

Repeat - Practice this appointment daily. Decide on a daily time and place to meet with God. To put first things first, schedule your time with the Father on your PDA or daily planner. Forming an accountability partnership with a friend to check your progress has been a help to many. Remember, don't become devoted to a habit but to a Person.

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Communion with God is so sweet that the chill of the morning is forgotten and the luxury of the couch is despised.

Charles Spurgeon

How much time is enough to spend with God? Priorities are not always reflected in the amount of time spent but in giving something prior attention. Putting first things first means making your appointment with God the priority event of the day. A daily appointment can range from ten to thirty minutes. Start small and be faithful. It's better to be faithful in realistic ambitions than unfaithful in big ambitions.

God . . . aches over our distance and preoccupation. He mourns that we do not draw near to Him . . . He weeps over our obsession with muchness and manyness. He longs for our presence. Richard Foster

Crafted by Navigator staff Bill Mowry. Additional copies can be secured by contacting Bill at: BMowry1@columbus.rr.com. Please do not copy without permission.

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How to experience a rich, transforming relationship with God through a daily appointment with Him.



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Life today is like paddling through whitewater rapids, it is fast and furious. Our schedules are filled with competing demands for our time and affections. It's easy to put God "on hold" and fail to take the time to cultivate a relationship with Him. Loving God, "the greatest commandment," becomes neglected.

Over the centuries, God-seekers have found a simple discipline helpful in experiencing a rich, transforming relationship with the Father. It's found in a daily appointment with God. Author Chuck Swindall writes that "seeking intimacy with God requires focused determination." Without this daily discipline, we will not experience a transforming friendship with God.

Rub shoulders with the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel their passion for knowing God. In a life filled with urgent requests and the crush of people pressing for His time, Jesus modeled putting first things first:

And in the morning, a great while before day, he departed and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35

In a life filled with the demands of leadership, King David modeled putting first things first:

*One thing I have asked of the Lord, that I will seek after. . .
To behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in His temple. Psalm 27:4*

Busy people have always found time to put first things first. Savoring a rich relationship with the Father starts with a daily appointment.

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Six principles for planning a daily appointment with God.

*We have almost forgotten that God is a Person and, as such,
can be cultivated as any person can. A. W. Tozer*

Refocus - Refocus your heart and mind through confession and praise. Before coming into God's presence, consider any sins to confess. If you're anxious, quickly record your anxious thoughts on a piece of paper and ask God to help you focus on Him. Review the previous 24 hours and thank Him for His goodness toward you. Be as specific as possible.

Read - Read a passage from the Scriptures. Select a passage ahead of time. You might begin by reading through one of the Gospels, focusing on Jesus. Many like to read a Psalm a day or a chapter in Proverbs. A daily reading program, to read the Bible in an entire year, can be a good place to start.

Reflect - Reflect and think about what you're reading. Bible meditation helps us get below the surface of the text. Ask some questions of the passage or verse using *who, what, why, when, where, how*. Spend a few minutes answering some of the questions.

Record - Record your discoveries in a small notebook. Ask the Holy Spirit to give a new insight from His Word daily. Record one take-away thought from your time of Bible meditation to reflect on during the day.

Respond - Respond to the Father in simple, practical obedience to what you've read. Take time to imagine what your life would be like if you applied this new discovery today. Jan Johnson writes, "You train yourself never to walk away from Scripture without responding." Pray over your schedule, committing the day's events to His glory.

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