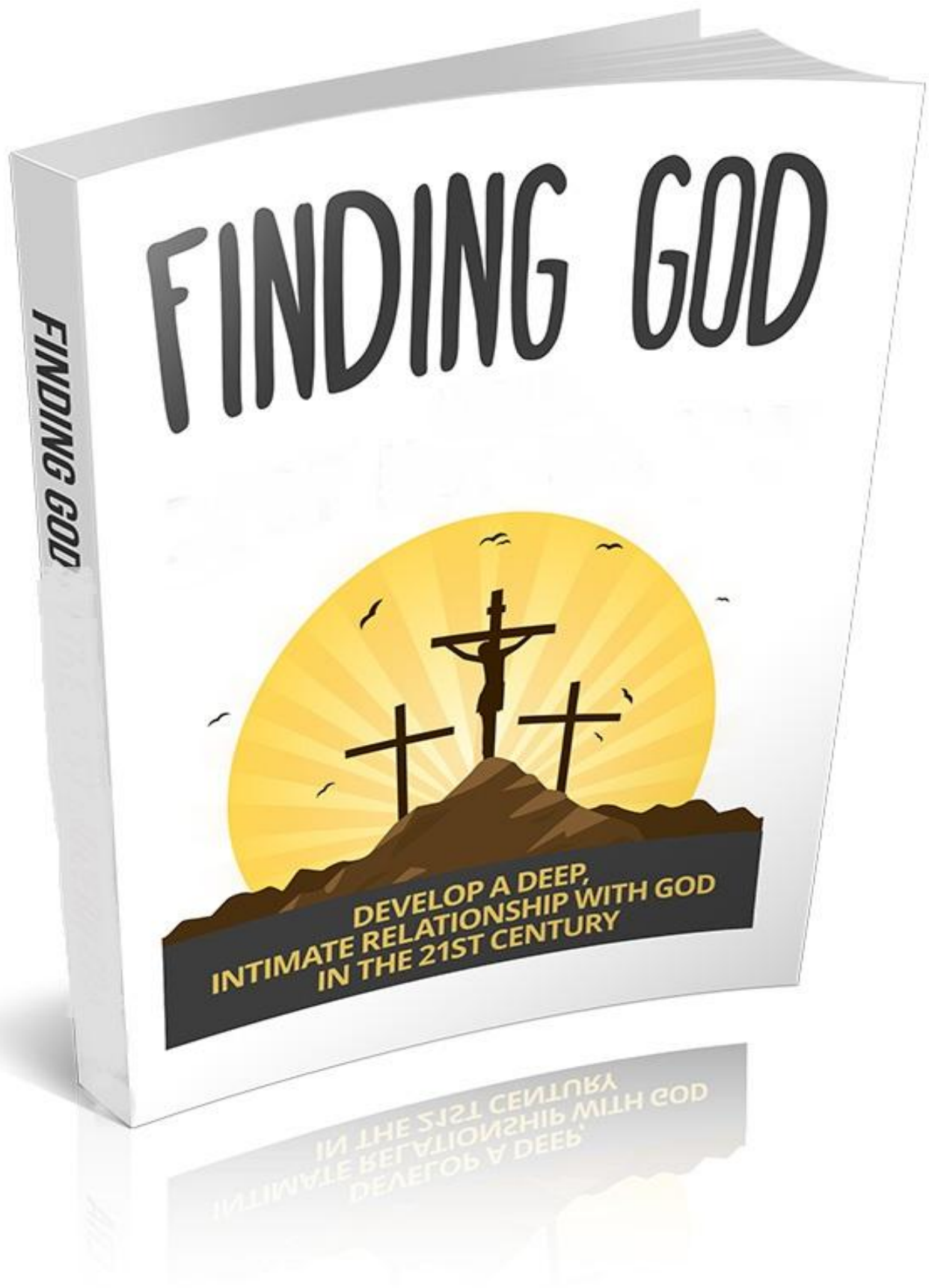




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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Forward](#)

[Chapter 1:](#)

The Plan

[Chapter 2:](#)

Sing A New Song

[Chapter 3:](#)

Study The Word

[Chapter 4:](#)

Prayer

[Chapter 5:](#)

Daily Devotional Plan

[Chapter 6:](#)

Like Minded People

[Chapter 7:](#)

Living The Christian Life

[Chapter 8](#)

Wrapping Up

FOREWORD



You can't set up walls where there's no foundation. You can't install a roof when there are no walls. The right amount of God's power in a Christian's life depends on how much of his or her's life is ordered by the Holy Spirit.

Believers need to learn how to live a life of power as they walk in the Spirit, forever building upon the foundation of the Word (the Bible.) As you study this book and diligently apply its principles, you will stand in awe and wonder and say, *"I'm not the same individual. I have learned to walk in the Spirit, and it has completely changed my life forever!"*

FINDING GOD

HOW TO PERSONALLY KNOW GOD



**DEVELOP A DEEP, INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD IN THE 21st Century.**

CHAPTER 1

THE PLAN



SUMMARY

Someplace during the divine planning, long before the eons of time began, God saw your name! Then He formulated a perfect plan just for you that's unlike any other plan for any other individual who's ever been born.

God formed a fantastic plan for each one of us. In His plan, we were foreordained to become His sons and daughters at the Cross. But one potential obstacle stands between us and God's perfectly formed purposes: utilizing the free will God has given us, we have to choose to walk in the plan he's ordered for our lives.

THE WALK

God seeks a way to approach each of us to introduce His personal plan for our lives. He encourages us to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. If we accept Christ, we take our beginning step into the plan God preordained for us. But if we resist Him, then like so many before us, we'll live and die without ever taking that opening move for salvation.

God had a complete plan of redemption and purpose for you. If you've found the Cross and made Christ your personal Savior, nothing may stop you from discovering the remainder of God's plan for your life. All you have to do is decide to obey Him.

