



Sunday, September 18th, 2022

Purposes of our Sacred Assembly

1. The bottom line: spiritual revival. The time is always right to meet with God and seek Him with all our hearts.

Steps Toward Spiritual Intimacy with God:

Step #1. I must _____ all sin and sinful habits and turn away from them.

Step #2. I must stop _____ sinful habits once and for all.

Step #3. I must _____ the sinful habits by pursuing holy, righteous living my Heart and in my life by practicing godly habits.

2. To commit this ministry year to the Lord as we seek to LIFT UP JESUS to the people of Norwalk and to the nations.

Why Should we LIFT UP JESUS?

1. Because the death of Jesus fulfilled _____ – Isaiah 53; Psalm 22
2. Because the death of Jesus is the primary message of the _____ – Acts 2:22-24,32; Romans 5:8-10
3. Because the death of Jesus is the center of the _____ that we practice – Romans 6:1-4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
4. Because the death of Jesus means victory over the _____ – John 12:31a
5. Because the death of Jesus means victory over the world's ruler – _____ – John 12:31b



225 North Avenue, Norwalk IA 50211 | (515) 981-0699 | www.fellowshipnorwalk.org

6. Because the death of Jesus means victory for _____ who believes by faith in Jesus – John 12:32-33

Spiritual Themes for Daily Living

1. _____ – agreeing with God about our sin and seeking pardon for that sin through Jesus (Psalm 32; 1 John 1:1-9)
2. _____ – full transparency before the Lord; a lifestyle of moment-by-moment agreeing with God about the true condition of my heart and life as He sees it; the full surrender of my will/life to God (Psalm 51:17; James 4:8-10)
3. _____ – continually saying “no” to sin and self and “yes” to God in everything (Romans 12:1-8; Mark 8:34-35)
4. Pursuing God with our _____ (Romans 8:12-17)

Personal Spiritual Self-Examination Survey

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.” Psalm 9:23-24

1. The Cross (John 3:16-17; Romans 10:30)

- Has there ever been a definite time in my life that I genuinely repented of my sin and placed my faith in Jesus Christ for salvation? If not, confess your sin to the Lord right now, ask Him to forgive you and to give you eternal life.
- Have I surrendered control of my life to intentionally follow Jesus in being his disciple, to be disciplined by others and to in-turn disciple others?

2. Thought Life (2 Cor. 10:5; Matt. 5:28; 6:33; Col. 3:1-3; Psalm 119:15-16)

- Do I possess ongoing sinful thought patterns?
- Do I watch TV programs, movies or anything on social media that stimulates improper thoughts and feelings?
- Do I seek to grow in personal holiness and make holy living the priority God wants it to be in my life?
- Am I seeking first the kingdom of God?

3. My Attitudes (Rev. 3:15-16; 1 Peter 5:5; Psalm 51:17; Philippians 2:3-4)

- Am I excited about learning God’s Word, sharing my faith with others and faithfully serving God?
- Do I tend to worry and fret rather than trust God?
- Have I allowed disappointments to weaken my faith and prayer life?
- Do my finances reflect a lifestyle that follows biblical principles?

4. My Speech (Eph. 4:29, 31; 5:4; 1 Cor. 10:10a; 1 Thess. 5:18; Col. 3:9)

- Do I allow curse words to go unchecked in my daily speech?
- Do I use God's name in any way other than worship, honor, and praise?
- Do I often gripe and complain about situations in life?
- Do I try with God's help to give thanks in all things and at all times?

5. My Relationships (Matt. 5:23-24; Matt. 6:14-15; Heb. 10:25; Eph. 5:23-25; 1 Peter 3:7; Eph. 6:4)

- Can you think of anyone you may have hurt or offended in some manner?
- Are you involved in any improper relationships?
- Do you neglect regular fellowship and meaningful service through the church?
- Is there anyone or any situation about which I harbor even the slightest bitterness or resentment?

6. Obedient Living (1 Cor. 3:16; Exodus 20:3; Malachi 3:8-10; Rev. 2:14-15)

- Do I sin against my body by using harmful substances or by gluttony?
- Do I place other things ahead of God in my life?
- Have other things or people crowded out my worship and service to God?
- Has my work and financial gain become my "god"?
- Am I involved in anything that God forbids (psychics, astrology, occultic or New Age practices, etc.)?
- Have I compromised God's standards for my life in any way?
- Am I seeking to live daily in step with the Holy Spirit or in my own power?

7. Disobedient Living (James 4:17)

- Are there any clear Scriptural commands that I am willingly neglecting?
- Am I consistent in my Daily Quiet Time with God (prayer and The Bible)?
- Do I have heart for spiritually lost people? Does it show in my prayer life? My relationships?
Do I witness to others?
- When I sense God speaking to my heart, do I tend to delay my obedience until a "better" time?
- Am I consistently using my spiritual gifts in service to God?

8. Sins of Self-Rule and Self-Reliance (Rom. 6:6; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Matt. 16:24-25; Philippians 2:10-11; Galatians 2:20)

- Has God told me to do something and yet I've tried to ignore Him?
- Is God telling me to stop something I'm still doing?
- Is Jesus the Lord of my life?
- Do I have an inner brokenness over sin, especially my own, and am I cultivating that brokenness?
- Do I have any areas of pride or self-reliance that I have not forsaken and confessed?

