

Christianity: A Daily Walk with Jesus

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11–13).

Living as a Christian in a lost world can be a very tough job if we try to do it in our own strength. We *must* have God’s help to be effective. It is therefore imperative that we quickly develop a close and proper relationship with Him. The apostle James stated it like this:

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded” (James 4:8).

I. Building a Personal Relationship With Your God

A. Through Bible study—God speaks to us

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1–2).

You should find a place and time that is free of distraction where you can read your Bible every day. You now have a powerful enemy, the Devil, who will use every means at his disposal to prevent you from concentrating on and learning from the Scriptures. He knows that the more you read your Bible and pray, the less likely it is that he can make you ineffective.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

1. Study daily

“And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:10–11).

2. Study objectively

“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:4–10).

3. Four ways by which God communicates with us

- a. Through the Word of God: *1 John 5:9–11, 13*
- b. Through other people: *Nehemiah 8:5–8; Jeremiah 1:7*
- c. Through the circumstances of life (God will open and close doors if we ask Him to): *Colossians 4:3; Revelation 3:7–8*
- d. Through His “still, small voice.” When reading your Bible, the Lord may impress some particular verse upon you such that you will want to apply it to your life in some special situation. This isn’t, however, the only way he may speak: *1 Kings 19:11–12*

B. Through prayer—we speak to God.

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Matthew 6:6–7).

You need to find a place and time where you can get away every day to commune with God and tell Him your problems, needs, and desires. The best way to pray at such a time is on your knees to show the Lord that He is your Lord. It is also recommended that you pray with your eyes closed if things around you are distracting you. You must remember that you now have a powerful enemy, the Devil, who hates it when you pray. He will use every means at his disposal to distract you and make prayer uncomfortable. At such times the Bible tells us to “*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (*James 4:7*).

1. Pray daily

Daniel 6:10; Psalms 55:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:9–10

2. Pray continually

*Acts 2:42, Romans 1:9; Ephesians 6:18;
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

3. Pray according to God’s will

1 John 5:14–15

4. Some topics of prayer

a. Worship: *Genesis 24:26–27*

b. Confession/forgiveness for sins: *1 John 1:9; Nehemiah 1:6*

c. For personal and family needs/wants: *Matthew 6:9–13; Philippians 4:6,19; 1 John 3:22*

d. For your pastor and your church: *1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; James 5:16*

e. Intercession for others: *Romans 1:9, and James 5:13–16*

f. For country and government: *1 Timothy 2:1–2*

g. For wisdom: *James 1:5–7*

h. Thanksgiving (for food and other blessings): *Mark 8:6; John 6:11; 1 Timothy 4:4–5*

C. Through praising God. God inhabits the praise of His people.

“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel” (Psalms 22:3).

1. In singing

Acts 16:25; Psalms 7:17; 48:1–2

2. In conversation

Hebrews 13:15

D. Through giving to God

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38).

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Malachi 3:10).

You need to find a place to give your offerings to the Lord to. Your local church should be that place. We will discuss how to find a local church in the next lesson.

“And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD” (Leviticus 27:32).

“For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace” (Hebrews 7:1–2).

1. Give of your time

Romans 13:11; Ephesians 5:15–17; Colossians 4:5

2. Give of your talents

1 Peter 4:11

3. Give of your treasures

2 Corinthians 9:6–8; Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:8

E. Through loving God

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40).

1. A few reasons for loving God
 - a. Because He first loved us: *1 John 1:19*
 - b. Because He died in our stead: *Romans 5:8*
 - c. He ever lives to make intercession for us: *Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1–2*
 - d. He watches over and cares for us: *1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 10:29–31*

F. Through fearing God. God is love, but God is also just. Disobedience cannot go unpunished.

“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear” (1 Peter 1:17).

“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29).

1. Because God has all power
Matthew 10:28; Proverbs 1:7
2. Because He is just and He will judge all men according to their works
Hebrews 9:27; 1 Timothy 5:24
 - a. The saved at the judgment seat of Christ: *Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Peter 4:17; 1 John 4:17–18*
 - b. The lost at the Great White Throne judgment: *Revelation 20:11–15; 2 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 3:7*

II. Living in a Non-Christian World

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15–17).

