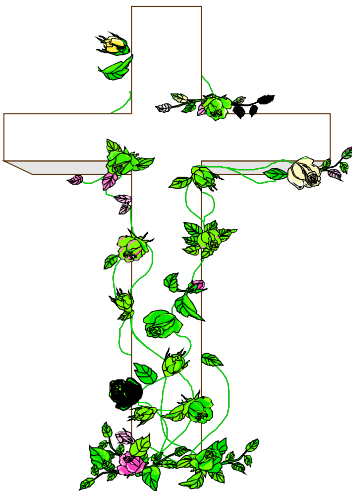


# SPENDING TIME WITH MY LORD

**JUST A CLOSER  
WALK WITH THEE**



**DAILY JOURNAL**

**BY  
EVANGELIST  
RONNIE WYATT**

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336-234-7478  
P.O. Box 1463  
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[www.crosseyedministries.com](http://www.crosseyedministries.com)  
[crosseyedmin@yahoo.com](mailto:crosseyedmin@yahoo.com)

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## ***JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE SPENDING TIME WITH MY LORD***

This simple book is designed for two reasons:

1. To help you have a focused, personal time with Jesus Christ.
2. To help you record or “journal” those times.

Both of these disciplines are very important to the Christian life. Having a focused, personal time with our Savior is vital to us living a life of obedience and hope. Hearing His “voice” helps to guide us in decision making as well as strengthen us in our time of need. Journaling helps you to not only put your thoughts and conversations with The Lord on paper, but it also serves as a way to look back at past situations and appreciate how God provided during those times.

This book is only valuable if used with your Bible and Prayer time. In and of it's self it is nothing but ink on paper, but if you use it to guide you in talking to and listening to your Savior, it will eventually become a crucial part of your life! The book is set up to help guide you through your “Quiet Time” by combining your Prayer Time with Scripture reading. It actually follows the outline that Jesus gave His disciples in what is often referred to as The Lord's Prayer.

The disciples of Jesus came to Him and asked Him to teach them how to pray. I have always been amazed at that request. Of all the things they could have asked to be taught, it was how to spend time with God that they longed for the most! They didn't ask Him to

teach them how to heal, do miracles, preach or serve. They wanted to learn how to have an intimate relationship with their God!

I imagine their desire was driven by watching how Jesus, Himself, spent time with His Heavenly Father. I imagine that after hearing years of rehearsed, memorized and often cold prayers delivered up by the religious leaders of their day, they were amazed at how personal and intimate Jesus' prayer life was. They looked at His devotion to His Father and thought, "I wish I had that type of relationship with God." Jesus answered their request by giving them an example of how to reach the heart of God when you talk to Him.

The Lord's Prayer is too often misunderstood as being an official prayer that God enjoys hearing, thus it is to be repeated back to Him often. I am sure that God does enjoy hearing His Word from His people, but I don't believe Jesus gave them the prayer so they could recite it back to God. That would make it similar to the remembered, rehearsed, prayers that so often filled the public squares. Those memorized prayers did not come from the heart, they were just vain words in vain repetition. In fact, Jesus warned them to be careful of that type of praying just before He taught them how to pray:

***Matthew 6:7*** "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

Jesus never intended for His prayer to be rehearsed and quoted, but to be used as an example of how to pray and commune with God. Let's take a look at how Jesus taught His disciples to pray and see a natural progression in His communion with His Heavenly Father.

**Matthew 6:9-13** *"9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."*

**Notice the flow that Jesus uses to spend time with His Father.**

***I. Begin with Praise:*** *"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name"*

Jesus began His prayer with praise! Hallowed means "to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow; to separate from profane things and dedicate to God; to be consecrated or pure." Jesus in saying Hallowed be Thy Name is acknowledging to God His holiness, purity, and magnificent. He did not run to His Father and immediately say, "Help, these are my needs!" Which is what we usually do. He said begin by praising God. Psalm 22:3 tells us that God inhabits the praise of His people. It's almost as if Jesus may be saying, "If you want to get God's attention, stop and praise Him. So,

in your prayer time begin with Praise!

## ***II. Allow God To Speak To You! Listening To His Word.***

***Read The Bible:*** “*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*”

Jesus then prayed that God’s will would be done and that His Kingdom would be experienced here on earth. This is where it is good to include your scripture reading for the day. The Bible is the only place that we get a clear cut response from God concerning who He is and how He feels about things.

To know God’s will for your life, you cannot leave out the Bible. It is true that He speaks to us in other ways, but those ways must line up with the principles taught in scripture. If they do not, then you did not hear God’s voice in those other avenues. After beginning your time with God by praising Him, then open up your Bible to whatever section of scripture that you are reading through and read the portion that you desire.

We have given you some questions to help you glean from God’s Word important life changing principles. They are separated into three major categories Observation, Interpretation and Life Application (O.I.L.). These questions will help you hear what God is saying to you through His Word for that day. This is how your journal is divided in this area.