The Holy Spirit listens intently to each detail of your life as the Father planned your birth, your ministry, your successfulness, and each aspect of your redemption and personal life.

In fact, the Holy Spirit is the One who's been put in charge of overseeing God's plan for your personal life. And every time He searches your heart, He does it intending to pray that plan — the mind of God concerning you — into being in your life.

The more of God's plan we determine, the more the Holy Spirit (who's the Executor of spiritual law) will be able to bring natural

law under subjection in our lives. Natural law governs the conditions that surround us, causing things to go for or against us — making us either wealthy or poor, ill or healthy, happy or sad.

But natural law is subordinate to spiritual law. And since the divine plan for our lives comes from the very heart of God, it's enforced as a spiritual law.

The Holy Spirit continually explores your heart with the intention of getting rid of everything that is contrary to the will of God.

Then the Holy Spirit substitutes it with the plan He heard for your personal life before the beginning of time when God developed His plan for you. He prays the perfect plan of God into your spirit, so you not only know what you're called to do but how to fulfill that call in the perfect timing, will, and might of God.

However, you can't discover the purpose God has called you to fulfill simply by reading His Word (the Bible.) Now, you may find out in the Word everything you require about the inheritance that belongs to each believer. You may learn all about salvation, healing, prosperity, righteousness, heaven, the blood, and ministry offices. But you can't find out from the Word (the Bible) alone what God has called you to fulfill as a separate member of the Body of Christ.

No one recognizes our calling better than the Holy Spirit. We're too ignorant to know how to pray about our call. So His vast reservoir of wisdom and counsel resides inside our spirits, merely waiting to be released.

We might know how to claim our inheritance. We may be great at declaring, "*Healing is mine. Provision is mine!*" But how may we get the tremendous power that resides on the inside of us —out onto the issues that face us so those blessings may be manifested in our lives? And even more significantly, how can we discover our divine call?

The day you decide to lock yourself in your prayer closet to spend some quality time with the Lord in prayer — that's the day you'll enter heaven's classroom here on earth with the Holy Spirit as your instructor. You need that "*classroom*" if you're ever going to accomplish your divine calling.

If you'll faithfully continue to get to know God by His Spirit — and a crucial part of that process is praying — then five years from now, you will not be the same. You won't look back over the years and lament that each day was the same, one month just like the next, until five years elapsed, and you wound up just as defeated and unchanged as you were at the beginning of that period.

No, if you'll pursue God by the Spirit, then at the end of 5 years, you'll be able to look back and see that you've experienced spiritual growth. You've changed for the better.

This free [resource](#) explains more in detail about [Knowing God Personally](#).

CHAPTER 2

SING A NEW SONG



SUMMARY

Psalm 40:3 states, *"He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."* The most grueling time of the day for getting closer to God is the first thing at the break of day for some. Upon waking up is when every other thought intrudes on the mind. As soon as you open your eyes, set out by singing a song to God. Singing a new or old song to God will cancel out every negative, meaningless, and depressing thought. Make the right choice!

LIFT YOUR VOICE

How often have you heard this? It's a widespread phrase among Christians. Individuals with particularly strong religious beliefs stating "*Praise the Lord*" have become as routine or even more common than Bugs Bunny, saying, '*What's up Doc?*' It simply comes to them as naturally as breathing.

To praise God is indeed something that God wants us to do, and to do as naturally as we breathe. Among the most common techniques of praising God is to merely say, "*Praise God*" or "*Praise the Lord*." Another essential way of praising God comes by singing hymns or songs. All of this is quite proper, as may be attested to by the inclusion of the Book of Psalms in the Bible. There are likewise a lot of additional scriptures that will back up the utilization of song as a way of praising God.

As we may see, singing songs to praise God is quite suitable. God certainly looks favorably on those who sing hymns and praise Him through song. But is this all there is? Not by a long shot.

There's yet another way of praising God, one which He looks upon even more favorably than he looks on verbal praise. This is praising God through action.

Faith and works go hand in hand- just like "*Love and Marriage*" (as the song goes), you can't develop one without the other. Good firm faith produces good works. Good works, in the name of the Lord, are the most adept way of praising Him and His name.

Hebrews 13:15, "*Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.*"

This scripture calls for a bit more insight into understanding. Note that Paul is saying that we ought to offer a "*sacrifice*" of praise. Sacrifice is generally an offering made unto God, out of our resources, time, energy, preaching, teaching, testifying, and so forth, with no compensation to be sought or expected by us. But then Paul states, "*The fruit of lips that confess his name.*"

The keywords here are not "*The fruit of lips,*" which indicate verbal praise through words, preaching, teaching, testifying, and hymns, but "*that confess his name,*" which entails sharing the truth of the Gospel message.

So those who want to praise God through words and song, are free and even encouraged to continue to do so, for these things are thought good by God. But for those who discover themselves tongue-tied when presented with songs or hymns, there's

