

GOD TIME 101



BASIC GUIDELINES FOR
TIME SPENT WITH GOD



GOD TIME 101

**BASIC GUIDELINES FOR
TIME SPENT WITH GOD**

**BY KARL WHITTINGSTALL
EDITED BY SHANNON STARK**



INTRO

A friend of mine said to me recently, “When I don’t make time with the Lord each morning, it feels like I’m leaving the house without pants on.” While this statement is awkwardly funny, it’s an amazing illustration. If you are a follower of Jesus, you probably know what he means. When you haven’t clothed yourself in the Word of God and prayer, gone before the creator of heaven and earth thanking Him for another day, and begged Him for mercy and grace...it leaves you feeling exposed and vulnerable to sin. This is why time with God, “God Time” is so vitally important.

In John 15:4 Jesus explains that true, sincere Christ-followers abide in Him. Abide means to stay or to remain: **“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”** The practical application for this is what we call God Time, time spent with God in His Word daily.

The Bible is the one tangible or touchable thing God has given to mankind to get to know Him. If you are a follower of Jesus, you only know about Jesus because you read about Him from the Bible or someone taught you about Him. God’s Word, the Bible, is made up of the Old and New Testaments, totalling 66 books, and it is fully trustworthy as our final and sufficient authority for all of life (2 Timothy 3:16-17). So we do well to pay attention to what God’s Word brings to light, as to a lamp shining in a dark place (2 Peter 1:20-21).

“Since God’s Word is timeless, sufficient, complete and always relevant...Anyone who is in Christ should want to grow in godliness, and everyone in Christ has two tools by which to train themselves: the Bible and prayer” (*Live Smart*, by Dan Dumas pg.30).

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“EVERY TIME YOU OPEN YOUR BIBLE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH THE LIVING GOD.” -AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The booklet you are holding now is meant to be a very basic guide to God Time as we learn to abide in Christ through prayer and the study of His Word. “You’ll never outgrow the Bible, and it

is essential to your spiritual formation. If you don’t know the Bible, you’re handicapping your sanctification” (Live Smart pg.33).

1 Timothy 4:8 **“For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”**

WHAT DOES GOD TIME LOOK LIKE?

For many people, time with God looks different, but there are always two essential elements: the Word of God and prayer. Some devotional books can also be helpful if they point you to the Bible and the truth found in it. The best plan is to learn to read God’s Word on your own and practice talking to God yourself. This is important because God’s Word is powerful and He listens when we pray.

As we better understand God as defined in his Word, our prayer life will also become more glorifying. As you **“delight yourself in the Lord, He will give you the desires of your heart”** (Psalm 37:4). I

heard someone say recently, “I don’t ever finish some sweet time with the Lord and think, Netflix for the rest of the afternoon.” Exposure to God changes you and what you find joy in!

AS BELIEVERS, SCRIPTURE IS OUR AUTHORITY. IT ACTS AS AN UNRELENTING FILTER FOR OUR FEELINGS AND OPINIONS.

INTRODUCTION

Romans 10:17 **“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”**

Psalm 119:18 **“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”**

God Time doesn't have an exact formula to follow. At different times in my walk with the Lord I have spent more time in prayer than in the Word and vice versa. The greater point is being intentional about both prayer and reading Scripture regularly, learning to abide in Christ.

The next two sections will guide you as you get started with your own personal God Time. Seek to grow better in meeting with God in both prayer and His Word. The more you expose yourself to the Lord, the more He will change you.

SECTION 1

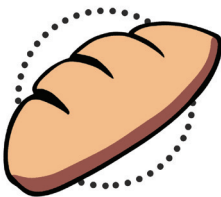
THE BIBLE

Have you ever tried to ride your bike or walk up a hill you can't see the top of? It can be overwhelming and discouraging, especially if you aren't in great shape or are already feeling tired. Any good cyclist will tell you to gear down, take it easy, and pedal steadily. If you're on foot don't push yourself too hard, but take it one step at a time. These principles also apply to reading God's Word.