**A. OBSERVATION: What did you observe as you read God's Word?**

- What in this passage really stands out to me?
- Are there any COMMANDS to follow?
- Are there any WARNINGS to heed?
- Are there any PROMISES to hold onto?

**B. INTERPRETATION: What does this mean to you?**

- Sum up in one sentence what this passage is saying about GOD (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit):
- Sum up in one sentence what this passage is saying about ME:

**C. LIFE APPLICATION: How does this apply to you and how will applying this to your life effect you?**

- Where do I fall short and why?
- What do I need to do differently?
- How will this change my life?

After this time in scripture, it is time to continue talking to God. You just allowed Him to talk to you through His Word and heard what's on His heart for you today, now you will continue to share your heart with Him. You may be amazed to find that after spending time with Him talking to you, the problems or request that you intended to share with God may have changed. We often begin our time knowing what we NEED to ask for until He reveals something in His Word that shows us what we REALLY need. Allow God to direct your prayer time!

***III. Take Your Prayer Requests To The Lord: “Give us this day our daily bread.”***

I think the most important aspect of following this guideline in your time with God is that, by now, you have probably already been communing with God for at least ten minutes and you have not asked Him for anything! Now that you have praised Him and sought His will for your life, it's time to take your needs to Him. Notice that Jesus didn't say, “give us this day our weekly, our monthly bread.” He said, “daily.” God expects us to bring our daily needs to Him.

This is a good time to pray about your needs as well as your weaknesses. Jesus goes on to say, “*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil .“* It's good to tell God what you are need of, but don't forget to ask Him to protect you from evil. Satan knows your weaknesses and will use them to cause you to stumble. Pray for God's protection!

This is also the time to pray for the needs of others. If you have a church prayer list or know of other prayer needs, take them to your Father who is waiting to provide!

***IV. How Are My Personal Relationships?: “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”***

Jesus now shifts to personal relationships. This is the time to ask yourself these questions and do some self examination:

1. How is my Relationship with God? “forgive us OUR debts”

If God has been dealing with you about something do what He wants. If there is sin in your life, confess it!

2. How is my relationship with others? “as we forgive our debtors”

The Bible is very clear about how our relationships with others directly effects our relationship with God.

**Matthew 5:23-24** *“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”*

**Mark 11:25-26** *“...whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”*

Do not let unresolved relationships in your life interfere with your relationship with God. You need to be honest with yourself and God. If there are damaged relationships, you need to do your best to handle them properly. If you need to forgive - forgive. If you need to ask for forgiveness, do it. You need to be set free!

**V. Finish With Praise:** *“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”*

Jesus closes His prayer the same way He started it, with

praise! Thank Him for His sovereignty and provision. Jesus acknowledges that God is Sovereign and can do whatever He wants (Thine is the Kingdom), which is important in prayer. God will choose to answer prayer anyway and anytime that He sees fit.

Jesus acknowledges that God has the power to answer every prayer request given to Him, which brings peace when praying! And He promises to make sure that God gets the credit for it all (and the glory forever).

I realize that as you see all this written out, it seems overwhelming, but honestly, the process of spending time with God and following this flow, can be done in 30 minutes or less. However, the amount of time should not be the focus. Some days will be quicker than others, depending on where you are in your life and what God is doing in you. Allot yourself at least 30 minutes, but don't make that your "cutoff" time unless you absolutely have to. Some days, God may be speaking to you so clearly that you don't want it to end. Allow time for Him to move in you!

**Helpful Hints:** Here are some helpful hints to make your Time With Your Savior more enjoyable and effective.

**A) Make up your mind to find the time.**

-Not spending time reading God's word and not praying: is sin ..... you cannot grow closer to God....you can easily be lead astray.

**B) Make up your mind to make time.**

- You have to set aside time to read God's word and pray even if that means rearranging your life!

**C) Make up your mind that you know that it is worth the time.**

- Your heart should be: "God, I just want to please you and be obedient. Help me to desire to meet with you every day!"

**D) Make sure that you have a special place set aside to meet God.**

-Don't wait to find a place to have your time with God. Plan it out before you even get there!

**E) Make sure that you have all your stuff together to meet with God!**

-Don't wait until your time to meet with God to find your bible, journal, pen, etc. Satan will have you wasting valuable time!

**F) Use Hymns or Songs to prepare your heart!**

-If you like, you can begin your time with the Lord singing hymns, praise songs or whatever helps you to focus on Him! This will help to prepare your heart for your meeting.

**G) Remember God's Grace!**

-If you fail to meet with God one day. Don't get discouraged. Remember God's mercies are new every morning! Don't let Satan keep you from your Savior! Meet with God your next appointed time

and move forward with life.

