





Vintage Teachings  
**DEVOTION**  
Feeding Your Soul  
And Enjoying Your King

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Being a Christ-follower is all about relationship – living, growing, and enjoying a love relationship with Jesus Christ. That's His desire and His plan for you. His love for you is unlike anything else you'll ever experience – perfect, complete, consistent, eternal (check out these verses: John 14:23; 15:9-10; Romans 8:31-39)



So how do we daily connect with Jesus and grow in our love relationship with Him? God has given us two main sources to make this happen: the Bible and Prayer. These are divine sources of unspeakable spiritual riches. God Himself tells us that His Word is truth (John 17:17) and contains everything we need to live out life on this planet as God designed it to be lived (II Timothy 3:16). He goes on to let us know that through prayer we have direct – catch that – direct access to Him (Hebrews 4:16). Unbelievable, but true! “But how does it all work?” you ask. That's the right question. Let's pursue that answer. The following are some simple suggestions on how to implement God's Word and Prayer in your daily life.



Because you recognize that God's Word is powerful and that He's given it to you as a way to get to know Him and to follow His plan for life, you definitely want to be in it every day. Setting aside a specific time to do this each day is not only crucial for you, but it means something to God as well. He loves you and enjoys the time spent together One-on-one with you. When you think about it, it's absolutely amazing! The Creator





of the universe, God Almighty desires to spend time alone with you. (This fact alone should definitely blow-away any self-esteem issues. You matter to God, and He loves your company. How powerful and exciting is that?!) Let this truth encourage and motivate you to guard your alone time with God.



Find a place free of distractions, a place where your heart can throttle down and you can quiet yourself. Start out your time with a simple prayer asking God, by His Holy Spirit, to guide you and reveal to you what He wants you to learn. Breathe deep . . . be still . . . prepare to hear from God. Then, start reading at the beginning of a book of the Bible (a couple of good ones to begin with are the Gospel of John and First John). Read until something "jumps out" at you – like God wrote that just for you. Stop, re-read it, think about what it says and about what God is saying to you through it. If you decide to journal (which can be a great discipline and a big help to learning and growing) write down the verse and your thoughts on it. Try using the "So What – Now What" method. "So What" does the text say? Next, decide "Now What" does God want me to do about it? How does He want me to live this truth out, to live differently in this world for Him? God is all about life-change, conforming you to the example of Jesus (Romans 8:29) so that your life on this planet will count. Pretty exciting stuff! Tell God what you will do about what He's shared with you in His Word. It's an important element of accountability. Continue this way each day. When you get to the end of that book of the Bible, start another one. Remember, it's not about how fast you can "burn" through a section of Scripture. It's about relationship, about getting to know God. Slow down and feed your soul.

This leads into a time of conversation with God, talking





and listening through prayer. Lay out your heart before God. He wants that (Psalm 62:8). To help keep your prayer life balanced and to prevent it from becoming a laundry list of “give me’s”, try using the “Teaspoon Method”. The abbreviation for “Teaspoon” is “tsp”: “t” stands for “Thank You” – a time of expressing thankfulness, praise, and adoration to God; “s” stands for “Sorry” – a time to apologize, confess, repent, ask God’s forgiveness, and simply come clean with God about sin in your life; “p” stands for “Please” – asking God for things, presenting before Him your needs and desires for yourself and others. All of this happens within the context of a growing love relationship with God. So don’t allow it to become mechanical. Just make it real.



Your times alone with God may sometimes be loud, sometimes quiet, sometimes filled with laughter, sometimes broken with tears – it’s just you and God – make it real. As you leave your alone time with God remember that the relationship is not on hold or on a shelf until the next day. Keep the conversation open. Think about Jesus throughout your day. He’s thinking about you. Live out your day with Him and for Him. You’re a Christ-follower . . . enjoy your King and enjoy your journey.

P.S. If, when you read a passage of Scripture, you find yourself having trouble making sense of it or simply struggling to find something that God is saying to you through it, try looking for one or more of the following:

- A SIN to turn from
- A PROMISE to claim
- An EXAMPLE to follow
- A COMMAND to obey
- A TEACHING ABOUT GOD (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- A BLESSING or ENCOURAGING WORD to enjoy
- A WARNING to regard