

Be creative!! Remember, the issue is not the quantity of time you spend in each priority, but the quality of time.

Study 18

ALONE WITH GOD?

WHAT DO I DO?

IV. THE PROCESS - B. Special Times Alone With God - 1. Prayer's Importance

Think back to the first study in this manual. Remember the analogy between being a new Christian and a newborn baby? We stressed that a newborn baby must eat in order to grow. Likewise, consistent times alone with God will help you grow in your relationship with God.

Christians sometimes call these "quiet times." That doesn't mean you simply sit where it is quiet and say nothing. It refers to those times when a Christian does not allow the noise and activity of life to distract him, but instead he becomes still inside and spends a special time alone with God, talking and listening to his Lord.

The next few studies will help you develop a special time alone with God in your life.

Prayer is important!

That's the first thing to remember. Do you ever wonder why you should pray as a Christian? Do you wish you better understood its importance?

1. Read Mark 1:21-34. Ask God to help you picture yourself as an eyewitness to this situation. Also pray that some of your questions about prayer will be answered.
2. List the things Jesus did on this Sabbath day.
3. How do you think you would feel after spending a day the way Jesus did?
4. Now read verse 35. What does this verse tell you about the importance of prayer in Jesus' life?

Think for a moment about why prayer is so important that even the Son of God would think it was essential.

5. Now read Philippians 4:6,7. List some of the things that are of concern to you today.

Prayer is simply talking to God. Talk to Him and let Him know about these concerns of yours.

6. Why not memorize Philippians 4:6,7. A good process to use in memorizing verses is to write them out on a 3X5-inch card. Carry the card around with you all day and read it in spare moments. Share the verses with a friend. Remember to review the verses in the coming weeks.
7. Speaking of memorizing, how well do you remember Isaiah 43:1-4 that you memorized as part of Study 13? Test yourself by writing it out on a separate piece of paper. Then use your Bible to check and see how well you did.

Prayer was so important to Jesus that He got up before dawn, if necessary, to pray and talk with God. It is helpful to pray early in the day. This sets the tone for the whole day.

You can talk with God at any time and in any place. However it is also very helpful to decide upon a time you can reserve every day especially for talking to God in prayer. It might be different on different days, depending on your schedule, but be sure that there is a time to be alone with God every day of every week.

8. Look at the schedule you filled out during the last study. Pray over your schedule and any additions or changes that need to be made.

9. Now thank God for the joy of being alone with Him!