I have been a follower of Jesus for over 30 years and when I look at the Bible I still feel overwhelmed at the depth of what is in front of me, and that's not a bad thing. The depth and the riches of Scripture as they reveal their author (God) are far too great for any human to ever fully know this side of eternity. So, for many people picking up God's Word can seem daunting, and that's okay.

You need to know that the seemingly monumental feat of God Time is worth the effort. The Bible contains all that we need for life and godliness—we need to study it's pages! So let's go over the basics.

Throughout Scripture, the Word of God refers to itself in different ways.



Matthew 4:4 **“But he answered, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”**

SECTION 1: THE BIBLE



Jeremiah 23:29 “Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”



Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”



Psalms 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

It isn't uncommon for people to think, (*parts of the Bible are really helpful, but some parts aren't as helpful and you have to be really smart to understand them.*) However 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “**All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.**”

All Scripture means, yup, you guessed it, ALL Scripture. Right from the beginning the Bible is the most epic story ever told, completely true in every way, and it hasn't ended yet!

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Bible begins with God creating everything perfectly (Genesis 1-2). However in the third chapter of the book of Genesis crisis hits and sin enters creation. You probably know the story of Adam and Eve and the

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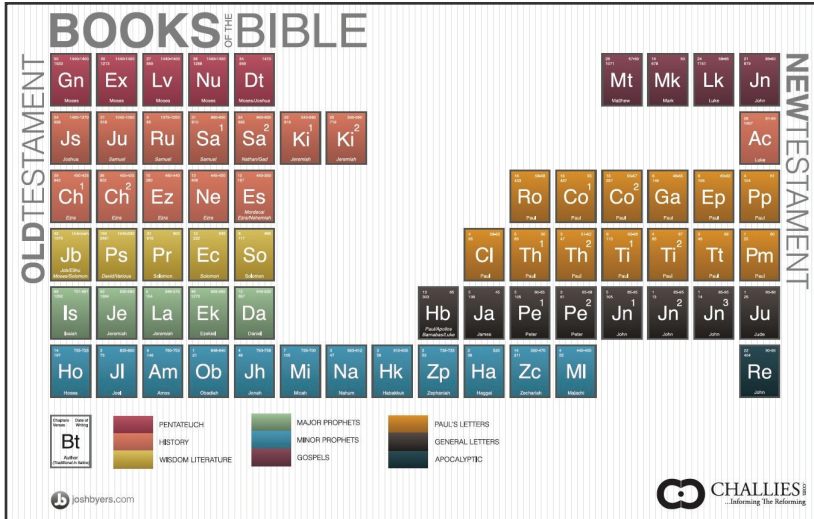
talking snake—(never listen to talking snakes) since Genesis 3, the curse of sin has been upon all creation. The consequence of sin is physical and spiritual death as well as separation from God, apart from an intervention from God there was no way for mankind to reverse this curse.

However, God had a plan and it started with a man named Abram who would eventually become Abraham, the father of God's chosen people, the Israelites. Through Abraham, God made a way to rescue everyone. This is often referred to as God's Redemptive History, the story of God redeeming His people back from the curse of sin, which sounds epic BECAUSE IT IS (it's real, and you're in it).

BIBLE STRUCTURE

The Bible is broken into two main parts and each has its own subsections. The first is the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the bigger section of the Bible and contains 39 of the 66 books in the Bible and spans about 5000 years of human history. The Old Testament contains the historical account of the Israelites and their struggle to have land of their own, obey God, have a king, stay faithful to God, receive punishment for rebellion to God, and be warned from God. God records this in stories, poems, and prophecies all contained in the Old Testament books.

The New Testament contains 27 books, most of which are letters, and spans about 100 years. The New Testament begins with the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist (who came before Jesus to announce His coming) and ends with the disciple John writing the book of Revelation in about 95 AD. The New Testament contains the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the long awaited and prophesied about Saviour from the Old Testament whom God sent to save His people. AMAZING! But, many people at the time of Jesus were not looking for a spiritual saviour from the curse of sin, but a physical saviour as the nation of Israel at this time was under the rule of the Roman Empire.



