



Welcome to the Adventure…

Let me start by thanking you for taking your faith to a whole new level! So, it’s a life- long adventure you are signing up for, a marathon, not a sprint. With that in mind we all know how a great adventure has some dynamics in the story. The stress of a call to start on this epic tale, the struggle to learn and get what you need for the journey. The excitement of a launch and the newness of what lies ahead.

Sure, enough the time will come when the challenges appear and your doubt and discouragement come with it. That’s when you make the choice to press on, to know that this relationship with God is really worth the work to get through. The change in you and the change of heart that wrestling with God bring are much more rewarding than the struggle you are experiencing. Remember…

***Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.***

[***Walter Elliot***](https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/walter-elliot-quotes)

God is pleased at your choice to deepen your relationship with Him, there is an enemy to your soul, who is not at all pleased. In fact, you are now an enemy of the old serpent himself, dare I even say it… yes… Satan! Not to fear, what’s an adventure without an arch enemy? Just know that you are embarking on a spiritual battle and journey that will have valleys and mountaintops, and these practices will keep you, sustain you, and be a source of strength and joy.

How to start:

1. Find a Spiritual Mentor or partner to help you on this journey, you will not experience the fullness of this study alone. Find a mentor/partner.
2. Take the full seven weeks to go through the study. **You’re going to add a HABIT a week.**
3. Don’t stress if you get a hiccup along the way, hop right back into it.
4. Be totally honest with God, your mentor, partner, your spouse or family, and your church about the things God is showing you, how you’re growing and your struggles.
5. Make you goal to make this such a part of your life that in time you can take someone through this and be their spiritual mentor.
6. Commit to doing your HABITS for two months.
7. Read the Bible passages for yourself, have a Bible handy, your mentor can help if you need one.

Praying for you as you grow! Please ask if you have any questions or feedback.

In Christ’s Adventure,

Rick

FIRST STEP: THE HABIT OF:

#  A Holy Moment with God

It’s about creating a space in your day where you invite and sense God’s presence in your life. Often, we find ourselves just checking off a box, the key here is to pause your schedule to meet with God. Find the time that best works for you and sit in God’s presence for ten minutes. Invite God to your time, and in faith, treat Him like He is there.

## HOW TO HAVE A Holy Moment

A **Holy Moment** is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him better.

Your time alone with God should be the top priority in your schedule for five reasons:

1. We were to have fellowship with God.

God created man in his own image . . . (Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 3:8).

Look! I’ve been standing at the door and constantly knocking. If anyone . . . opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with Me (Revelation 3:20 LB).

2. Jesus to make a relationship with God possible.

God . . . has invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians1:9 LB).

3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus’.

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed

(Mark 1:35; Luke 22:39; Luke 5:16).

4. Every person who has been effective in living for God . . .

. . . developed the habit of spending time with God [Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel,

Paul, etc.]

5. You cannot be a Christian without it!

Man cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks

(Matthew 4:4 GN).

. . . I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food

(Job 23:12 NASB).

How can a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to Your Word

(Psalms 119:9).

## I. THE IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY HOLY MOMENT

### 1. To give to God.

Give to the Lord the glory due to His name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness (Psalms 29:2).

(Hezekiah) was successful, because everything he did . . . he did in a spirit of

complete devotion to his God (2 Chronicles 31:21 GN).

 • God deserves our devotion! (Revelation 4:11)

 • God desires our devotion! (John 4:23)

### 2. To get from God.

Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me . . . (Psalms 25:4 LB).

 TWO Things To Do in a HOLY MOMENT

 ***Be aware of the voice of God speaking to you!!!***

 ***Be looking for Him***

### 3. To gain in God.

Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart

(Psalms 37:4 KJV).

. . . (God’s) presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure

(Psalms 16:11 GN).

FACT: The better I get to know Christ, the more I free and fulfilled I become.

*The objective of your HOLY MOMENT is not to* ***just*** *study about Christ, but to actually spend time with Him in His presence!*

### 4. To grow like God.

For as you know Him better and better God will give you, through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life . . . He has promised to save us . . . and to give us his own character! (2 Peter 1:3-4 LB).

When the council saw the boldness of Peter and John . . . they were amazed and realized what being with Jesus had done for them! (Acts 4:13 LB).

## II. THE PURPOSE OF A DAILY HOLY MOMENT.

### 1. Commit your day to God, just one day at a time:

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you do it and he will (Psalms 37:5 LB).