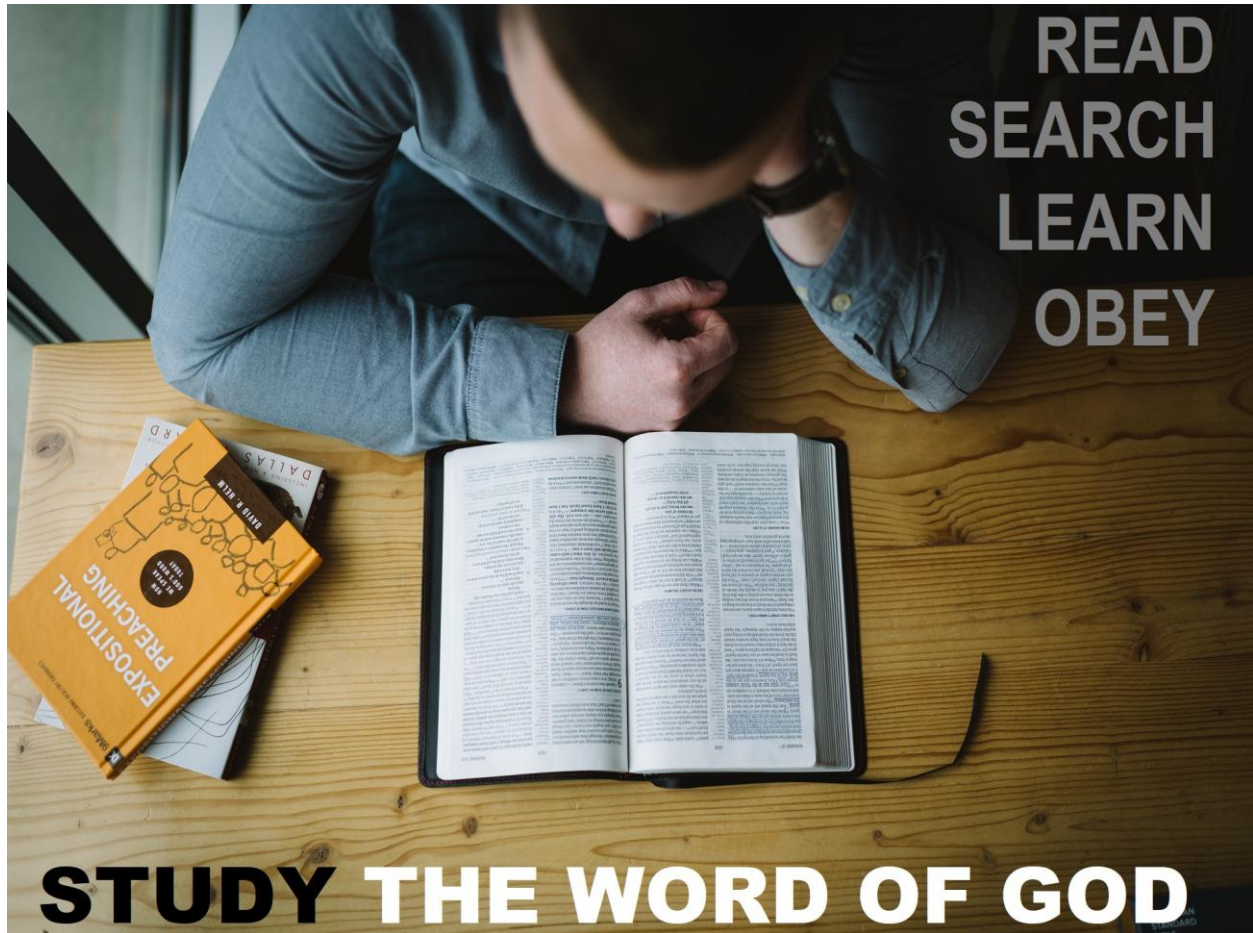
excellent news. One ought to praise God through deeds and good works that are the fruit and partner of faith in Jesus.

Over the last few months, God has challenged me with how I believe I worship Him and how He believes I worship Him. I was more concerned with what individuals around me thought instead of what God thought. This shook me a little because it hit home!

Our worship ought to be unconditional, completely for God. Our worship will never be perfect, but as long as it's sincere. As long as our heart's desire is to glorify and exalt God.

CHAPTER 3

STUDY THE WORD



SUMMARY

Among the most important essentials in the daily life of a Christian is spending time reading God's Word. The Bible is our "*handbook*" for living the Christian faith. In Psalm 119:105, we learn, "*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.*" The following is designed to help you develop a daily commitment to reading the Bible.

STUDY THE BIBLE

The first and best way to know God is to read the Bible, which is also referred to as "*God's Word*" or "*Scriptures*." Consider God's Word daily bread; you can't live without the Bible; it is God's Word to man. It reveals the plan of God for all of humankind. It reveals the nature of God, the sinfulness of man, the plan of salvation in Christ, the prospects of heaven for the saved, the doom of the unsaved in hell, guidelines for the Christian to follow to live and act as they should. It is God's Word to us. It is the most important object we have on this earth.

Getting Started – Instead of just opening the Bible anywhere, a reading plan helps you consistently grow spiritually as a follower of Christ. Examine your Bible reading habits and then change and start a Bible reading strategy. Find a Bible Reading Plan that is right for you. For your benefit, we've put together a list of [Bible reading plans](#) for you to pick from. Perhaps you will read more of the Bible each day.

You can begin, stop briefly, or end a Bible reading plan at any time and go at your own pace. So select a time each day and discover God's Word for you. Hopefully, you'll slow down your reading and instead invest more time thinking about what you

read. Whatever it is you're looking for in a reading plan you should find it below:

Each Bible reading plan is different in type and length. They are as varied as each individual, so you have many to choose from. Consider the following options, but remember to pick one. Regular reading in God's Word is not optional. **It's a necessity!**

This free resource has [70 Bible reading plans](#), which includes: [new Christians or new to the Bible reading plans](#), [blended reading plans](#), [classic reading plans](#), [chronological reading plans](#), [variety \(genres\) style plans](#), [two-week reading plans](#), [children's and teens reading plans](#), and [assorted reading plans](#).

We are to love it, learn it, and then live by it. The Holy Spirit will strengthen your faith, speak to your heart, and give you guidance and direction for every need and decision in your life. *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."* (Psalms 119:105).

I recommend reading the Gospel of John for those new to the Bible and are searching for life questions. This [Gospel of John reading plan](#) is designed to read approximately 5 to 10 minutes a day as you read the Gospel of John, a chapter a day for 21 days. Download and print out the [Gospel of John PDF](#). (Gospel of John is the 4th Book of the Bible in the New Testament). We

recommend first reading the Gospel of John for when you start searching or reading the Bible as it has God's personal plan for you. Next, read the rest of the New Testament.

If you're looking to take the first step in reading God's Word, our free 21-day [Gospel of John study guide challenge](#) is for you. It's a simple way to begin making Bible reading part of your day. Just [sign up](#), and we will send you by email one chapter each day for 21 days. On the last day, you get a certificate of completion.