Tim Challies, *Visual Theology*

Jesus' life is recorded in the four gospels that open the New Testament, they contain His miracles and teaching including His death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven. The books that follow record the beginning of Christianity and the early Church as well as important doctrinal letters sent to instruct, guide, and rebuke the Church.

Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with lessons that will help us learn how to be a Christ-Follower. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, **"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."**

Understanding the circumstances surrounding a passage (context) is key to understanding the meaning and message of the passage (content). So let's break down the Testaments a bit so you have basic context as you read into their books.

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OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament is traditionally broken down into five parts:

1. PENTATEUCH

The first five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These books record the beginning of the world, God's choosing His people (the nation of Israel), giving them His law, and bringing them to the land He had promised.

2. HISTORY

Containing Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. These books record Israel coming into the Promised Land and asking God for an earthly king. While they are there, God blesses them and establishes a monarchy. The History books also include the nation of Israel dividing—the divided kingdoms had mostly bad kings, very few good ones were scattered throughout their history. The nation was then captured, exiled, and finally returned to the Promised Land.

3. WISDOM LITERATURE

Made up of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. These books include first-hand testimonies of major events, conversations with God, songs, poems, and wise sayings. These are by far the most emotion-filled writings in the Old Testament.

4. MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel are referred to as the major prophets of the Old Testament not simply because they are longer than others, but because their content deals with more global issues than single-country specific details.

5. MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are not minor in importance by any means. They are referred to as minor prophets because their target audience was very specific, not global, but often to people, cities, regions, or countries.

NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament is also divided into five parts.

1. GOSPELS

The first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the gospels. Each of these books are accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus from different followers of Christ.

2. HISTORY

In the New Testament, the book of Acts is the only history book. Acts spans over just 30 years. The book is made up primarily of the ministries of Peter and Paul, who were each directed by God on different missionary paths, one to the Jews (the Israelites) and the other to the Gentiles (any non-Jew).

3. PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon are all letters written by the apostle Paul originally to targeted people or churches in specific cities. Romans is to the church in Rome, Philippians is to the church at Philippi, Ephesians is to the church at Ephesus, and 1 & 2 Timothy are letters to Paul's young friend Timothy. These letters are rich with important truth about God, how His followers are to live, as well as directions for particular topics and people.

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4. GENERAL LETTERS

Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 & 3 John, and Jude were written by different men to all followers of Christ. The author of Hebrews is not known and it reads more like a sermon transcript than a letter, but it is classified as general letter because it appears to be directed to Hebrew (Jewish, Israelite) people in general rather than to a specific person or city.

5. REVELATION

This part of the New Testament contains only the book of Revelation. This book sits in a class by itself as the only prophetic book in the New Testament containing God's revealing of coming events, many of which have yet to happen.

BASIC BIBLE READING

It is important to know that when it comes to reading God's Word, this special book only has spiritual impact when miraculously revealed by the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 2:14 **"The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."** When reading Scripture it is important to remember not to get discouraged if you can't figure it out on your own, you need God's help!

The best plan before you start to read is to pray and ask God to help you understand His Word and teach you from it. As God grows you in your understanding and knowledge of Him and His Word your insights will go deeper.

As you read the Bible there are three basic questions that you can ask every passage to help you learn:

- **What does this passage teach me about God?**
- **What was God communicating to the original audience?**
- **What does this mean for me?**

SECTION 1: THE BIBLE

Taking a moment to think purposefully about every passage you read will help to identify the specific truths found in it. At first you may want to actually have these questions in front of you.

1. What does this passage teach me about God?

The Bible is God's recorded revelation of Himself to mankind, so every passage of Scripture reveals some truth about God. We should take joy in knowing more about Him.

Example:

Psalm 19:7; "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

This verse reveals to us a few things about God.

1. He is perfect and it is evident in His creation of the law.
2. He speaks only truth in His "testimonies" or words.

2. What was God communicating to the original audience?

The Bible was written to people living in a different time in history, with a different culture, and in a different language than most of its readers today. Although we are blessed to have God's Word in so many languages, it is important to look for a translation that is as close to the original language as you can understand (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek are the three languages the Bible was originally written in). The difference in the original audience to you now may seem enormous, but this is one of the amazing things about God's Word: it holds timeless truth about Him and what He wants His people to know, regardless of their place in history.

