Draw near to God and He will Draw near to you.

James 4:8

Volume 65:

Monday, October 19, 2026 - Saturday, October 24, 2026

QUICK START OVERVIEW

Welcome to developing and maintaining an intimate relationship with God. One of the most important things you can do in your life is to have a consistent daily time with Jesus through His Word and through prayer. This is a privilege that we get to share in and not a chore that we have to do. The most important thing in your life is your connection to the Lord. It is what Jesus gave His life for you to have. He opened the door. You choose to go in and meet with God or not. You decide how important knowing God and His will is. The door is open.
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PLAN Great achievements don't just happen they are accomplished one step at a time. What greater goal could our lives embrace than being close to God?

Getting started developing a relationship with God takes a small amount of planning. There's no set standard of what your regular quiet time should look like. God will help you adapt the plan that is right for you. Within 21 days, the time it takes to form a habit, you'll be well on your way.

Decide On a Time
If you view your time spent alone with God as an appointment with a real Person, which He is, you will be less apt to miss or skip it. The best time of the day for you to have your time with God is when you are at your best.
I will meet with God at this time: _____

Decide On a Place
Finding the right place is key to your success. If you try to spend quality time with God lying in bed with the lights off, failure is inevitable.
I will meet with God at this place: _____

Decide On a Time Frame
There is no standard time frame for building your relationship with God. You have to decide how much time you can realistically commit to each day. 10 to 15 minutes a day is a good starting point and can quickly develop into more. Some people can commit to 30 minutes, others an hour or more a day. Some 3 shorter times a day. Morning, noon, and night. Whenever you decide to start the key is to start with a realistic goal that you feel you can meet.

I will set aside this time to meet with God for this time frame: _____

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STRUCTURE

We are all different, and we are at different stages of life with different responsibilities, so your time with the Lord could be a little different than anyone else's. Here is a general structure of time to get you going.

1. Be quiet before the Lord. The Bible calls it waiting on God. You start by simply sitting down and meditating on Who God is. As you do this, you'll find yourself calming down and letting go of the noise that gets in the way of hearing God. Hearing from God is important. You can't be distracted.

2. Pray. Start off with a short opening prayer. Thank God for your salvation and for Who He has been to you, and all His blessings. Praise Him for His faithfulness, Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind, give you understanding, and guide you. Ask Him to cleanse your mind and life of anything that is not inline with His desires for you and reaffirm your love, appreciation, and devotion to Him.

3. Study a passage of Scripture. God speaks to us through His Word. Read intentionally. Don't try to read too quickly or too much so that you can actually think deeply about what you're reading. Ask questions seeking to understand God and what He is trying to communicate. During this time, spend time meditating on God's Word and writing down what you discover.

4. Pray again. Be quiet. Thank God for His Word. Talk to God about what He has said to you. Tell Him what you're thinking about what He is saying. Talk to Him about anything else that's on your mind. There is not just one way to have a quiet time, but following a plan similar to this can get you started on a rewarding, growing journey of walking closely with Christ fulfilling His calling on your life.

Go out determined to apply what the Lord revealed to you.

QUESTIONS/NOTES

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BIBLE STUDY: Approaching God's Word throughout the day

The Bible is God's Word to us. It contains more than just instructions and guidance that help us to live the life that God intends for us to live. Through Scripture God reveals Himself to us and provides us with the spiritual nourishment our faith needs to grow and mature. Our faith is grounded in Who God is. Through Scripture God speaks to us and reveals Himself to us.

How Do I Study the Bible? One way is the SOAP method.

SOAP is an acronym for **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, **P**rayer.

S = Scripture Read a full passage of Scripture to see its context. Focus on a verse that stands out to you from the passage and write the entire verse down in your journal. Focus on digging down to fully understand what God is communicating through it.

O = Observation Write your observations about the verse. What are some key words that stand out in this passage? Are there any related verses, illustrations, stories, or object lessons that come to your mind when reading this Scripture? How many truths can you uncover as you meditate on it?

