

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

WELCOME

GROWING

IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

WELCOME

BY EDGE CHURCH



We're so glad you've joined us at Edge Church.

Today, if you have made a decision to accept Jesus as your Saviour or perhaps you decided that it was time to return, like the prodigal son in Luke 15 – then this tool is for you. It is a step you can take to get to know Jesus, His love and grace for you, through reading the Bible.

I really am trusting that as we draw near to Jesus, our Saviour who paid the ultimate price for us as His people, we would be encouraged to Love God, Love People and Change The World. This is the heart of God and for us as Edge Church.

Much love,

Daniel Erasmus

Daniel Erasmus | Lead Pastor



How to have a daily devotional life

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My Daily Devotional Life

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Salvation

Becoming A Christian

1

REALISE that God made you. He knows you inside out and wants you to have a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5). This means that just as we were born naturally we need to have a spiritual rebirth. By making a personal commitment to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and committing to follow Him, we experience spiritual rebirth.

REALISE that God has not been first place in your life, and ask him to forgive your sins.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

2

BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose from the dead and is alive today.

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." Romans 10:9-10 NLT

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." 1 Thessalonians 4:14

3

ACCEPT God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

"For it is by grace you are saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Our relationship with God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus already did for us!

4

INVITE Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the Lord of your life. Jesus also said that He stands at the door of our hearts asking to come in. We have to make the decision to invite Him in; it is not automatic.

"Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20 HCSB

"To all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn! — not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan — but from the will of God." John 1:12-13 TLB

What verse around salvation has impacted you so far? Rewrite the scripture in your own words here:

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

Consciously put your trust in Him, asking Him to come into your life, as you pray:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for creating me and for loving me even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realise I need you in my life, and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your free gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

Take time to write your response and prayer to God as you make the most important decision to follow Jesus:

[illegible]

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” *Romans 10:13*

How To Be Sure Of Your Salvation

Can anyone really be sure that they are saved and forgiven and have a fresh start with God after praying a simple prayer? Yes they can!

It's really quite simple. The Bible gives us the truth about salvation and we have listed a number of encouraging promises for you to read and place your trust in.

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved." Romans 10:9,10 NLT

Therefore, if you have prayed and asked Jesus into your life and believe with all your heart that He is your Saviour, then you are saved. But you might say that you do not 'feel' saved. Well, the Bible again says...

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life." John 5:24 NLT

If you now know this, yet feel that you still sin and fail, what then? The Bible goes on to tell us how to respond to sin and failure while God is working in us.

"But if we walk in the light, God Himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin. If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins – make a clean breast of them – He won't let us down; He'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing." 1 John 1:7-9 MSG

You now need to walk in faith believing that God is true to His word and that you are saved. This is the most exciting decision you could make, but there is more...

How To Go On and Grow in God

In order for you to grow and become all that God has for you in Christ, there are several important steps you will need to take.

1. Attend A Great Church Regularly

This is where you can receive the spiritual food that you need to grow in your relationship with God and others. Make sure you don't miss out on anything God is doing in church.

“They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.” Acts 2:46-47 MSG

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25 NLT

Sitting under biblical teaching is good for your soul and will establish you quickly in the things of God.

2. Believe That Jesus Christ Has Come Into Your Life

If you have asked Jesus to come into your life and be your Lord and Saviour then you can be sure that He will respond and do just that. It is a fact, not a feeling, and you will need to trust His promises, not your feelings. Feelings may mislead us and make us feel we are not saved. Jesus himself said...

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.” Revelation 3:20-21 NLT

“He came into the very world He created, but the world didn’t recognise Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:10-13 NLT

This tells us that we are saved and accepted by God because of our trust in Jesus, not our performance or works. If you feel unworthy or unsure then it is not because God has not accepted you, but that you have not fully believed or understood that God has accepted you in Christ.

3. Realise That Faith Saves Us And Not Our Good Deeds

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.” Philippians 4:19-20 NLT

4. Read His Word Daily

We would love you to read through the next section, 15 Minutes with God. Here we share practical tips for your time with God. We’ll explore what it means to have a devotional / quiet time with Him, overcoming challenges in your time with God, your daily prayer time and a Bible reading plan.

Notes

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DEVOTION

MY DAILY

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

MY DAILY

15 MINUTES WITH GOD

How To Have A

Daily Time With God

An Introduction

I often hear people say, "I just don't have enough hours in my day."

I confess that I have been guilty of saying that at times. Somehow life has got busier and busier, and we often feel rushed off our feet. Many Christians struggle to fit in a dedicated daily devotional time with God. Somehow the busyness of our lives has pushed time with God out of our daily programmes.

However, I believe more than ever before, that daily Bible reading, and daily prayer are the most important disciplines in a believer's life. If we are not spending time with God daily, we are denying ourselves the strength and guidance that comes from Him to face life's challenges.

We have 96 fifteen-minute slots in a day. Think for a moment how often we waste 15 minutes daily watching T.V. programmes we don't even enjoy, in idle chatter, daydreaming, and so on.