Example:

Psalm 19:7; "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

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In this verse it was important for the original audience to know that:

1. The law of God is perfect.
2. God's law (words) can revive your soul.
3. God's words bring wisdom to people who don't seem wise (the simple).

3. What does this passage mean for me?

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). Many passages of the Bible reveal multiple things and are better understood as you learn more about God. Be encouraged knowing that God often teaches the same thing to people from the same passage at different times in their walk with Him. Lean on others and ask how God has helped them understand Scripture in order to help you understand and apply it better yourself.

The Bible teaches the same truth over and over again (Hebrews 4:12). If you come across something you aren't sure of, or you think is new, check it with other passages in Scripture. The Bible was written in many different pieces, to different people, over different times, but it reveals the same unchanging God.

Example:

Psalms 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

As I understand more about God and what He was communicating to the original audience in this passage it has application for me. It means that:

1. I can trust perfect God and His Word.
2. I should go to the Lord in His Word to be revived.
3. If I want wisdom that matters, I will find it in His Word.

Now go read the rest of Psalm 19. ☺

SECTION 2

PRAYER

Often when people think about their God Time, they think about what they are reading in God's Word, what verses have been especially encouraging to them, and what they have learned. The Bible is undoubtedly the most direct way to learn from and interact with God, but He has also given us prayer.

I heard someone say recently, "Prayer is the language of Heaven all God's children can speak." The problem is that most of us don't practice it. I took French all the way through grade school, but haven't used it apart from the occasional visit to Quebec, so my French is really bad. Sadly, for many believers prayer is the same, they struggle to talk to God like they would an awkward friend.

In a healthy relationship communication is a two-way street. Talking to God needs to be something we do more than just at meal times and before bed. Turning to God in prayer should be our start to every day and our basic instinct in every situation all day long—but this doesn't happen without believing God hears (Romans 10:17).

God makes it clear in His Word that we need pray.

Colossians 4:2 **"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 **"Pray without ceasing."**

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1 Chronicles 16:11 **“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!”**

Psalms 145:18 **“The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”**

James 5:13 **“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”**

1 John 5:14 **“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.”**

I know I need to pray, but it always seems so hard. My pastor, Robbie Symons, often says, “Prayer is the easiest thing to do and the hardest thing to do. We have to constantly be working at it, it is like that screw that keeps coming loose that we need to be constantly tightening.”

The reason prayer is so hard is because we often think we can get by on our own. Billy Graham once said, “A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian.” So when we fail to pray and try to survive life on our own, really what we are communicating to God is, I am fine I don’t need your help, God. As you read that statement I hope it makes you feel a little sick to your stomach. Far too many Christians live like this far too often.

Prayer, like reading God’s Word, shouldn’t be a thing that we just do because we know we should. Time spent in the Bible and in

TIME SPENT IN THE BIBLE AND IN PRAYER ARE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES, AND THEY COME FROM HEARTS OF INCREASING DEPENDENCE ON GOD AND LOVE FOR HIM.

prayer are spiritual disciplines, and they come from hearts of increasing

SECTION 2: PRAYER

dependence on God and love for Him. Jesus prayed publicly many times while on earth, but he also knew the need for personal prayer and did it often, too.

Mark 1:35 “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.”

Luke 6:12 “In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.”

Jesus took time the night before his arrest (which led to his crucifixion) to go before the Lord privately in prayer (Matthew 26:36-39). Why? Because Jesus knew what we need to know: God is the only one who can help us, we are powerless on our own and we need to talk to Him!

PRAY WITH FAITH

Mark 11:24 “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

**GOD IS THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN HELP US, WE
ARE POWERLESS ON OUR
OWN AND WE NEED TO
TALK TO HIM!**

John 15:5b and 7 “...for apart from me you can do nothing...If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

God cares about us and listens when we talk to Him. We can get so comfortable doing things on our own that we often fail to believe that He will or maybe even can help. God loved us enough that He sent His Son to die on a cross for us, if we believe that, why do we doubt when he tells us to come to Him in prayer?