### 2. Consider your way:

Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established

(Proverbs 4:26 KJV).

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths

(Proverbs 3:6 KJV).

## III. HOW TO START YOUR HOLY MOMNENT.

### 1. Select a time that can become a consistent part of your day.

. Circle one that seems most likely for you:

• Before school/work

• During school/work

• After school/work

• Before bed

 Now try to find a specific time for the time - block you circled.

### 2. Choose a place.

Jesus left the city and went, as He usually did, to the Mount of Olives . . . to pray (Luke 22:39 GN).

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where He prayed (Mark 1:35).

Two important ingredients are:

1. Alone

2. Uninterrupted

### 3. Gather the materials you’ll need.

 1. A Bible with an understandable translation.

 2. A Notebook - to write down what the Lord speaks to you about, and to keep a prayer list.

## III. THE PLAN FOR A DAILY HOLY MOMENT

HOW LONG SHOULD A Holy Moment BE?

Here’s a thought, it’s wat I do. I do my Holy Moment first thing, I use a cup of coffee as a gauge. I top off a cup sit in a quiet place. Then I sip and think about

 1. Start with as long as it takes you to finish a cup of coffee.

 2. Don’t keep track of your time (don’t watch the clock!).

 3. Emphasize quality, not quantity!

 4. Remember, any time with God is better than no time.

### 1. Begin with the right HEART.

 Key - Still

Be still, and know that I am God (Psalms 46:10).

Key -Spiritual Eyes:

Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your Word (Psalms 119:18 LB).

Key -Willing to Do:

Whoever is willing to do what God wants will know . . . (John 7:17 GN).

### 2. Follow a plan you

What if I miss a day?

Don’t Quit

Don’t Get Down

Don’t Think Less

It takes weeks for you to become familiar with a new task. Then it takes weeks before it becomes a comfortable habit.

Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up (Galatians 6:9 LB).

Here’s a thought, it’s what I do. I do my Holy Moment first thing, I use a cup of coffee as a gauge. I top off a cup sit in a quiet place. Then I sip, and listen for God’s voice, look for signs of His moving in my life as I think about what good things God has done. Reflect and be aware of what your heart feels and what comes to mind.

**A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus’ death on the cross. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a HOLY MOMENT of Adoration, Bible reading and prayer. I’m trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Week 2 - The second Step:

# THE HABIT OF ADORATION

Take this next HABIT of adoration and add it as a piece of your holy moment. So, start with what you learned last week and add this to it.

## Adoration

. . . I praise you God because . . .Give thanks to the Lord and pray to Him. Tell the nations what He has done. Sing to Him. Sing praises to Him. Tell about all the wonderful things He has done. Be glad That you are His (1 Chronicles 16:8-9).

In Psalm 34:1 - the psalmist declares His commitment to praise God, "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." He states that his lifestyle will be characterized by praise to God. The Christian's lips and life are to be characterized by the same commitment. Every believer should express to God that He is great and glorious-that He is worthy of all our love, service, and obedience. The Word of God reveals that you should strive to adore God. It is your privilege and responsibility to grow in your ability to adore God: "You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob glorify Him, and fear Him all you, offspring of Jacob"

(Psalm 22:23).

"I will praise You with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing praises to You"

(Psalm 138:1)

"My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever"

(Psalm 145:21)

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15).

It is not enough to sing hymns during a worship service. Praise should be the daily pursuit of the child of God. Every child of God should desire to praise God. Yet, you must move beyond the desire to praise Him to a deeper understanding of adoration and how you can adore God in fresh and powerful ways. The believer must learn how to adore God. The Bible provides several motivations for learning how to adore God. The most obvious reason is because God is worthy to be adored. Because of who He is, He should receive our heartfelt adoration. Yet, praise will make an enormous difference in your relationship to God.

• Praise sets the tone for your praying

(Psalm 100:4). When you adore God, you are realizing whose presence you are entering. Your focus will be on Him. Too many times we rush into God's presence without recognizing with whom we are speaking. Praise slows you down and reminds you of God's character.

• Praise builds your faith

(Matthew 21:22; James 5:15). When you adore God, your focus is on Him. As you focus on Him, your faith is going to increase. We often lack faith because our focus is on our circumstances and on the God of the circumstances. Adoring God is a faith-strengthening exercise.

