

A SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR DAILY PRAYER TIME

Preferably early in the morning where there can be no interruptions, go into a quiet place, one where you can be alone with your Jesus your Savior. Seat yourself comfortably. Direct your thoughts toward Jesus and away from yourself. Leave all your circumstances behind for the next few minutes.

Meditate on Jesus. Praise Him, Glorify Him, Thank Him - let Jesus know how much you love Him and want to serve Him and commit your life to Him. Continue to praise Jesus until you are relaxed, and in tune with Him. Then read the following prayer:

"Slow me down O Creator, ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with the eternal reach of time. Give me amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Break the tensions of my nerves with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory.

Help me to know the magic restoring power of sleep. Teach me the art of taking minute vacations of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with an old friend or make a new one, to pet a dog, to watch a spider build a web, or to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day that the race is not always to the swift; that there is more to life than increasing its speed. Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down O Creator, and send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values, that I may grow towards the stars of my greater destiny. Amen."

Next, select a Bible passage to read, preferably one to three chapters. Let the Lord Jesus speak to you whenever possible through your reading of the Bible - what can you learn? What is he trying to teach you? The Psalms are always a personal way the Psalmist communicates with God - turn here if you need the inspiration to speak personally to God.

Now communicate with God through your thoughts - speak to Him - and as with anyone you speak to, listen for His answers. Remember: He is your best and most loyal friend and the wisest. When talking with Him:

- Ask Him for forgiveness for any mistakes that can be recalled - discuss them with Him, ask Him to lift your burden and He will.
- Give thanks for all the good things that happened to you the previous day and for answered prayers.
- Turn your thoughts toward the interests of others - express your concern for those you love, those in need, those sick, and those you possibly resent.
- Now turn your thoughts to your own personal needs, both problems and opportunities - stand on Mark 11:24 and Matthew 7:7-8.

Finally, dedicate your life and your entire will to Jesus, asking Him to use you to bring glory to His name.

Now take a deep breath, and give Jesus the glory for a wonderful day ahead!!

- From Success! The Glenn Bland Method, by Glenn Bland

Reference Points

Pope John Paul II On Evangelization

Pope John Paul II summarized this challenge to grow in speaking to lay renewal groups on March 1, 1999. He said that questions every Christian must ask are:

- “What have I done with my Baptism, My Confirmation?”
- “Have I made the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit bear fruit?”
- “Is my marital, family, and professional life imbued with Christ’s teaching?”
- “What contribution do I make to creating ways of life more worthy of man and to inculturating the Gospel amid the great changes taking place?”

Helpful Resources

- *Reading Scripture As The Word Of God*, by George Martin
- *Speak Lord Your Servant Is Listening*, by Msgr. David Rosage
- *Being Catholic Today*, by Bert Ghezzi
- *Understanding The Charismatic Gifts*, by Rev. Peter B. Coughlin
- *The Ministry Of Evangelization*, by Susan Blum
- *Mother Teresa: Her Life, Her Works, Her Message*, by Jose Louis Gonzalez-Balado
- *Pentecost Today Magazine*

- Dove Leaflets
 - #15 – *Learning How To Pray*, by O’Rourke
 - #62 - *Hints For The New Bible*, by Scully
 - #3 – *So You’ve Been Baptized In The Holy Spirit? What Next?* By Geraets

- *Growing In The Fruits of The Spirit*, by John Blattner
- *Following Jesus: A Disciples Guide To Discerning God’s Will*, by John Boucher
- *Becoming More Like Jesus*, by Bert Ghezzi
- *Hearts Aflame*, by Alan Schreck
- *The Poor and The Good News*, by Tom and Lyn Scheuring with Marybeth Greene
- *Called and Gifted for The Third Millennium* (US Catholic Conference, 1995)

Steve’s Must Reads

- The Bible
 - The Living Bible (TLB)
 - New Living Translation (NLT)
- Jesus Calling – Sarah Young
- God Calling - AJ Russell
- The Power in Praise – Merlin Carothers
- The Purpose Driven Life – Rick Warren – a 40 Day Retreat with Jesus
 - Daily Inspiration – The Purpose Driven Life – Bible Verses each day
- Success! The Glenn Bland Method – Glenn Bland
- The Circle Maker – Mark Batterson
 - Draw The Circle 40 Day Retreat – Mark Batterson
- Practicing The Presence of God – Brother Lawrence