We believe that there is a message from God and about God and His will for your life in the Gospel of John. Finally, we are trusting God to speak to us personally and as a part of the body of Christ. You get to see what it says on your own. No one is checking your answers. This is purely your own exploration. And it's free! You will be surprised at the life-altering changes that will happen in your life as you develop an important habit of reading God's Word every day [sign up here](#).

There are a lot of ways to study the Bible. Here is another technique if you are just getting started on reading the Bible. This particular process is excellent for beginners; however, it can be geared toward any level of study. As you become more comfortable with Bible study, you'll start to develop your own

strategies and discover favorite resources that will make your Bible study very personal and meaningful.

In this technique, you'll study a whole book of the Bible. If you've never done this previously, begin with a small book, preferably one from the New Testament. The Book of [James](#), [Titus](#), [1 Peter](#), or [1 John](#) are all excellent choices for first-timers. Plan to spend a week or so studying the book you've picked out. Probably among the most common reasons why Christians don't read and study the Bible is centered on this complaint, *"I just don't understand it!"* Before you begin every reading session, start by praying and asking God to open your spiritual intellect. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16, *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."*

So, as you pray, recognize that the words you're studying are inspired by God. Psalm 119:130 tells us, *"The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."* Next, you'll spend some time reading through the whole book. Do this more than one time. As you read, seek themes that might be woven into the chapters. Occasionally you'll discover a general message in the book. For instance, in the Book of James, an obvious theme is *"Persevering through Trials."* Take notes on the ideas that leap out at you.

For this portion of your study, you'll need to consider choosing the right tools to aid you in your studying, as a [Bible commentary](#) or [Bible dictionary](#). A [Bible study guide](#) or maybe a [devotional Bible](#) or [study Bible](#) will likewise help you dig deeper.

This useful resource has [15 Bible study methods](#) beginning with more straightforward methods for new Christians and progressing in more detail for developing Christians. Includes: [10 creative Bible reading methods](#), [Bible reading and study methods](#), [chapter by chapter](#), [topical](#), [practical Bible study](#), [12 study methods](#), [12 study charts](#), [study methods](#), [how to study the Bible for yourself](#), [quick overview of the Bible](#), [complete summary of the Bible](#), [a comprehensive study of the Bible](#), [Bible book themes](#), [7 cheat sheets](#), [resource tools](#), and [all about the Bible](#).

This resource site has a series of free [21-day study guides](#) consisting of [God's Simple Plan of Salvation](#), [Steps for a New Christian](#), [Steps to Spiritual Maturity](#), and the [Gospel of John](#) sent daily by email. [Sign up here](#).

CHAPTER 4

PRAYER



SUMMARY

Have you fought with developing a prayer life? Does prayer look like an exercise in an eloquent speech that you just don't have? Prayer isn't a mysterious practice set aside only for pastors and the religiously devout. Prayer is merely communicating with God - listening and talking to Him. Believers may pray from the heart, freely, spontaneously, and in their own words. If prayer is a hard area for you, learn these basic principles of prayer and how to implement them in your life.

SPEAKING TO HIM

The Bible has a lot to say about prayer. There's no correct or particular posture for prayer. In the Bible, individuals prayed on their knees, bowing, on their faces before God, and standing. You might pray with your eyes opened or shut, quietly or aloud—however, find away you're most comfortable and least distracted.

Prayer builds up our relationship with God. If we never speak to our friends, mates, or never listen to anything our spouse may have to say to us, our marriage relationship will rapidly deteriorate. It's the same way with God. Prayer—communicating with God—helps us become closer and more intimately connected with God. Among the most straightforward reasons to spend time in prayer is because the Lord instructed us to pray. Obedience is a natural by-product of discipleship.

What if I do not understand how to pray? The Holy Spirit will help you in prayer when you don't know how to pray. Check out a useful resource on connecting with [your relationship and the Holy Spirit](#), or why do we need the [Baptism in the Holy Spirit](#).

There are so many prayers in prayer books from all faiths that we frequently forget that these prayers originated in an individual's vivid spiritual experience. When you feel motivated to produce

your own prayer, you will find creative ways to develop your faith in God. The ones who hear will be inspired, too. Your prayer may be totally your own; it doesn't have to match written prayers.

Contemplate the situation that motivates your prayer. It may be a need for healing, for gratitude, for circumstances, for praising God, for assistance, for the needs or salvation of others, or saying how much you love Him. It could be one of these or a combination. But remember, it is your personal time connecting and communicating with our Lord and Savior, as though you are talking to a very close friend. God wants you to tell all because He cares and loves you. *"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."* (Luke 12:7).

Let words related to your prayer simply float up into your consciousness: names, questions, affirmations, even words from songs. You can write them down, but it's not called for.

One way to start your prayer is acknowledging God with praise, worship, and adoration first. Next to be thankful for what Jesus has done for you on the cross: salvation, grace, redemption, and working in your life. Then start with what is occurring now and how you feel about it. You can likewise say a prayer on behalf of somebody who you care about. You can start by saying what you

observe. Then list the matters you want to mention. Add whatsoever is in your heart.