Growth Group/Personal Study Guide

Getting Started:

For those of you who are married, think back to when you were dating. What kinds of things did you do to get to know your future spouse better? Why did you want to spend time together? What happened as a result of the things you did and the time you spent together?

How can you relate the above answers to your relationship with God? What's the correlation?

What do you believe is the ultimate goal of practicing the discipline of a Daily Quiet Time with God?

Digging Deeper

Why a Daily Quiet Time? Here's several reasons...

1. Because I need fellowship with God.

God created us for fellowship with Him. Sin broke that fellowship (Genesis 2-3). That's why Jesus died – to restore the fellowship with God that was lost through sin. Before He died Jesus both needed and modeled fellowship with the Father. Read Mark 1:35.

It seems to make sense that if Jesus needed and practiced fellowship with the Father, we should too. History shows that every great man or woman of God has spent much time alone with God. The reality is that we cannot be healthy, growing Christians without daily fellowship with the Lord. Look up and read the following verses: Job 23:12; 1 Peter 2:2; Psalm 119:9.

We can conclude that if we are not having a daily quiet time...

- 1.) We are missing out on the privilege for which we were created.
- 2.) We are rejecting that which Jesus died to make possible.
- 3.) We will never experience the same power and refreshment Jesus did.
- 4.) We will never be used greatly by God like the great men & women of the faith
- 5.) We will remain a weak and sickly Christian all our life.

2. Because it is my privilege as a Christian.

We are privileged as followers of Christ...

- to give our devotion to God.

Psalm 95:6 "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

- to get direction from God.

Psalm 25:4-5 "Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

- to gain delight in God.

Psalm 16:11 "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

- to grow more like God. Underline the specific words in the following verses that illustrate this growth process:

2 Tim. 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."

2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

What words did you underline and what do they show?

How to Have a Quiet Time With God

1. Start with right attitudes.

There are at least two attitudes that should accompany our time with God...

1.) Expectancy

Psalm 63:1 *"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."*

2.) Willingness to obey

John 14:21 *"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

Why do you believe these two attitudes are necessary to one's walk with Christ?

2. Select a specific time..

For most people this is in the morning. As we saw in Mark 1, Jesus met with the Father in the morning. When did the following Bible characters meet with God?

Abraham – Read Genesis 19:27	_____
Job – Read Job 1:5	_____
Jacob – Read Genesis 28:18	_____
Moses – Read Exodus 34:4	_____
Hannah and Elkanah – Read 1 Samuel 1:19	_____
David – Read Psalm 5:3	_____

A goal for beginners should be to aim to spend not less than 15 minutes a day with God. Out of the 168 hours we all have in a week, a total of at least one hour and 45 minutes seems terribly small when you consider that you were created to have fellowship with God. As you grow in your consistency and in your walk with Christ your desire to spend more time with God each day will grow.

Suggestions:

1. Don't watch the clock.
2. Emphasize quality time with God not quantity.
3. Remember, you're not checking off a box for a religious activity, you're meeting with your Savior.

3. Select a special place.

Where was Abraham's place? Read Genesis 19:27: _____

Where was Jesus' place? Read Luke 22:39: _____

What have you found to be the best place for you to spend time with God?

4. Follow a special plan.

Here are some suggestions:

- 1.) Keep it simple!!!
- 2.) Use two tools: a Bible and a notebook. Use the notebook to keep a spiritual journal of your daily time with God, the ways He is teaching you and your prayer requests (See Keeping a Spiritual Journal at the end of these notes).

A possible third tool could be a study Bible, Bible Dictionary or Concordance.

3.) The Plan:

RELAX – Wait on God briefly before you start.

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God."

REQUEST – Pray briefly to begin your time together.

READ – A section of Scripture

- Read slowly
- Read it again if you need to
- Read systematically – through one book a time, just like it's written

REFLECT AND MEMORIZE – Think it over; memorize verses that speak to your heart.

RECORD – Write down what you have learned. This will help you remember what God is teaching you.

- 4.) End your time in prayer using the four-step pattern for prayer Jesus taught us to follow in His model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13: 1.) Reverence (worship) 2.) Response (to who Jesus is) 3. Requests (daily/relational needs) 4.) Readiness (preparing our heart and mind for spiritual warfare)

Wrapping Up

Follow these keys to success in your Daily Quiet Time:

1. Remember your main purpose: to grow in your relationship with God.
2. Make a commitment to God that you are going to develop the habit of having a daily quiet time.
3. If you miss a day, don't let it weaken your commitment and don't let it worry you.
4. Expect Satan to tempt you with excuses and attacks.
5. Don't get stuck in a rut. If you need to, vary your plan on occasion to keep things fresh with God.
6. Recognize that a habit takes six weeks to form. If you can set aside a quiet time with God every day over the next six weeks you will be on your way to developing a habit that will change your life forever!

Close in prayer, asking God to help everyone in the group to faithfully prioritize God on a daily basis in their life.