• Praise increases your intimacy with God

(Psalm 4:3). In order to praise Him, you must be growing in your understanding of Him. As you understand more about His character and adore Him for this, it will move you to a place of deeper intimacy. It will draw you closer to His heart.

• Praise releases the power of God

(Psalm 22:3). The Word of God declares that God inhabits or is enthroned in the praises of His people. This means that God is powerfully present when His people praise Him. He is going to show His power to those who will praise Him. He will manifest that power when He is praised. When the praise goes up, the power is going to come down!

• Praise is the responsibility and privilege of every believer (Hebrews 13:15). Because of Jesus, you can now enter the very presence of God. The only right response to entering God's presence is to adore Him for His character and His ways.

• Praise creates humility in you (1 Peter 5:5-6).

When you focus on God through praise, you begin to see how great and mighty God is. It also affects how you view yourself. You begin to see how dependent you are on God. You come to realize that you need Him for everything for every moment of your life. Adoring God is a powerful antidote against self-righteousness.

### HOW DO YOU ADORE???

Start by thinking out of the box – it’s more than singing. Here are some ideas:

Take a minute to think about all the things God is… Awesome, loving, providing, just think about it and say it to God.

Think about or look at the wonders of our creation – sunsets, sunrises, mountain scenes, river scenes, laughter of a child. Speak your thoughts on how it makes you feel or think.

Think of a word that describes God like… Powerful, Beautiful, Loving, whatever you think of. Take the letters and of that word and think of the attributes of God that the letter of that word brings to mind. Then either speak it out or say it in your soul directly to God. So let’ say you picked the word “Love” start with “L” and then think of what attributes of God start with “L” Living, Looking for my best, and then the “O”, over all things… then the “V”, victorious, and so on.

Think about all that God has done for you throughout your life and thank him for it if they are good. If they’re hurtful, ask God to heal that moment of your life and thank him for it.

 Write in a journal all the things of God that make Him good.

Think of a worship song and break it down into parts, then think about what makes that verse or part of the song true, and how it impacts you.

Be creative and realize that your goal is to make your heart sensitive to the things of God and be able to recognize what He is doing. When you acknowledge and speak out or capture it in your hear you are adoring God.

**PRAYER OF COMMITTMENT**

Father, I realize that I was created to adore you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus’ death on the cross. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a HOLY MOMENT of, Adoration, Bible reading and prayer. I’m trusting in your strength to help me be consistent.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

# THE HABIT OF BIBLE READING

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God’s way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (LB)

Happy is the one who reads this book . . . and obeys what is written in it!

(Revelation 1:3 GN).

The Scriptures shall be his constant companion. He must read from it every day of his life so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands (Deuteronomy 17:19 LB).

Based on the passages above, how often should I read God’s Word?

. . . they accepted the message eagerly and studied the Scriptures everyday . . .

(Acts 17:11 Ph).

Be a good workman . . . Know what His Word says and means (2 Timothy 2:15).

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you take it in your inner-most being when you study.

And the secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to

### I. Six Basic Questions:

 1. WHO are the people involved with this passage?

 2. WHAT are the events which take place?

 3. WHERE is this passage located within the Bible? (Context: surrounding passages)

 4. WHY did God put this in the Bible for me to read?

 5. WHEN (in history) did this passage take place?

 6. HOW did God work in this passage?

### II. HOW TO READ GOD’S WORD

SUGGESTIONS FOR READING THE BIBLE

 • Start in the Gospel of John

 • Read the Bible in an understandable translation.

 • Read it in different translations.

 • For easier reading: Good News, Living Bible, Phillips, New Living Translation.

 • Read it aloud to yourself.

 • Underline key verses.

 • Try the One Minute Bible reading plan.

• Be realistic with your reading goals. (Better to be victorious in small amounts and continue, than be defeated and give up)

 • Write down what you’re learning and any questions you might have.

### III. HOW TO STUDY GOD’S WORD

Think about it this way- you are bringing one of the most powerful and beautiful things into your being.

Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart (Proverbs 7:2-3 LB).

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

 1. Knowing God’s word helps me temptation.

 I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you

 (Psalms 119:11).

 2. Knowing God’s word helps me make decisions. Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path (Psalms 119:105).

 3. Knowing God’s word strengthens me when I’m under stress.

 . . . Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me! (Psalms 119:49 LB).

4. Knowing God’s word lifts me up me when I’m sad.

Your words are what sustain me . . . They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me (Jeremiah 15:16 LB).