TRUST GOD'S PLAN AND TIMING

1 John 5:14–15 **“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”**

Psalm 40:1 **“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.”**

God's timing is not always our timing and the answers we get to our prayers may not always be what we want, but that doesn't mean God doesn't care. I love David's heart in Psalm 40 as he describes waiting for the Lord to answer his prayer. God's timeline was not David's but he waited, and we need to follow his example.

FOLLOW GOD'S FORMULA

Matthew (6:9-13) and Luke (11:2-4) both record Jesus telling His disciples how to pray. In Matthew, Jesus says **“when you pray”** in verses 5, 6 and 7, affirming God's expectation that you pray.

Matthew 6:9–13

Pray then like this:

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,**

SECTION 2: PRAYER

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”**

This is Jesus’ model for prayer. He doesn’t command that we pray this specific prayer every day, but instructs that we are to pray **“like this.”** Many godly people throughout history have pulled out four elements from this passage that we can follow when we pray.

Adoration: As you start talking to God take time to declare His greatness, fueling your faith in Him for the rest of your prayer.

Confession: Come before God and name your sin, admit wrongs done to God and ask Him for forgiveness. We need to confess sin often because we sin often. Confession doesn’t bring forgiveness Jesus does, but confession helps us understand the seriousness of sin which then helps sin’s frequency decrease.

1 John 1:9 **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

Thanksgiving: Gratefully declare to God how blessed we are for His mercy and grace poured into our lives.

Supplication: Supplication means request. This is the easiest element of prayer to bring before God for most people. Often people have long shopping lists of prayer, but God answers prayers according to His will. The more you understand God and His will, the more you will see God responding to your prayers. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 **“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”** David wrote in Psalm 37:4 **“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”** Understanding prayer and how it works can be confusing, but the key to knowing what to pray for is asking, “does this bring glory to God”? If it does, pray it.

SECTION 3

GOD TIME STRATEGIES

In His book *Passion Cry*, Robbie Symons outlines four important things you need for God Time: a plan to read the Word, a place to meet with God, a pen, and a prayer.

A PLAN TO READ THE WORD

God has given us His Word and we must be wise about how we use it. Yes, God can reveal to you great things by just flipping it open to random pages, but how much more do you think He will bless as you intentionally seek Him in His Word? A plan helps with intentionality and there are many great options available.

There are digital download options guiding you through the whole Bible in a year like YouVersion or ESV Study Bible where you can choose between topics, or speed of reading plans, and much more. The F260 Bible Reading Plan walks you through 260 essential passages of Scripture and encourages memorizing a few verses each week. The E100 Bible reading plan goes through 100 specific passages of Scripture to help you get the big picture of the Bible in 100 days of reading. If that seems daunting, start small. Use the Gospel of John 21 day challenge and read a chapter a day. Whatever you choose to read, make sure you have a plan.

Right now I am systematically reading through the entire Bible two books at a time. I read a chapter or two in each book each day slowly studying each passage. If you choose to read using this plan, I

SECTION 3: GOD TIME STRATEGIES

recommend starting with the Psalms in the Old Testament in addition to a Gospel, Romans, and another Epistle. From there choose two other books to read that you are excited about.”

**“GET INTO THE WORD
UNTIL THE WORD
GETS INTO YOU.”
-ROBBY GALLATY**

Pastor James MacDonald said once, “sometimes you need to get in God’s Word where it intersects with your life.” I believe this is something people don’t do nearly as often as they should. It is great to read the entire Bible in a year, but if you are going through some specific issues, seek God in His Word to teach you on that subject. The following are some examples of practical passages.

Why listen to God - Psalm 19

Battling sin - Romans 6 & 7

Assurance of salvation - John 10 / Romans 8

Wisdom - Proverbs 3

Trials - James 1 / Hebrews 12 / Job

Learning to pray - Matthew 6

Fuel your faith fire - Psalm 121

Psalm 119:130 **“The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.”**

A PLACE TO MEET WITH GOD

Having a special place to meet with God is important, not just a space, but a specific time.