**H) As your day unfolds continue to look for ways to apply what God spoke to you about!**

- Remember, you talked to God and shared what was on your heart, but He also talked to you through His Word. Keep your eyes spiritually open looking to see signs of Him bringing to pass situations that have to do with what He spoke to you about.

The rest of this eBook contains your Just A Closer Walk With Thee Journal sheet including a Sample Sheet. Since this version is in electronic form, there is no need to make multiple pages of the same daily Journal sheet. There are a couple of ways that you can use this.

1. If you choose to use this as a way to keep your journaling time on your computer for easier reference later, you can make a folder on your computer called "My Time With My Lord" or whatever name that you want to call it, and copy and paste each days sheet in it after you have your time with God filled in.

Don't worry about trying to type so that your responses "fit" on the sheet. Just add your responses right under the questions and allow the document to space itself down as it needs to. You will save each individually anyway so it doesn't matter if it is more than one "page."

2. If you would rather have a hard copy sheet that you can place in an

actual folder or notebook, you can actually print out a sheet every day and fill it out with pen or pencil. Feel free to make as many copies as you desire!

Remember, a relationship is only as strong as it's communication. This is designed to help you communicate regularly and clearly with your Savior. Our prayer is that you grow to know Him so well here, that you won't be surprised when you see Him face to face in Glory! May God bless you and may your life be radically changed as you spend time with Him!

***This next page is a sample of how I use this sheet. I find it easier to type onto the sheet and save it to my computer. However, feel free to print out blank sheets to use as hard copies if you would rather do it that way!***

## Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Date: 11-02-06

### I. Begin With Praise: What can I praise Him for?

*Family, My Church, Home, Answered Prayer For Finances!*

### II. Listening to His Word. Read The Bible.

My Text: *Matthew 6:1-5*

#### A. OBSERVATION: Answer these questions:

**What in this passage really stands out to me?**

*If we do things so others will notice then their noticing IS our reward! BUT if we let only God know then He will reward us!*

**Are there any COMMANDS to follow?**

*Don't brag about helping others, just do it!*

**Are there any WARNINGS to heed?**

*I could lose Heavenly rewards by bragging!*

**Are there any PROMISES to hold onto?**

*God will reward our unknown deeds!*

#### B. INTERPRETATION: What did I learn?

**Sum up in one sentence what this passage is saying about...**

**GOD (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit):**

*God is the faithful rewarder who will not let your unknown deeds go without proper repayment.*

**Sum up in one sentence what this passage is saying about ME:**

*I need to make sure that I have the right motives when I help people!*

#### C. LIFE APPLICATION: How Does This Effect My Life?

**Where do I fall short and why?**

*I am guilty of bragging about the things that I do "for the Lord". I guess pride is my problem*

**What do I need to do differently?** *Stop bragging about my good deeds*

**How will this change my life?** *Keep me from trying to take God's Glory*

### III. What Are My Prayer Requests?

**What are my needs?** *Need to find new health insurance*

**What are my weaknesses today?**

*Frustrated about work I need God to calm me!*

**What are the needs of others?** *Mom and Dad's Salvation!*

#### **IV. How Are My Personal Relationships?**

**Do I need to confess anything to God?**

*My struggle with pride and anger*

**Are there any relationships that I need to mend?**

*My wife and I had an argument this morning. I need to apologize.*

**Is there someone that I need to forgive?** *My boss said some things to me that really bothered me. I need to forgive him and let it go!*

**Do I need to ask someone to forgive me?** *My wife*

#### **V. Finish With Praise: Thank Him for His sovereignty and provision.**

*Thank You Lord for hearing my prayers. I know that you are in control and that you will take care of my every need. In fact, You are everything that I need!*

**Below is a sheet for you to either print out daily to use and store or to copy and paste into a computer folder for easy reference.**

**May God bless your journey of walking with Him!**

**Just A Closer Walk With Thee      Date:**

**I. Begin With Praise: What can I praise Him for?**

**II. Listening to His Word. Read The Bible.      My Text:**

**A. *OBSERVATION: Answer these questions:***

What in this passage really stands out to me?

Are there any **COMMANDS** to follow?

Are there any **WARNINGS** to heed?

Are there any **PROMISES** to hold onto?

**B. *INTERPRETATION: What did I learn?***

Sum up in one sentence what this passage is saying about...

**GOD (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit):**

Sum up in one sentence what this passage is saying about **ME:**

**C. *LIFE APPLICATION: How Does This Effect My Life?***

Where do I fall short and why?

What do I need to do differently?

How will this change my life?

**III. What Are My Prayer Requests?**

What are my needs?

What are my weaknesses today?

What are the needs of others?

**IV. How Are My Personal Relationships?**

Do I need to confess anything to God?

Are there any relationships that I need to mend?

Is there someone that I need to forgive?

Do I need to ask someone to forgive me?

**V. Finish With Praise: Thank Him for His sovereignty and provision.**