 5. Knowing God’s word helps me talk to unbelievers.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15).

### IV. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD’S WORD

WHEN TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

• During your Quiet Time

• While Exercising

• While waiting (spare moments)

• At bedtime (Psalms 63:6)

Suggested beginning rate:

new verses every two months.

THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING:,

We remember what is valueable .

The law you gave me means more to me than all the money in the world

(Psalms 119:72 GN).

HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.

2. Read the verse aloud many times. (You might even record it on tape!)

3. Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.

4. Write out the verse on a flash card.

5. Carry some cards with you at all times for review.

6. Display your verses in prominent places.

7. Find a partner who you can have help you.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE

The following verses suggest a “balance” in Scripture Memory. The verses selected are key verses in understanding the foundations of the Christian Life and Christian Growth. Do not feel tied-down to this suggested list. This is only a tool to lead you in an understanding of the importance of memorizing “key” verses.

Live the New Life:

Christ the center- 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20

Obedience to Christ - Romans 12:1; John 14:21

The Word- 2 Timothy 3:16; Joshua 1:8

Prayer - John 15:7; Philippians 4:6-7

Fellowship - Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:24

Witnessing - Matthew 4:19; Romans 1:16

Proclaim Christ: All have sinned - Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6

Sin’s penalty - Romans 6:23; Hebrew 9:27

Christ paid the penalty - Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18

Salvation not by works - Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

Must receive Christ - John 1:12; Revelation 3:20

Assurance of salvation - 1 John 5:13; John 5:24

Rely on God’s Resources: His Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians2:12

His strength - Isaiah 41:10; Philippians 4:13

His faithfulness - Lamentations 3:22; Numbers 23:19

His peace - Isaiah 26:3; 1 Peter 5:7

His provision - Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19

His help in temptation - Hebrews 2:18; Psalms 119:9, 11

Be Christ’s Disciple: Put Christ first

 Matthew 6:33; Luke 9:23

Separate from the world - 1 John 2:15-16; Romans 12:2

Be steadfast - 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 12:3

Serve others - Mark 10:45; 2 Corinthians 4:5

Give generously - Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Develop world vision - Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20

Grow in Christ’s likeness: Love - John 13:34- 35; 1 John 3:18

Humility - Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:5-6

Purity - Ephesians 5:3; 1 Peter 2:11

Honesty - Leviticus 19:11; Acts 24:16

Faith - Hebrews 11:6; Romans 4:20-21

Good works - Galatians 6:9-10; Matthew 5

Those who are always meditating on His Laws . . . are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit . . . they never wither, and whatever they do prospers (Psalms 1:2-3 LB).

Meditation is about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

WHY MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?

1. It is the key to like Christ.

. . . Your life is shaped by your thoughts (Proverbs 4:23 GN).

. . . Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2).

 As we . . . contemplate the Lord’s glory, we are being transformed into His likeness . . . (1 Corinthians 3:18).

2. It is the key to prayer.

If you live your life in Me, and My words live in your hearts, you can ask for whatever you like, and it will come true for you (John 15:7 Ph).

3. It is the key to successful life.

. . . Meditate on the Word day and night, so you may be careful to do everything

written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8).

### V. HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD’S WORD

FIVE WAYS TO MEDITATE ON A VERSE

1.Picture it!

Visualize the scene in your mind.

2.Pronounce it!

Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.

3.Paraphrase it!

Rewrite the verse in your own words.

4.Personalize it!

Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.

5.Pray it!

Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.

Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice

(James 1:22).

. . . Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19).

VI. HOW TO APPLY SCRIPTURE

1st ask: What did it mean to the original hearers?

2nd ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?

3rd ask: Where or how could I practice that principle?

*Write out a sentence that describes a project or action you will take to apply the truth*.

Most applications will focus on one of 3:

 • With God

 • Within myself

 • With other people

Now that you know these things, do them! That is the path of blessing! (John 13:17 LB).

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT:

Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus’ death on the cross. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a HOLY MOMENT of Bible reading and prayer. I’m trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

# THE HABIT OF INTIMACY – PRAYER

HOW TO REVITALIZE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

• Be humble…

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love praying standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men (Matthew 6:5).

• Don’t try to impress

• Get Alone.

But when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you

(Matthew 6:6).

• Be thoughtful.

Don’t recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only be repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need before you ask Him!

(Matthew 6:7-8 LB).

A - ASK

Key word:

C - CONFESSION

Key word:

T - THANKSGIVING

Key word:

### I. APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

Ask

. . . I praise you God because . . .