Warning - lying in bed may seem like a great cozy place to read your Bible and pray, but it is also a great place to sleep and you may wake up with your Bible on your face more than you planned.

For many people, starting the day with the Lord is the best option. Evening God Time isn’t a bad thing, but what better way to face this

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world than having met with God in His Word and in prayer first thing, strengthened in faith and fired up for Him as you go on with your day?

Pick a time and a place—maybe it is a quiet chair by a window, maybe it is at the kitchen table before anyone else is up—choose a place to read God’s Word and pray by yourself each day. Don’t take your mobile device to this place with you, you will only be distracted by the hundred other uses for your phone. Don’t use a Bible app for daily study, use your Bible!

GET A PEN

As you study God’s Word take notes about what you are learning, underline words that stand out to you and phrases and verses that the Lord uses to bless you.

As you read God’s Word it is a fantastic practice to journal what you are learning. At the back of this booklet there are journal pages to help you answer the three study questions (found above) in every passage of Scripture. When you run out of pages find some other place to track what the Lord is teaching you so over time you can look back at your journals and be reminded of how God revealed Himself to you.

GET A PRAYER

The Psalmist says, **“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law”** (Psalm 119:18). Pastor Robbie writes in *Passion Cry*, “He [the Psalmist] is asking for revelation and insight. It’s a prayer that your time with the Lord will be truly supernatural. It’s a request that could change your life on a daily basis.” We need God to reveal Himself to us in His Word by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14) and we need to ask Him for this every day. Prayer must become our increasing instinct throughout the day and we should be as intentional about prayer as we are with reading the Bible.

SECTION 3: GOD TIME STRATEGIES

Take the time each day to pray like Jesus did (see Matthew 6:9-13). When you pray have intentional thoughtful moments of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication and ask God to reveal Himself to you from His Word.

I have an ongoing list of things I am praying for. It's mostly made up of people and specific situations. That list is broken into two sections: daily and not daily. As you begin to record the things you want to pray for, you will likely see your heart desires to pray for a lot, don't let that scare you. Be intentional and pray as best you can. Keeping track of prayer is important, too, so you can take special notes and give God the glory and thanks He deserves when you see Him answer prayer. Love for God increases when he rightly gets the glory for answered prayer.

Psalm 116:1 “I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.”

1 Chronicles 16:11

“Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!”

The back cover of this book has a tear off bookmark to help you get into God's Word and prayer.

FINALLY

You can't do any of this without the Lord! You need His strength, conviction, help, and most of all His Spirit to guide you. DISCIPLINE to seek Him will lead to DILIGENCE in drawing close to Him, which God will use to bring great DELIGHT in Him.

God's Word is massive, not just in size, but in importance and content, and every word in it is important and worth the effort to understand.

**DISCIPLINE TO SEEK HIM
WILL LEAD TO DILIGENCE IN
DRAWING CLOSE TO HIM,
WHICH GOD WILL USE TO
BRING GREAT DELIGHT IN HIM**

Isaiah 55:10–11 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Emphasis added)

Over and above your sacrifice of time and energy, God wants your heart. God isn't looking for little book-reading, prayer-saying robots. Jesus loves you, I know that is true because I have read it and the more I read about it, the more I love Him, too. We should learn to love Him increasingly and depend on Him more because of the great love with which He loved us. That happens best through God Time.

Jeremiah 29:13

“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

JOURNAL PAGE

What does this passage teach me about God?

What was God communicating to the original audience?

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What does this mean for me?

SAMPLE READING PLANS

E100 - The E100 Bible Reading Challenge takes you through the 100 Old and New Testament passages so you'll see how all the major Bible themes fit together.

F260 - Read the 260 most essential passages in Scripture and memorize 52 helpful verses this year.

Horner Bible Reading System - Each day you will read one chapter from each of ten lists. Use ten bookmarks or sticky notes with the individual lists on them to keep track of your locations.

Bible in a Year - Read through the whole Bible in 52 weeks.

