

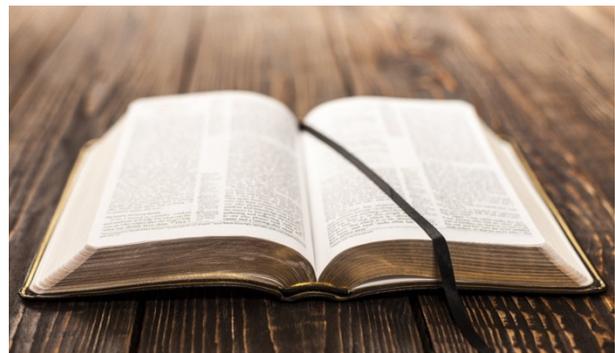
How to CULTIVATE a Deep and Thriving Personal Relationship with God



Like any relationship that we have, there needs to be **INTENTIONAL TIME** spent with the person. Similarly, as we look to cultivate a deep and thriving personal relationship with God, we should seek to **spend TIME with Him on a daily basis**. *An approach is to begin our day by recognizing the presence of God. Then, throughout the day, lift up small phrases of praises or prayers to Him, acknowledging His workings in all aspects of our day. Finally, in the evening, close the night with prayer, giving thanks for how He carried you throughout the day and pray for a good night's rest.*

Regular CONFESSION is good to keep ourselves in check on our relationship with God. *Is there a secret sin that we thought God does not know about? Is there a habitual sin that we keep falling back to over and over again? Is there someone that has hurt us and we need to forgive before we let a root of bitterness form? Is there someone that we have hurt and we need to seek reconciliation with?* **CONFESSION** is the starting point of putting us back into a right disposition before God.

READ the Word, even if it is just one Bible verse. Take the time to read God's Word and meditate on His spiritual truth. *Let the Word of God guide our words, actions, and thoughts in every moment.* It is easy to be swayed by popular trends, social media, and philosophies from the secular world, but the only way we can be on guard and conduct ourselves in a manner that pleases God is by knowing His Word and keeping it hidden in our hearts.



We can never PRAY too much, as Scripture tells us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). *When we pray, we are not only bringing God into our circumstances. We are also keenly aware of our fallen state and our need for a holy, righteous, sovereign, and almighty God to intervene in our lives.*

Even in our busy schedule, remember our call to **SERVE in the kingdom of God**. *The gifts, the resources, and the abilities that God has given to each of us is not just for us to keep to ourselves, but to be generous in our sharing with others.* Whether it be serving in the church, ministering in the community, or giving monetarily, we all have a specific role to play as the body of Christ. When we serve, we come to a deeper understanding of God's love for the world and His heart for the lost.