Give thanks to the Lord and pray to Him. Tell the nations what He has done. Sing to

Him. Sing praises to Him. Tell about all the wonderful things He has done. Be glad

that you are His (1 Chronicles 16:8-9)

Confession

. . . I ask for forgiveness for . . . But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done (1 John 1:9). Thanksgiving. . . I’m thankful for . . .Oh, how grateful and thankful I am to the Lord because He is so good (Psalms 7:17).

Thankful

[Matthew 21:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A22&version=ESV) ESV

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

[1 John 5:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+5%3A14&version=ESV) ESV

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

[John 14:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A13&version=ESV) ESV

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

### I. PRAYER of committment

Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus’ death on the cross. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a HOLY MOMENT of Bible reading and prayer. I’m trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

# THE HABIT OF TIME & TREASURE –

### HONORING GOD WITH MY GIVING.

On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an

offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.

1 Corinthians 16:2

HOW MY GIVING REVEALS MY SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Just as you excel in everything else . . . in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness . . . see that you also excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

WHY GOD WANTS ME TO GIVE

7 Benefits to My Life – Read these passages and write out the key points that apply to giving.

1. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son . . . (John 3:16).

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2. Where your treasure is, there your heart is also (Matthew 6:21).

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3. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put

hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly

provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and

willing to share. In this way . . . they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!

(1 Timothy 6:17-19).

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4.Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor

the Lord by giving Him the first part of your income, and He will fill your barns to overflowing (Proverbs 3:5,9).

Give and it will be given to you . . . For with the measure you use, it will be

measured back to you (Luke 6:38).

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5. . . . Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has

given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in

heaven— it is the only safe investment for eternity (1 Timothy 6:18-19 LB).

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6. A generous man himself will be blessed (Proverbs 22:9).

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed

(Proverbs 11:25).

Good will come to him who is generous . . . (Psalms 112:5).

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7. (Jesus) There is more happiness in giving than in receiving (Acts 20:35).

The people rejoiced ... for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord

(Proverbs 11:25).

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### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GIVING

Another word used for giving is tithing.

WHAT IS TITHING ? “Tithe” means “a part.”

WHY SHOULD I TITHE?

8 REASONS FROM GOD’S WORD

1. A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy (Leviticus 27:30).

2. Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn’t leave the more important things undone either (Matthew 23:23).

3. The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first place in your life

(Deuteronomy 14:23 LB).

4. Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce

wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18).

5. How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? (Psalms 116:12).

Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has

Blessed you (Deuteronomy 16:17).

6. God says, “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!” But you ask, “How do we

rob you?” God says, “In tithes and offerings . . . Bring your whole tithe to My house”

(Malachi 3:8-10).

7. “Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. Test me in this,” says the Lord, “and see if

I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won’t have room enough for it! I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and thevines in your fields will be protected from plagues” (Malachi 3:10).

8. (Jesus) If you really love Me, do what I command (John 14:15).

. . . I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving . . . This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words (2 Corinthians 8:7b-8 LB).

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE?

Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income . . . (Proverbs 3:9-10).

WHEN SHOULD I TITHE?

On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it

as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn (1 Corinthians 16:2 LB).

GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

• For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don’t have (2 Corinthians 9:12).

Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure . . . (2 Corinthians 9:7a).

• . . . for God loves a cheerful giver! (2 Corinthians 9:7).

• They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on

their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service... (2 Corinthians 8:3-4).

• Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows

generously will reap generously (2 Corinthians 9:6).

THE KEY TO GIVING

. . . they first gave themselves to the Lord . . . (2 Corinthians 8:5).

A COMMITMENT PRAYER

Father, I know you love me and want what’s best for me. I recognize that all I have,

or will ever have, comes from you. I am more interested in pleasing you than in

having more possessions. I want you to have first place in my life and I am willing to

begin tithing as you have commanded. Out of gratitude for all you’ve done for me,

and in expectation that you will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to

returning at least the first 10% of all I earn back to you. I want to begin investing for

eternity. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

# THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP PARTICIPATING IN GOD’S FAMILY by serving

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other. Hebrews 10:25 (GN)

WHY IS SERVING SO IMPORTANT?

1. Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers

(Galatians 6:10).

You are a member of God’s very own family . . . and you belong in God’s household

with every other Christian (Ephesians 2:19 LB).

So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the

others!

(Romans 12:5).

