

{ STEP FOUR }

Prayer and Personal Devotions



FOOTPRINT – *Time with God MUST be a new priority for you*

Probably one of the most recognized Bible characters in the world is David. Yeah, you know the one: shepherd boy, giant-killer, king of Israel, Bathsheba-stealer. He's what some authors have penned as "God's favorite" because God once said of David that he was "a man after God's own heart". How'd you like for that to be described of you? Being tight with God sounds pretty amazing, doesn't it.

So how did he come to gain that title?

If you read about the first half of David's life, you'll notice a couple of things:

1. He was a shepherd boy. He spent tremendous amounts of time guarding sheep.
2. He was a fugitive. He spent tremendous amounts of time running from a deranged king who wanted to kill him.

In both of those instances, he was spending a good deal of time talking with God. Sometimes the conversations were happy and thankful; other times the conversations were frustrating and fearful. How do we know this? Because, most of the book of Psalms was written by David during these times. David spent a lot of time regularly and routinely talking to God. This proved to be David's greatest source of strength.

When David had a moment where we sinned against God, it was because he broke routine. **2 Samuel 11:1** says that ***"In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war...David stayed behind in Jerusalem."***

The greatest thing you can do for your new relationship with God is to develop a routine of meeting with Him. Now that you belong to God, you're going to need him more than ever. Your enemy, the Devil, wants nothing more than to throw you off your game through distraction and discouragement. The way you combat this is to create a routine where you meet with God daily to read a part of His word and to talk to him about stuff that's going on. In fact, these simple lessons you've been doing have been designed to help get you started.

There are so many resources out there to help with this. They are called devotionals and they are created to help you spend a few minutes with God every day. Find one that appeals to you and your interests. Seek out other Christians and ask them what they use for their devotional time with God. Don't make this an afterthought; make it a priority!

They say the greatest teams are created when the players implicitly trust their coaches. This only happens when coach and players spend time together. Your relationship with God is not different. The more you spend time with God, the more you'll grow to trust Him with every aspect of your life.

Key Questions

What are some of the battles you're facing right now that you really need God's help with? Find resources that help you tackle those battles head on.

How well do you do with disciplining yourself? Who could help keep you accountable to develop the discipline of spending time with God each day?

Where is a good, quiet place that you could create that would be a place to spend time alone with God?



Here's a Tweetable statement worth sending out:

Time spent alone with God in prayer and in His Word is the single greatest tool the Christian has in becoming like Jesus. #SOGA_FCA_THESTEP

Daily Reading Plan

- Daniel 6:10 - Develop the **ROUTINE**
- Psalm 119:9-11 - **MEMORIZE** the playbook
- James 1:22 - **TRAIN** daily
- Psalm 86:11 - Get **INSTRUCTION** from the coach
- Psalm 22:1-5 - Don't be afraid to **ASK** questions

START HERE: A great resource to start with is in **DOWNLOADS** section under **RESOURCES** is *The Digital Copy of The Life Book*.