I would like to see every believer dedicating at least one or two 15-minute time slots per day to God for prayer and reading His word – working towards the goal of 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes at night.

I would like to offer you practical tips on how to spend those 15 minutes with God.

Enjoy!

1. Set a specific time

When is the best time?

The best time is when you're at your best. Remember, some people are early birds, and some are night owls. So, you need to choose a time when you are most alert.

Give the best part of your day to God!

In Jesus' life, we see that he rose early to pray. In my experience, it is best to start the day with God. More importantly, it's best to keep your appointment with God no matter what time you set. You know what it's like when you have an appointment with someone, and they stand you up!

How long should my quiet time be?

This is a commonly asked question. I would suggest the following guidelines:

- Start with a minimum of 15 minutes and let it grow
- Don't watch the clock
- Concentrate on quality rather than quantity (length)

My advice is to concentrate on small beginnings. Everyone can spare 15 minutes a day, so start with 15 minutes. Be faithful in that and let it grow. Just like in any relationship, when your time with God is exciting and real, it will grow!

2. Choose a special place

Some folks go to work early to have a quiet place i.e. the office, while others have a special corner in their lounge, bedroom, or car park. In Luke 22:39 we see that Jesus' special place was the Mount of Olives:

"Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him."

3. Commit yourself to a daily meeting

I don't suggest having sporadic quiet times. Meeting with God must become a constant habit. In the previous verse, Luke tells us that Jesus went to the Mount of Olives "as usual".

4. Begin with the right attitude

When it comes to having the right attitude, there are four things to remember:

1. Have a quiet heart - Don't rush into God's presence

It's important to position yourself before God with a quiet heart. Remember who He is. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

2. Come with an open heart, expecting God to speak to you daily.

Invite Him into the meeting. Pray, "Lord, I eagerly expect you to meet with me and talk to me today." In Psalm 119:18, David prays, "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law."

3. Have an open mind - clear your thoughts of other things

Here's a practical tip: If a thought enters your mind, clear it out by jotting it down so that you can deal with it later. For example, if you remember that you need to collect the children after work, jot it down. When you do this, you will be able to clear your thoughts to receive from God.

4. Come with an openness and willingness to obey God

The Bible says that obedience is better than sacrifice. Coming before God with a willingness to do what He tells us is the best way in which to approach this time with Him.

In John 7:17, *Jesus challenges us by saying, "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."*

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5. A simple plan of action

As suggested previously, let's start with 15 minutes a day. So, what do you do during those 15 minutes? Here is my suggestion:

1. Relax (1 minute)

Take a minute to allow yourself to slow down and prepare your heart. Take a few deep breaths! Do what you need to to be still and quiet - wash your face with cold water, grab a cup of coffee or sit on a comfortable chair.

2. Read the Word (5 minutes)

Spend 5 minutes reading the Word either from your selected reading plan or from your Bible reading notes. Ask God to speak to you as you read.

3. Reflect (2 minutes)

Take some time to reflect on what God spoke to you about while reading the Word. You can reflect by doing the following:

- **Observation**

Write out what God is showing you in this passage. Record anything God is teaching you in the verse(s): principles, commands, warnings, etc.

What is the overall message God is saying through the verse(s)?

- **Application**

Write out how this affects your life. How can you take what you've read and observed today and put it into practice in your life?

4. Reflect (2 minutes)

Take some time to write down what God is saying to you in your journal. You can do this by answering the following questions:

- How does this apply to me?
- What action/s do I need to take?
- How do I apply what He told me?

5. Prayer Time: Make my requests known (5 minutes)

During this time, share your heart with God. Tell Him where you are, how you are doing and what your needs are. Paul encourages us in Philippians 4:6: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

In my daily time with God, it is important for me to commit a set time, choose a special place, commit to meeting daily, begin with the right attitude and have a simple plan of action.

My commitment and action plan:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Overcoming

challenges in my daily time with God.

1. Challenges of discipline

If you choose to have your quiet time in the morning, the first battle you will face is “The Battle of the Blankets”! My suggestion is that the moment you wake up, you must get up! Never debate with your blankets - they normally win. Never debate with yourself by saying, “I’m so tired.” The devil usually exaggerates how tired you are!

Here are some practical tips:

1. Go to bed early enough

You can’t get up early if you are going to bed late. Try to develop a habit of going to bed at the same time every night. Tell yourself that you have an appointment in the morning. This will help you make the decision to switch off the T.V., set your alarm clock, and put off the light.

2. Get up immediately

As soon the alarm goes off, GET UP! Don’t pray about getting up – JUST DO IT!

3. Watch out for the ‘Quiet Time Thieves’

Activities like late night TV or reading will steal time that would be better spent sleeping. You’ll end up going to bed later than planned and end up tired in the morning.

4. Fall asleep thinking spiritual thoughts

I’ve found it beneficial to read a Psalm, recite a memory verse, or commit my night to God in prayer before falling asleep.

