

## The Devotional Life

One of the great trademarks of the spiritual giants of the Bible is the fact that they spent time with God, and they desired to do so. However, many view spending quantity time with God a difficult task because we are living in a microwave world where everything must be done in a hurry, and one thing that is required in having a solid devotional life with God is time. Others find that a devotional life is a burden because time with God does not hold our attention. In this lesson, we will discover tools to have a rewarding devotional life.

### Prerequisites to devotion

1. A desire to know God. The entire point of having devotion is to know God. The byproduct or result of knowing God is to become more like Him. His character will “rub” off on us as we commune with the Living God.
  - a. Key chapters- Exodus 33; Psalm 63; Phil. 3.
2. The willingness to set aside time. When something is a priority, we make sure we have the time to do it. God desires to be our first priority. Therefore it is important to set aside time daily to spend with Him.
  - a. Key text- Mark 1:32-38

3. Time free from distraction. Ideally, it's best to have devotion before your day begins, so that your time with God will prepare you for your day. Therefore, you may have to go to bed early to arise earlier than your children. Keep in mind, however, that the Bible does not mandate a time to set aside for God. If night time, is best for you then do it at night, but don't forget to pray in the morning.

a. Key text- Psalm 63:6

## Personal Devotion

This is the act of going to God individually and communing with Him. There are a variety of creative ways to accomplish this. I will give you the pillars of personal devotion, and a few supplementary ways to commune with God.

### The Pillars: Bible study, Prayer, Meditation

I cannot imagine one having a fulfilling devotional life without the above. Devotion is a dialogue between me and my God. Prayer is when I have the opportunity to speak to Him. Bible study and meditation is where I have the opportunity hear from God. Further, we find that Bible study helps to inform our prayers. In other words, we can read about the promises of God in the Bible and then claim them in our prayer life.

## Other possible elements to devotion

1. Devotional books. A good devotional book will quote a scripture, and then give you a thought for the day based on that scripture. Using these books are fine when they are coupled with the pillars listed above. Remember, God wants to hear from you in your devotional time, and He also wants to speak to you. Can he speak through a devotional book? Yes. However also try to get it first hand through His Word.
2. Music. I enjoy music. Why not incorporate godly music into my devotional life? I love to take a theme or principle in the Bible, study it in the Bible, and then listen to music that focuses on that theme.
3. The Writings of Ellen White. A great way to have devotion is to read through the Bible and supplement your Bible reading through the Conflict series by Ellen White. Remember, however, that Ellen White never intended for her books to take the place of the Bible. Allow the Bible to be your main text book.
4. Artistic expression. For some, devotion is about expression. The way that many express their love to God is by singing. Others do so by drawing. Sometimes, after reading a text, I will pick up a pencil and begin to draw out the scene or principle expressed in the text.