A. We are called to separation from the world

John 15:19; 2 Corinthians 6:14–17; James 4:4–6; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 5:9–11; John 17:13–17

B. We are called to holiness

Psalms 4:1–4; Titus 2:11–14; 1 Peter 1:15–16; 1 Peter 4:1–5

C. We are called to self-control

Psalms 39:1; Romans 6:12–13; Ephesians 4:23–27

D. We are called to yield to civil authorities whenever they do not require us to break God’s laws

Proverbs 29:2; Acts 5:29; Titus 3:1–2; 1 Peter 2:11–15, 18

E. We are called to be citizens of the heavenly kingdom right now

*John 14:2–3; John 18:36; Romans 12:2;
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6–11, 20; Ephesians 2:19;
Hebrews 11:13–16; 1 Peter 2:9–11*

F. We are called to watch for our blessed hope. One day soon Jesus will physically return to change our natural bodies into perfect, glorified bodies that can never be harmed or sick. We will then be eternal beings ready to take up residence in our new homes.

*John 14:2–3; Acts 1:6–11; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52;
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 John 3:1–3*

III. Dealing With the Troubles That Life Brings Your Way

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4).

Just because you’ve been saved and put God in control in your life, that doesn’t mean that your troubles will all be over. As long as you live in this world, sin (whether yours or others’) will bring problems that touch everyone around it. But take heart, Jesus has already won the victory over sin and every problem of life. You must do whatever you can about the situation and trust Him to take care of the rest. He will always see you through the hard times to a place of ultimate victory (*see Romans 8:37–39*).

The Word of God is filled with precious promises that can comfort and sustain you through the “valleys” of life. The following is but a small sampling of the promises that God has given us concerning life’s problems. As you read your Bible you should expand on this list, writing down promises that are especially precious to you. This way, in times of trouble you will know right where to turn for help (*see 1 Corinthians 10:13*).

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

(The following list is excerpted from the book **God's Promises For Your Every Need**, written and published by: C&D International, 9029 Director's Row, Dallas, Texas 75247)

What to do when ...

A. You have a physical illness.

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him”

(James 5:14–15).

3 John 2; Jeremiah 17:14; 30:17; Exodus 15:26;

Proverbs 4:20–22

B. You are in financial trouble.

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass” (Psalms 37:5).

Psalm 34:10; Deuteronomy 28:2–8; Matthew 19:29; Joshua 1:8; Proverbs 13:22; Matthew 6:31–33; Philippians 4:19

C. You are having marital problems.

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31–32).

Genesis 2:18, 24; Ephesians 5:21–33; 1 Peter 3:1–11;

Romans 13:10; Proverbs 3:5–6; 1 Peter 1:22

D. You are in grief.

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Isaiah 43:2).

2 Corinthians 1:3–4; Isaiah 61:1–3; Psalms 23:4; Isaiah 41:10; Revelation 21:4

E. You need confidence.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

*Hebrews 10:35–36; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:14–15;
Zechariah 4:6; Proverbs 3:26*

F. You are discouraged.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

Isaiah 51:11; 1 Peter 1:6–7; Philippians 4:6–8; Psalms 138:7; John 14:1; Hebrews 10:35–36; Psalms 27:1–14

G. You are experiencing fear.

“Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken” (Proverbs 3:25–26).

2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15; 1 John 4:18; Psalms 91:1; Psalms 91:4–7; 10–11; Isaiah 59:14; Psalms 56:11; Psalms 23:4–5; Romans 8:29, 31, 35–39; Psalms 31:24; Psalms 27:1, 3; Hebrews 13:6

H. You are deserted by loved ones.

“Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him” (Psalms 91:14–15).

Psalms 9:10; 27:10; Matthew 28:20; 2 Corinthians 4:9; 1 Peter 5:7; Isaiah 49:15–16; Psalms 43:5; Hebrews 10:23; Psalms 138:8

I. You do not understand God's ways.

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”
(Isaiah 55:8–9).*

*Jeremiah 33:3; Romans 8:35–37; 1 Corinthians 10:13;
Psalms 34:19; Psalms 55:22; Isaiah 41:10; Romans 8:28;
Psalms 18:30; Hebrews 10:23; Psalms 138:8*