GOD TIME 101: BASIC GUIDELINES FOR TIME SPENT WITH GOD

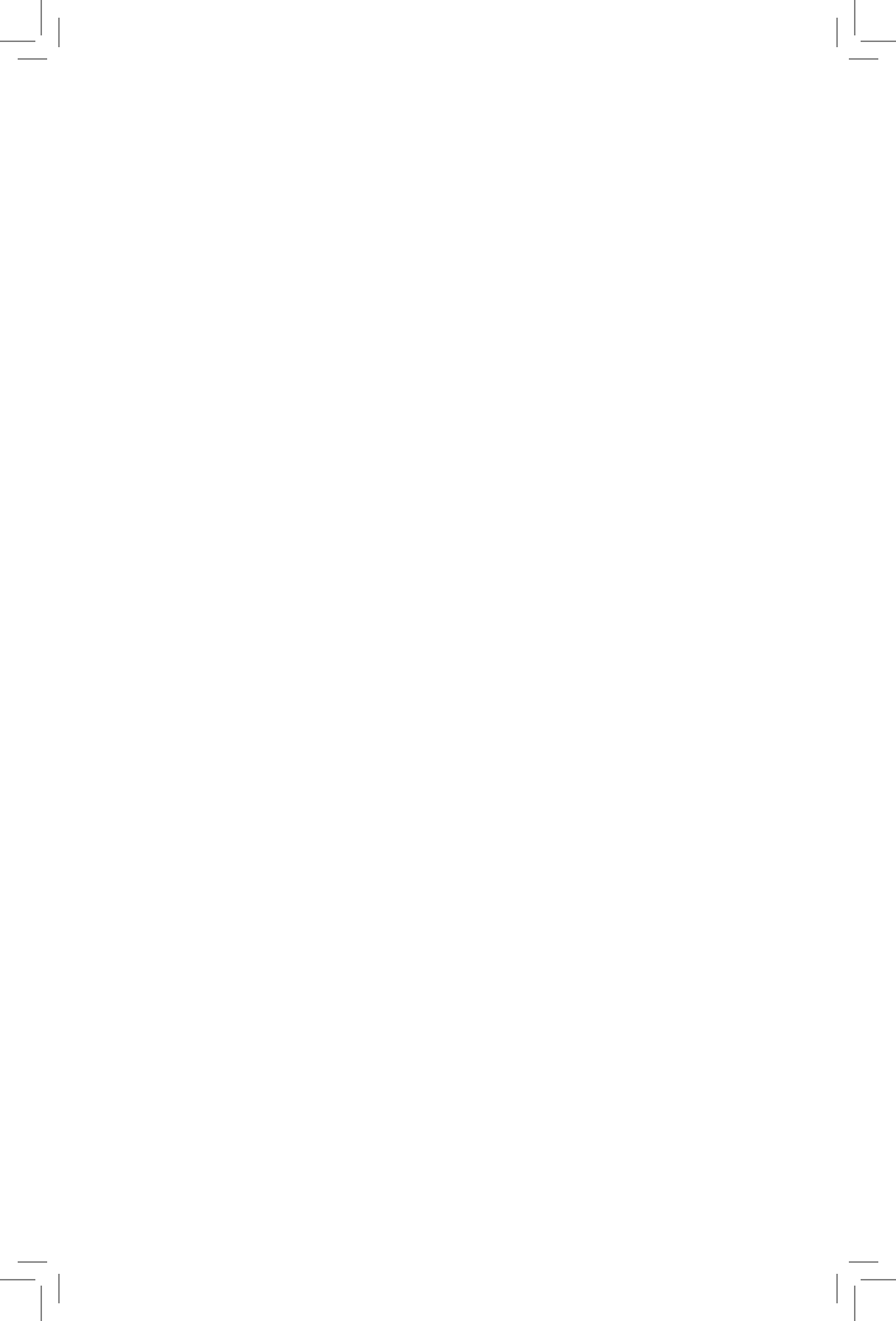
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2 TIMOTHY 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”

ASK GOD TO TEACH YOU

What does this passage teach me about God?

What was God communicating to the original audience?

What does this passage mean for me?

PRAY:

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication (requests)

MATTHEW 6:9-13

JOHN 15:7

1 JOHN 5:14-15

JEREMIAH 29:13

PSALM 37:4

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL

OAKVILLE

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