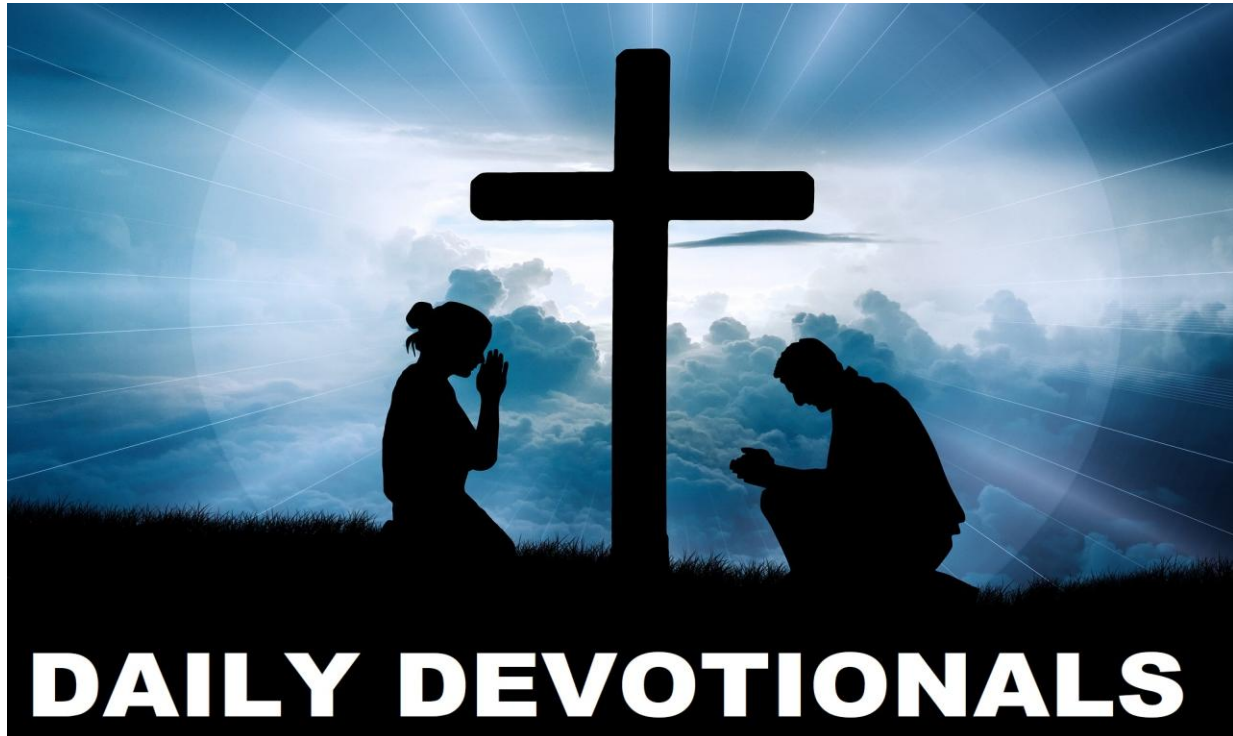
If you are in a group praying, invite others who are with you to speak, as well. Allow yourselves to cry or to laugh. This is a time for emotions to come forth. Finish your prayer with words of hope, gratefulness, or inspiration. A different option is to conclude with a song.

Show thanks to other people who have listened to or shared in the prayer. This is a special time between individuals that makes life meaningful.

Useful resources in connecting with [God in Prayer](#). Featuring: [Salvation Prayer](#), [A Scriptural Method of Prayer](#), [Prayers of the Bible](#), [Complete Works on Prayer by E.M. Bounds](#), and [222 Prayers from the Bible](#).

CHAPTER 5

DAILY DEVOTIONAL PLAN



SUMMARY

Many Christians view the Christian life as a long list of “*do’s*” and “*don’t’s*.” They haven’t as yet distinguished that spending time with God is a privilege that we get to do, not a chore or a duty that we have to do.

Getting rolling with daily devotions merely takes a little bit of planning. There's no set standard of what a daily devotional time ought to look like. These steps will help you incorporate the fundamental elements of a solid devotional into the custom plan that's correct for you.

MAKE A PLAN

CHOOSE A TIME

If you view your time spent solely with God as an appointment to be kept in your daily calendar, you'll be less apt to miss or skip it. There's no "*right*" and "*wrong*" hour. I prefer having my devotions first thing in the morning, as this is the least likely hour for a disruption. I rarely get a call from an acquaintance at 6:00 a.m. Whatever hour you pick out, let it be the best hour for you. Perhaps a lunch break fits better into your schedule.

CHOOSE A PLACE

Discovering the correct place is key to your success. If you attempt to spend quality time with God lying down with the lights off, failure is inevitable. I chose to make a place specifically for my devotions. I picked out a comfortable chair with a good reading light. Next to it, I placed a basket with all of my "*tools*" - my devotional or study Bible, pen, diary, and reading plan. Once I get up in the morning, I merely go to my place, and everything is set up.

CHOOSE A TIME FRAME

Again, there's no standard time frame for personal devotions. You have to choose how much time you may truthfully commit to daily. Getting rolling with 15 minutes a day may quickly develop into more. Some individuals may commit to 30 minutes, other people an hour or more a day. Begin with a realistic goal that you feel you can meet. If you begin with a plan of 2 hours a day, failure to meet the goal will quickly deter you.

CHOOSE A GENERAL STRUCTURE

Spend some thought on a general structure for your devotional and how much time you'll spend on every element of your plan. This would be like a draft or agenda for your meeting, so you don't meander about aimlessly in thought and wind up achieving nothing. The following four steps will cover some of the typical elements you can include.

PICK OUT A BIBLE READING PLAN OR BIBLE STUDY

Take some time and pick out a method that works for you.

1. [Bible Reading Plans](#)
2. [Bible Study Guides](#)
3. [Bible Study Methods](#)

These will assist you in having a more focused time of reading and study. If you simply pick up your Bible and begin reading randomly daily, you might have a hard time understanding what you read or applying it to your day-to-day life. This resource site has lots of [Bible Reading Plans](#).

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER

Prayer is merely two-way communication between you and God. You are speaking to Him, telling Him about your battles and cares, and then listening for His voice. A few Christians don't recognize prayer includes hearing. Remember to give Him time to talk to you in His still small voice. Also, one of the loudest ways God talks to us is through His Word. Spend awhile meditating on what you read and letting God speak into your life. A useful resource tool is [prayer that unlocks all doors](#).

SPEND TIME IN WORSHIP

God has made us to praise Him. You may express your praises silently or declare them in a loud voice. There's no correct or wrong way.

