you to do. Failure to do what God tells you to do will cause God to hide from you the next time you go to meet with Him.

Isa. 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

Isa. 64:7, "For you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins."

Ezek. 39: 23, " . . . for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them . . ."

If you find this happening, ask God what sin you have committed and confess it, forsake it and He will again begin to meet with you and you will hear His voice.

7. Talk (Pray) back to God what He has said to you. Tell God you want to do what He has said to you. Ask Him for power to change. Ask Him for forgiveness for waiting so long to change.