A = Application How does this verse apply in your life? Are there any changes in your life or the way you think about God, others, or the choices you are making that you need to make? or What does this Scripture lead you to do? What will be different if you live out the truths in this Scripture?

P = Prayer Pray for God to give you understanding of how He wants to use this Scripture in your heart and life. Ask Him to help you to hear and understand His Word. Pause and listen! Ask Him to give you direction for the day and for the week. Do not walk away and forget what you read but seek to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to let Him use God's Truth to renew your mind and transform your heart and mold your character into the image of Christ.

What Do I Need to Study God's Word?
You will need just three things for the SOAP Bible Study method.
1. A Commitment to set aside time - Jesus says, "learn of me."
2. A Bible - A desire to know the Lord and His Will for your life.
3. A Journal - so that you can write down your observations, applications, prayers, and action steps God impresses on you during your Bible study.

PRAYER: Responding to and uniting with the Lord

Prayer is talking to and hearing from God. This is possible for believers because Jesus has made a way for our relationship to be restored to the Father and because the Holy Spirit lives inside of us and helps us to know what to pray for. The P.R.A.Y. acrostic method of prayer is helpful, especially to new believers.

P = Praise First, start your prayer with total respect and honor by praising God for who He is and what He has done. Jesus's own model of prayer, given to His disciples when they asked, *"Lord, teach us to pray,"* is recorded in Matthew 6. He teaches us to begin vertically, *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done."* It's good to begin our prayers by focusing first on God and His agenda.

R = Repent Second, take time to confess any current sins. As believers, we are totally forgiven of all our past, present, and future sins. Yet, we know we still sin. Those ongoing sins disturb our fellowship with our heavenly Father. We need to repent of our sins and confess them to God. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). To confess is "to say the same thing" God says about our sinful attitudes and actions. Repent means to "change direction and go the other way." Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal hidden sin.

A = Ask Third, after our hearts are bowed in praise and purified through repentance, we are ready to ask God for wisdom and to supply what we need to fulfill His Will for our lives without our wrong motives getting in the way. God encourages us to come boldly to Him. *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* Hebrews 4:16

Y = Yield Fourthly, take time to listen and see if God is speaking healing, or hope, or instruction into your heart. Yield your dreams and desires to His will trusting that He knows what is best for His glory and your good. Keep in mind that whatever you hear should line up with God's written Word, the Bible.

MAKE A PRAYER LIST

Use the last page in this booklet to write down your prayers. It is easy to forget who and what you want to be praying for. Using a list allows you to record His answers and look back and remember how God has worked in and through your life. It is good to periodically go back and thank Him for all He has done.

Romans 3:10-12 [10] As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; [11] there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. [12] All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." **Isaiah 53:6** [6] All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

What are these verses saying about human nature, and why does Jesus use the metaphor of something "lost" to represent people in His parables?

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Why must someone realize they are lost or separated from God before they can find salvation in Christ? What is the cause of the separation? Is it the things we do or desire, or is it our attitude towards God?

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Isaiah 59:1-2 [1] Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. [2] But your *iniquities **(*the twisting or bending of God's Word to fit your life or lifestyle)** have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

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What is the Lord telling us in this verse?

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How do you apply this verse to your salvation and your spiritual growth?

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Isaiah 53:5 [5] He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are *healed. *** Hebrew: made whole, purified**

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What is the verse describing? What is the significance of the words transgressions, crushed, punishment, peace, and healed?

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How have you experienced the significance of this verse though the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross to pay for your sins?

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Ephesians 2:1-3 [1] As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2] in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

How would you describe your life when you were separated from God? What were the things that made you realize that you did not have a relationship with the Lord and needed His forgiveness and redemption?

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Ephesians 2:4-5 [4] But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions, it is by grace you have been saved.

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How did you come to encounter Jesus? Describe how you saw your need for Him and how He revealed Himself to you?

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Romans 5:10-11 [10] For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! [11] Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

What does it mean to be reconciled to God?

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How has your life been different since you were reconciled to God through your faith in Jesus Christ?

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Sermon Notes:

This book belongs to: _____