FIND WAYS TO PRAISE GOD

1. Praise Him with singing in your devotional or downtime.
2. Raise your hands to God in appreciation in a time of worship.
3. Read Bible verses that encourage you to praise God.
4. Praise God by sharing your story of the goodness of God with others.
5. Praise Him with your words first thing before your prayer requests. Memorize Revelation 4:8, "*...Day and night they never stop saying: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come.*"

WHY PRAISE GOD?

1. God is worthy to be praised and deserves our praise.
2. When we praise God, we are reminded of His presence, power, and greatness.
3. Praise transforms us and strengthens our faith in God.
4. God dwells in the environment of praise. If we want to see God's grace and blessings, we need to praise Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. (Matthew 22:37).

SPEND TIME WRITING IN A JOURNAL

A lot of Christians find that “*journaling*” helps them remain on track during their devotional time. You may journal your thoughts and prayers, providing a valuable record. Later you'll be amazed and encouraged once you go back and note the progress you've made or witness the evidence of answered prayers. Journaling isn't for everybody. I suggest you give it a try and see if it's correct for you.

COMMIT

Keeping your commitment is likely the most **challenging** part of getting going. Decide in your heart to keep it up, even when you bomb or miss a day. Instead of beating yourself up when you mess up, simply pray and ask God to help you. And, make sure to begin over the next day. The rewards you'll experience as you grow deeper in love with God will decidedly be worth it!

BE FLEXIBLE

If you get stuck in a rut, change your Bible reading plan. Maybe the method you've chosen isn't correct for you. Alter it till you find the perfect fit. If you are new Christianity, you might consider a shorter Bible reading plan like:

1. [Two-week reading plan](#)
2. [New Christian reading plan](#)
3. [Diverse and assorted reading plans.](#)

Also, changing your study methods with a different approach like using one or some of these [techniques](#) helps.

CONCLUSION

1. Daily devotionals provide inspiration for us.
2. As we read God's Word, it is filled with direction, guidelines, and motivation for the daily challenges and difficulties of life.
3. As a Christian, the Holy Spirit can work through you to perform the goals, plans, and objectives that God has for your life. Discover and explore His plans and purpose for you with daily Bible devotionals!

Useful learning resource guides on [Lifestyle Devotionals](#): featuring [How to do a Daily Devotional Guide Step by Step](#), [Family Devotional Guide Step by Step](#), [God's will for you](#), [Children's and Teen's Creative Study Method](#), [Children's and Families Resources](#), [Daily Devotionals sent daily by email](#), and [Today's Devotional online](#).

Keep working at your daily devotional plan for twenty-one days. By then, it ought to become a habit.

CHAPTER 6

LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE



SUMMARY

The Bible encourages us to meet together regularly with other believers. Fellowship is fundamental to spiritual growth. All the same, finding a friendly, caring church may be a hard and time-consuming experience.

It frequently takes a great deal of patient persistence, particularly if you're seeking a church after moving into a new community. Here are a few practical steps to remember, along with questions to ask yourself as you work your way through the process of discovering a nurturing ministering church.

FIND OTHERS

While this resource is meant to offer practical steps for discovering a church home, prayer is of central importance in the process. As you seek the Lord's direction, He will provide you the wisdom to know where He wants you to fellowship. So, make sure to make prayer a priority every step along the way.

There are many Christian denominations to pick from, like Alliance, Pentecostal, Baptist, Assemblies of God, Church of the Nazarene, and the list goes on and on.

If you feel called to a nondenominational or interdenominational church, there are a lot of different sorts of these as well, like Charismatic and Community churches.

It's crucial to understand the doctrinal beliefs of the church before joining. A lot of individuals become disillusioned after investing a good deal of time in a church. You may avoid this disappointment by looking closely at the church's statement of faith. Some churches even offer classes or written material to help you comprehend the church's doctrine.

Ask yourself, *"Would I experience more freedom to worship*

through a structured setting, or would it be easier in an informal atmosphere?"

Worship is the way we express our love and gratitude to God, as well as our awe of His works, and marvel of His ways. Think about what style of worship will let you most freely express adoration to God. A few churches have contemporary music, a few have traditional, and some have two services, with one being conventional and one being more modern. A few sing hymns, others sing choruses. A few have full bands, and others have orchestras and choirs. A few sing gospel, rock, etc. As worship is a vital part of our church experience, make sure to give the style of worship a serious thought.

You want your church to be a place where you may connect with additional believers. A few churches offer a straightforward ministry approach, and others extend an elaborate system of courses, programs, and more.

Some programs and courses to look for to fit your individual needs are kids, youth, young adults, women's, men's, senior's activities — courses for newcomers, life groups, singles, couples, parenting, etc. So, for example, if you're single and wish a church with a single's ministry, make sure to check into this before joining.

Smaller church fellowships are commonly unable to offer a wide assortment of ministries and programs, while bigger ones can support an array of opportunities.

But, a small church may provide a more familiar, close-knit environment that a big church may not be able to cultivate as effectively. These are things to consider when viewing the size of the church.

In a few churches, t-shirts, jeans, and even shorts are suitable. In others, a suit and tie or dress would be more appropriate. In a few churches, anything goes. So, ask yourself, "*What is correct for me: dressy, casual, or both?*"

Next, take some time to list particular questions you'd want to call and ask before visiting the church. If you take a couple of minutes every week to do this, it will save you time in the long haul. For instance, if the youth program is crucial to you, place that on your list and ask specifically for information about it. A few churches will even mail you an "*information packet*" or "*visitor's packet*," so make sure to ask for these when you call.

You may often get a good "*feel*" for a church by visiting its website. Unfortunately, some churches still have no website or just a simple one-page site. A good church's website should be exploding with pictures of the congregation praising and

worshipping God, fellowshiping, eating together, and having fun together. If possible, look for a vibrant church website that is up to date and draws you in to want to attend. Most churches will provide info about how the church got started, doctrinal beliefs, a statement of faith, plus info about ministries and outreaches on their sites.

