

Quiet Time

What is a simple definition of a Christian? A Christian is someone who has admitted their sin to God and voluntarily turned to Jesus Christ for forgiveness. They've put their faith His death on the cross as their payment for sin. Their faith in Jesus Christ as their only hope of forgiveness has brought them into a reconciled relationship with God.

Christianity is a relationship with God made possible by Jesus Christ. We were created to have a growing relationship, on-going friendship with God. Our relationship with God grows through two-way communication. God communicates with us primarily through His Word. We can talk to Him about anything and everything. This is called "prayer".

Our relationship with God is based on what Christ has done for us, not on our performance. But it is important to develop "habits" or "disciplines" as a disciple (learner) of Christ. All the above to say how important it is to have a special time set aside each day to read our Bible and pray. This is called a "quiet time".

"In the calmness of the morning before the mind is heated and weary by the turmoil of the day, you have a season of unusual importance for communion with God and with yourself." (William Wilberforce) Garth Lean, one of his biographers observes, "In the day to day battle it was more and more these early morning hours (kept up in spite of late nights and chronic ill health) and his quiet Sundays which gave him strength and perspective on himself and the world."

As an example of one way to organize our quiet time, Gordon MacDonald describes his system of weekly quiet times and worship:

Sunday: A Day of Creation and Resurrection

God is my maker; the essence of what I am is good. But the evil in me is foreign tissue. The heavens and the earth are His, and it all - except what humanity has exploited and destroyed - gives evidence to His glory. THIS IS A DAY OF CREATION AND RESURRECTION. Is 42:5-6

Monday: A Day of Glory

God is my King; I am a servant in His kingdom, and I stand before Him today in reverence and holy fear. His kingdom begins in me and in all who bow before Him in submission. THIS IS A DAY OF GLORY. Ps.47:1-2

Tuesday: A Day of Accountability and Mourning

God is my judge. Before Him and before Him only do I stand guilty of my sins, justifiably condemned. THIS IS A DAY OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND MOURNING. Jer 10:23-24

Wednesday: A DAY OF REDEMPTION

God is my Redeemer. In Jesus He has provided a way (the atonement of His Son) to satisfy divine justice, and at the same time, offer me spiritual liberation and adoption into His kingdom-family. THIS IS A DAY OF REDEMPTION. Is 50:2; Is 35:10

Thursday: A DAY OF PROVISION

God is my shepherd. By His Spirit, I have need of nothing else. He provides, protects, feeds, leads. THIS IS A DAY OF PROVISION. Ps.89:1-2

Friday: A DAY OF COMPASSION AND INTIMACY

God is my Father; He has compassion and tender affection for me, and He offers me a personal relationship as Father and friend. THIS IS A DAY OF COMPASSION AND INTIMACY. Ps. 103:13-14

Saturday: A DAY OF HOPE

God is my life. Through His gift, I have the promise of everlasting life. Death is a threshold to something incomprehensibly bright and wonderful. The work of eternity will be that of discovering the infinite depths of His glory. Sadness, conflict, brokenness, weakness will be things of the past, no remembered. Worship will be the order of the day. And we shall see Him as He is. THIS IS A DAY OF HOPE. Rev.21:3-5