2. I need to grow spiritually.

Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds (Hebrews 10:24 Ph).

Two are better off than one . . . If one of them falls down, the other can reach out and help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it’s just too bad, because there is no one to help him... Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12 GN).

3. I need to grow spiritually.

People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17 GN).

Every day . . . keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin (Hebrews 3:13 JB).

Brothers, if someone is trapped in some sin, you who are spiritual should restore him

gently . . . Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of

Christ (Galatians 6:1-2).

4. (Jesus) “My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind . . . so the world will believe You sent Me” (John 17:21 LB).

“By your love for one another, people will know that you are My followers”

(John 13:35).

The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord.

Dr. Ray Ortland

5. I am an INTREGAL part of other Christian’s growth!

God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other . . .

(1 Peter 4:10 LB).

There are different kinds of service to God . . . together you form the body of Christ

and each one of you is a necessary part of it (1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 LB).

6. It is FUN !

“Yea, that’s exactly what I said,

fellowship IS fun” (High School Student, 2012).

HOW CAN A CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

By being in some type of SMALL GROUP.

They met day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house (Acts 5:42).

2 Types of Church Meetings

• Large Group: SUNDAY MORNING

• Small Group: DURING THE WEEK

Greet the church that meets in their home (Romans 16:5; Acts 2:26, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20;

1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15).

Within our Church Ministry we believe that we must . . . grow and at the same time. (101 review, remember?)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS?

Acts 2:42-47

1.They DEVOTED THEMSELVES to the apostle’s teaching . . .

2. . . . and to the fellowship . . .

The “One Another’s” of Fellowship Serve one another

Galatians 5:13

 Accept one another - Romans 15:7

Forgive one another - Colossians 3:13

 Greet one another - Romans 16:16

 Bear one another’s burdens - Galatians 6:2

 Be devoted to one another - Romans 12:10

 Honor one another - Romans 12:10

 Teach one another - Romans 15:14

 Submit to one another - Ephesians 5:21

 Encourage one another - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

3.. . . and to the breaking of bread . . .

4. . . . and to prayer . . .

OUR FATHER . . . give US . . . OUR daily bread . . . forgive US . . . OUR . . . debts . . . as

WE have forgiven OUR debtors . . . lead US not into temptation . . . deliver US . . . Matthew 6:9-13).

5. HAPPILY. . . they gave to anyone as he had a need . . .

. . . you shared with me the fellowship of giving and receiving (Philippians 4:15 Ph).

6. . . . they ate together with glad and sincere hearts . . .

Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner, or if they need lodging, for the night (Romans 12:13 LB).

7. . . . praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people . . .

8. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN THESE HABITS

STEP ONE:

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations

don’t last. If you start only half - heartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO:

Begin right now! Don’t wait. Don’t procrastinate. You don’t slide into a new habit. “One of

these days” never arrives. You must have a starting point. It’s easier to break a bad habit

today then it will be tomorrow!

 If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done (Ecclesiastes 11:4 LB).

STEP THREE: Announce your intentions publicly. The power of a vow is awesome. It is particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing and tell others about it.

Make vows

to the Lord your God and fulfill them (Psalms 76:11).

STEP FOUR: Never allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse will be fatal. Continuity, at the start, is essential of a habit. Don’t allow yourself the “just this once.” The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes

4 weeks to become comfortable with a new habit and it takes another 4 to 8 weeks (doing it

daily) for it to become a part of your life.

STEP FIVE:

Whenever you feel the slightest urge or prompting to practice this new habit -

DO IT THEN!

Don’t wait. Seize every opportunity to reinforce your habit. Those feelings will not last, so whenever you feel inclined to perform the habit, do so!

IT TAKES 20 TO 30 REPETITIONS TO LEARN SOMETHING!

STEP SIX:

Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you, especially in the early days, before the habit is firmly rooted in your life. Let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over each other, studying how we may stir up and stimulate each other to . . . helpful deeds and noble activities

(Hebrews 1:25 Amp).

Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one

of them falls down, the other can help him up (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 GN).

STEP SEVEN:

Rely on God’s power to help you establish the habit. Remember, Satan does not want you

to develop habits that help you grow spiritually and make you like Christ. Therefore, Satan

will do all he can to tempt you, cause you to slip, or discourage you. Pray!For the Spirit of God has given us . . . power, love, and self – control (2 Timothy 1:7 GN).

For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose (Philippians 2:13 Ph).