Before visiting a church, make a checklist of the most crucial things you hope to see or experience. Then rate the church according to your checklist once you leave. If you're visiting a lot of churches, your notes will help you compare and choose later. As time passes, you might have trouble keeping them straight. Notes will supply you with a record for future reference.

This [resource article](#) answers these questions. Can you find the “right” or “perfect church?” What church should you attend?

This useful source of information answers the question: [Why go to Church?](#) Or this site has [100 Reasons Why go to Church?](#)

Prayer for Finding the Right Caring Church

“Father God, nothing is more important to me than seeking you! Please help me find the church near me where you want me to worship and learn about you. As I go to a Christian church in my

area, please confirm in my spirit when I have worshipped in the one that's the best fit for my spiritual growth and service to you."

If you still don't know where to begin your search for a church, ask individuals you know: acquaintances, colleagues, or individuals you admire, where they go to church. This [free resource](#) will connect you with at least [three contact information](#) on caring churches in your area.

When you join a nurturing church where God's Word is taught, you strengthen your relationship in Christ, and you receive relevant teachings from church leaders and fellowship with other believers. It says in Hebrews 10:24-25 that when Christians meet together, we spur one another in love and good deeds and encourage one another.

It is a true blessing to worship and praise together with other Christians. Singing songs and hymns to the Lord, hearing His treasured Word explained, lifting our voices in prayer with other caring believers, loving and being loved. These are the ways the Lord uses us to strengthen and build up our hearts. Do not let disappointment, failure, dissatisfaction, or denomination politics keep you from encountering spiritual renewal. Individuals who have a little appetite to be with other Christians have, in reality, little appetite for Christ.

To be a healthy and balanced part of the church body always indicates two things:

1. A desire and need to remain connected.
2. The humility to acknowledge our necessity and need for other Christians. All of us need and require the encouragement and support of brothers and sisters in Christ to assist and guide us step by step in our Christian walk.

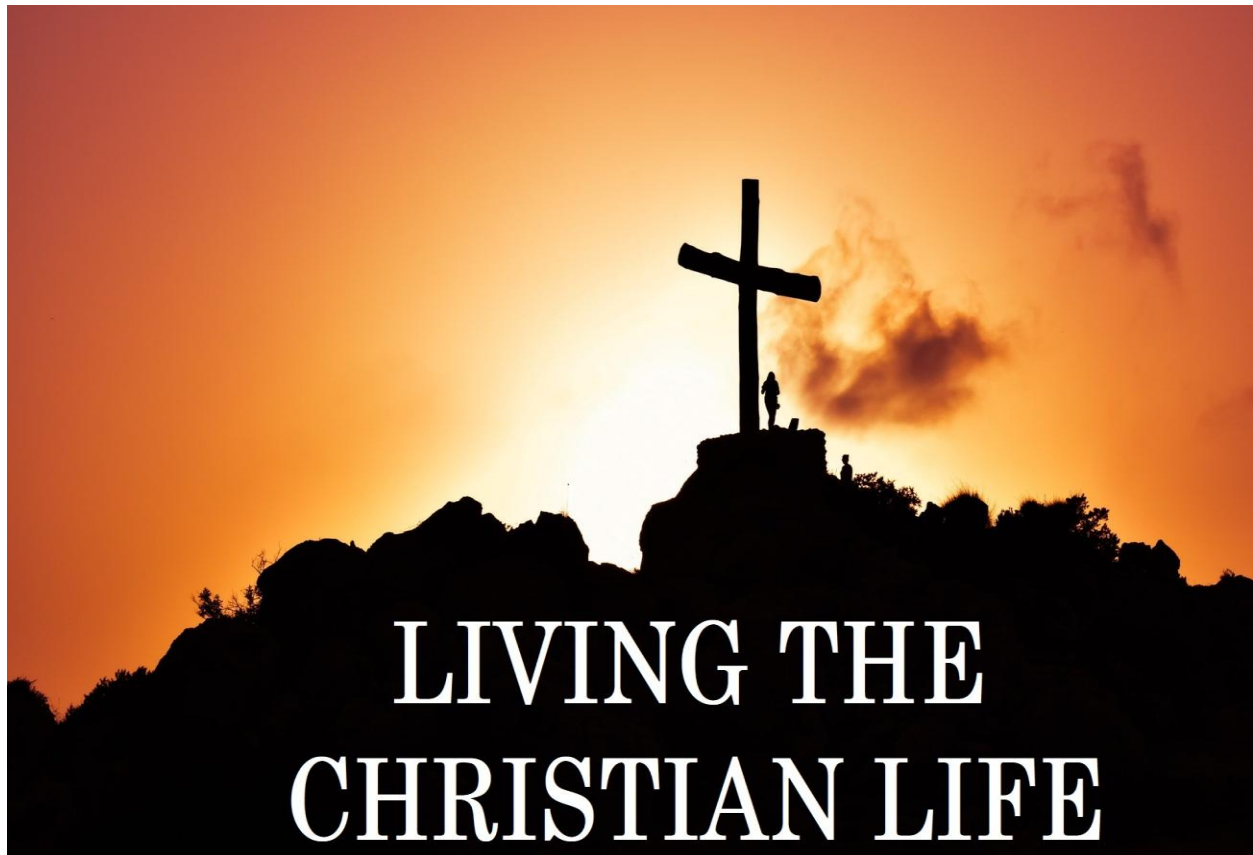
Going to church consistently is not an issue of legalism but spiritual reasoning and good sense, mainly as we see "*The Day*" coming nearer. In the near future, Jesus will come back, and all of the cares, concerns, fears, stresses, and worries of life that bog us down will vanish in a second.

What matters most and the greatest is our faith and connection in Christ; our growth and development in grace; the fruit and harvest we produce and develop for His glory; and the fulfillment and satisfaction of His will for our daily lives. A lot of our spiritual development and growth take place as we engage, communicate, interact and connect with other members of the body of Christ regularly, so be diligent and persistent in gathering and assembling side by side with fellow believers.