5. Be on guard against distractions

I’ve found that if I do the 3 things listed below, I’m less prone to being distracted by falling asleep or concentrating on my own thoughts:

- Don’t have a quiet time in bed
- It is better to read or pray aloud
- Play worship music as you prepare

2. Challenges of dryness

You will find that there will be times when your times with God feel dry or unexciting. Remember that it isn't helpful to judge your quiet times by how you're feeling. The devil doesn't want you to meet with God and will even use your feelings to discourage you from doing so.

D.L. Moody said, *"When you don't feel like reading and praying, read and pray until you feel like it."*

Here are some possible causes of spiritual dryness:

1. Physical health

Physical health does affect our spiritual and emotional life. It's important to make sure that you are in good health. You may be stressed out or overworked and need a break.

2. Disobedience to God

God calls disobedience sin. God wants you to deal with what He has told you to do last and may not move you on to something else until you have done so.

3. Rushing your quiet time

I read a quote that said, "Hurry is the death of prayer." If you rush your quiet time, it will be difficult to receive from God.

4. Getting in a rut

Doing the same thing the same way can get you in a rut! Use a variety of methods to keep discovering something new. Here are a few suggestions:

- Sometimes just read or just pray
- Study a book of the Bible

5. Not sharing with others

Remember the Dead Sea illustration - the water is salty because it does not have an outlet. It only takes in water and never gives out. When we are generous and share what God is giving us, He pours into our lives.

3. Challenges of diligence

The greatest problem you will face in developing a quiet time will be consistency. The devil will try all he can to keep you from meeting with God regularly. If he achieves this, he corrupts your connection with God.

Here are some practical tips to help you to be diligent:

- Make a covenant/promise that you will meet with Him daily
- Don't compromise your decision
- Get your Bible or notes ready the night before
- Check your alarm clock

So, what happens if I do miss a day? Don't give up because of guilt. Just start again and re-do what you've set out to do.

What personal challenge/s am I surrendering to God as I commit to grow in my relationship with Him?

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Notes

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My Daily *Prayer Time*

For many, prayer feels like a chore - it is dull and boring. It is something we all struggle to do regularly. So how do we revitalise our prayer life? Let's take a closer look.

1. Approach prayer with the right attitude

1. Be real

Don't try to impress God. Share your heart with Him and talk to Him as you would talk to a close friend.

2. Be relaxed

Removing distractions is the best way to help you relax. So switch off the T.V., radio, or your cell phone. Close your door so you won't be interrupted.

2. How to pray

Matthew 6:9-15 refers to the Lord's Prayer. In this passage, Jesus gives His disciples a model of how to pray. Here's a brief outline:

1. Praise

"Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name..." Matthew 6:9

Praise involves adoration. Praise God for who He is and for what He has done. Praise God for His love and mercy. See Psalm 100:4; Numbers 14:8; 1 John 4:8.

2. Purpose

"Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

Pray for God's will to be accomplished in your life, family, and church.

3. Provision

"Give us today our daily bread." Matthew 6:11

Pray for your needs and the needs of the church. See Philippians 4:19; Romans 8:32; James 4:2.

4. Pardon

"Forgive us our debts..." Matthew 6:12

Confess your sins and repent of them. Forgive others who have sinned against you.
See 1 John 1:9; Psalm 139:23-24.

5. People

See 1 Timothy 2:1. I've found that using my hand as a guide is the best way to remember how to pray for others:



Your thumb is the finger that is nearest to you. Pray for yourself and for those who are closest to you - your children and loved ones.



The next finger is your pointing finger, the one that you use to give directions. Pray for the Leadership of Edge Church. Ask God to strengthen and direct them.



The third finger is your tallest finger. Pray for God's provision, favour and covering over Edge Church and over your life.



The fourth finger is your ring finger. Pray for your marriage, that you would be a more loving spouse/parent in your family. If you're not married, pray for your future marriage. Ask God to bring the right person along.



Lastly, your little finger is the smallest and weakest of all. Pray for children and for those who are vulnerable, weak, or disadvantaged in our society.

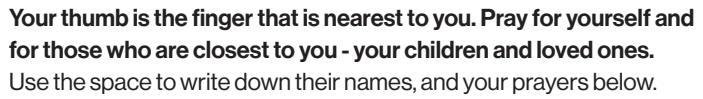
6. Power

"And lead us not into temptation..." Matthew 6:13 and 16

Pray against Satan's strongholds and spiritual forces.

7. End with Praise

Again, praise God for who He is and for what He has done. Praise God for His love and mercy, and that He has heard your prayers.



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The next finger is your pointing finger, the one that you use to give directions. Pray for the Leadership of Edge Church. Ask God to strengthen and direct them.

Use the space to write down their names, and your prayers below.

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OUR CULTURE

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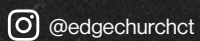
STATEMENT

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

No matter who you are and what you believe, you're welcome to explore our website to find out what we believe and who we are, and then why not visit us at one of our Sunday services? We trust that both online and in person, you'll discover that we're ordinary people following Jesus together, loving and serving others. We're relevant, multi-generational, welcoming, and accepting of all people – all because of an extraordinary God.

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Rick Warren's Ministry 101 newsletters | Dr Marvin Gilbert | Pedro Erasmus



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