This [resource](#) will connect you with 3 to 4 churches in your area.

CHAPTER 7

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



SUMMARY

The Lord is waiting for folks like you and me to discover and explore God's heart. Come to God on behalf of those that do not know Christ. Become a vital part of His overall plan leaving a true and real impact on the world for Christ.

In your relationship with God, you can freely love Him, freely receive His love, talk, and ask Him anything. No boundaries. No limitations. Be completely free to love and receive His love.

TRUSTING

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6).

When you are in hard situations and problems in life — trusting and relying on God for your finances, your relationships, your rebellious children, your health, and well being — it is essential and necessary that you return to the *"Word of God"* (Bible) and say:

"Lord, would you help me not to rely on my own understanding? Would you assist me not to attempt to reason a way out of my problem in my own strength and power? Would you help me to trust and rely on you with all of my mind and heart?" As you pray this way daily and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you, you will find yourself growing in courage and faith.

However, as anybody who has walked with Jesus for any period of time can testify, following Jesus implies we will encounter obstacles and challenges along the way. Questions and concerns might come from a close friend, relative, or acquaintance who is questioning what you believe to be God's direction. Or it might be a voice in your head, thinking every type of argument to try and keep you from obeying and following your Father God's direction and instructions.

Similarly, when a person turns to God and has a genuine renewal in his or her life, Satan will battle with all his might to prevent their progress. Let the Holy Spirit penetrate your heart deeply that you might walk upright before the Lord.

The world, our adversary, and our flesh will set up compelling resistance in the form of fear, worry, stress, confusion, and doubt. However, that is the exact time you must follow God's instructions.

Enduring faith says to the Lord, *"I leave every circumstance, every care, fear, and concern into your hands. And I believe you for your promises to carry out everything you are. All your omniscience (the state of knowing everything) and omnipotent strength (of having unlimited power; able to do anything) to preserve, protect, and maintain me."*

Each time you deal with problems, persecution, and mistreatment, Satan loves to whisper worries and lies like: *"Exactly how are you going to get through this dilemma? What can you do now? If God is dependable, how could He permit this to occur to you? What will become of you, your family members, your work, your ministry?"*

Enduring faith rises and addresses the enemies lies: *"Devil, you are asking the wrong questions. The question for me today is not how I'm going to endure it; it is not what will happen to my*

family and me. I have currently placed everything that concerns and worries me into my loving Father's control. I have entrusted all upcoming circumstances to God because He has shown Himself faithful and trustworthy time and time again. My God can be trusted!"

The question for Christians is, *"How can I love, cherish and serve my Lord stronger? How will I serve other people?"* You see, prevailing faith says, *"His will be done. No more personal agenda for me! No more playing God by attempting to resolve my own problems or anyone else's."*

With such faith, you will be prepared and equipped for whatever today brings, and your heart will be grounded in your heavenly Father. May the Holy Spirit help keep your mind dwelling on the Lord and His promises.

There is absolutely nothing as exciting as walking every day with the Holy Spirit and walking and talking in the power of God. That's tuning in for the voice that comes to your spirit, then obeying and living by anything He would have you do. Going anywhere He tells you to go. Sharing what He tells you to say — ministering to anyone He puts in your path and relying on His wisdom as He imparts it into your heart and mind. *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you — they are full of the Spirit and life."* (John 6:63).

The most potent and effective prayer each of us can pray daily is to say, *"Use me! Shape me! Utilize me! Direct me!"*

Rather than using your life praying for blessings, ask that God will utilize you to bless and give to others. Instead of aiming to be comfortable and prosperous, pray that God will use you to assist others to discover comfort, peace of mind, lodging, and food. Instead of searching for miracles, let God transform your life into a living miracle of His will.

God desires to say a new word to you today! If you want to hear and know His voice effectively, get by yourself with Him. His presence continually accompanies His voice, and if you spend time in His Word, the Holy Spirit can verify and validate everything with Scripture (God's Word.) That is the path to real joy, peace, and happiness.

"Jesus, I pray for believers, that we will continue in God's love, reside there, take pleasure in a fully loving relationship with you. The world and life distract and sidetrack us. Theologies can muddle our hearts and minds, drawing us far away. We believe that you love and adore us on such a profound level. Jesus, you confirmed it on the cross. Your Word affirms and demonstrates it over and over again that you accept and receive us because of your righteousness (one of the chief attributes of God) that covers us, that forgives us, that embraces us. Guide us to remain in your love. Thank you for such an invite to love you. Amen."

CHAPTER 8

WRAPPING UP



Practice makes a difference. What did we ever "get good at" that didn't involve lots of practice? Altering patterns, habits, routines might be hard, but know that you're really resilient and quite resourceful when you want something. Your choice is the key.

Choosing to adopt some fresh and new patterns allows it to happen. God always wants to be with you, in any way, in any situation. The choice to get better at meeting God is all yours. Choose to walk with Christ daily in living the Christian life.

The Good News of the Gospel is that we serve a God of absolute love — a God of mercies who desires to bring His beloved ones into a place above all turmoil. God's ultimate goal for all His children is abundant life.

How amazing to know that we can trust our future into the hands of Christ, our Lord, and Savior. Psalm 46:10 says, "*Be still and know that I am God.*" Let this truth today bring peace to your soul. We are to cease our own efforts and leave it in His hands.

HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. Believe by faith in Christ that you have received eternal life.
2. Love God and others. Forgive each other.
3. Read and study your Bible daily and memorize scriptures.
4. Pray daily to God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Share the Gospel message daily with those you meet.
6. Be a separated Christian and serve the Lord with gladness.
7. Stand firmly on the Word of God and avoid temptations.
8. Commune with the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord with joy.
9. Join a caring local church and be water baptized.
10. Life's Greatest Questions.

To Your Success in Living the Christian Life!

www.QuestionsGod.Com