

DAILY QUIET TIME GUIDE

BREVARD COMMUNITY CHURCH

FOOTBALL SUNDAY: SPORTS SPECTRUM PRO FOOTBALL
DEVOTIONALS



HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

The QT Guide is designed to help you MOVE with God through Bible Reading, reflection and prayer. It can be completed in about 7 mins.

½ Minutes Preparing Your Heart: Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, “Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time.

4 Minutes Listening To God: Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

2 1/2 Talking To God (Prayer): After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer.

DAY 1

Day 1: The Daily Refreshment of God’s Word - Drew Brees

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalms 19:10

First, watch what Drew Brees has to say about The Daily Refreshment of God’s Word.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcUOF7k9uT4&feature=youtu.be>

Next, read the message below from Randy Alcorn and meditate on the verses that follow.

Occasionally, I think the directions from my phone’s maps app are wrong. “I should turn here, not there.” I’ve learned the hard way to trust that the GPS knows better. And while the app is occasionally wrong (though not as often as I am), God is never wrong.

I grew up in an unbelieving home, but at age 15 I came to faith in Jesus while reading the Bible. As a new believer, I couldn’t get enough of God’s Word. I learned the Bible doesn’t contradict itself, but it does contradict me – and I desperately need those mid-course corrections!

The Bible was the North Star to which I fixed my life’s compass. Forty-five years later, that’s truer than ever. As Drew said, God’s Word is a road map, but I also think of it as a corrective lens. Any day I don’t contemplate Scripture, my focus blurs, my purpose gets fuzzy, and my happiness diminishes. I become impatient, critical, self-centered and unhappy because I lack God’s fresh infusion of grace and perspective.

We may check social media, texts, and emails several times a day, but think nothing of going multiple days without reading Scripture. No wonder we’re spiritually starved and lack the discernment to know what’s true and false.

If you already study God’s Word regularly, stick with it. If not, ask yourself: Do I just sit in my recliner and hope I’ll be in shape for the next game? Don’t procrastinate spending daily time in God’s Word. Drop everything –

including this devotional. Open your Bible and meditate on it. Follow a reading plan if it helps. Not next week, not tomorrow – now.

However, don't just do it out of guilt; do it to find great joy in Jesus! David said of God's words, "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:10).

Scripture's depths are endless. Day after day, year after year, we discover more treasures, ones we somehow missed before. Through God's Word, the Holy Spirit transforms our hearts and minds.

In a spirit of gratitude, read and reflect on these words: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT).

DAY 2

Communion with God Through Prayer - Ryan Tannehill

1 Thessalonians 5:17, Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 6:18

First, watch what Ryan Tannehill has to say about Communion with God Through Prayer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zf36HuatU4&feature=youtu.be>

Next, read the message below from Randy Alcorn and meditate on the verses that follow.

I confess to struggling to maintain long periods of prayer. However, over the years God has graciously taught me about praying and depending on Him continuously. As I hear requests, I often pray immediately so I don't forget. My wife, Nanci, and I pray together, sometimes on the phone, as we hear about needs throughout the day.

I ask God to give me divine appointments wherever I go, and prompt me to see needs I can meet. I want prayer to be an adventure in which I enter God's presence and become absorbed with Him. Just as we need to hear from God in His Word, we need to talk to Him, so communication is two-way.

Ryan put it so well: "Prayer plays a crucial role in any relationship with God ... it's your lifeline. Once you have that tight feeling with God, you don't want to feel anything else. He's such a fulfilling God – a loving, giving Father – that we don't deserve ... when you get a taste of it, you just want more!"

Sometimes when I'm praying, I pull out a chair and imagine Jesus sitting in it (He not only sat in chairs; He also built them!). Then I talk to Him. I'm not pretending Jesus is with me; I'm believing His promise that He *really* is with me. Contemplate the reality of your Father in Heaven, Christ your Savior and the Holy Spirit your Comforter and Teacher, and you'll find rich meaning in the phrase "spending time with God."

No matter how busy I was, my kids were always welcome to come and talk with me. It's the same with my grandkids today. A king's advisers hesitate to interrupt him, but his children have unlimited access. Since our

King is all-knowing, He can hear each prayer as if you or I were the only ones praying in the whole world. “Whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help” (Hebrews 4:16, CEV).

The more conscious our dependence on Christ, the more we’ll “pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Ephesians 6:18). We can’t spend time with many of the world’s famous people, and I think they’d disappoint us if we could. We can, however, spend time with God daily. He loves us so much that He gives us constant access and always listens with genuine interest. To “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) isn’t an impossible chore, but an ongoing delight.

DAY 3

God’s Offer of Forgiveness and Freedom - Matthew Slater

Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9

First, watch what Matthew Slater has to say on God’s Offer of Forgiveness and Freedom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oR25OQiUDE&feature=youtu.be>

Next, read the message below from Randy Alcorn and meditate on the verses that follow.

As Matthew says, it’s vital we understand who God is and what He says about us and our sin. To fall short of a touchdown is disappointing, but our problem is much bigger: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). There’s bad news and good news: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Because Jesus Christ died sacrificially on the cross on our behalf, God freely offers us forgiveness. But forgiveness isn’t automatic. If we want to be forgiven, we must confess and repent of our 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).

There’s no righteous deed we can do that will earn us a place in Heaven (Titus 3:5). We come to Christ empty-handed. We can take no credit for salvation: “For it is by grace you have been 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).

God’s greatest gift is Himself. We not only need salvation, we need the Savior, and he has a name: Jesus (which means “God saves”).

Scripture speaks of the “washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). Once believers are born again, we cannot continue to sin as a lifestyle because of our new natures (see 1 John 3:9). Sin is still present in our lives (see Romans 6:11-14; 1 John 1:8–2:2), but we have supernatural power to overcome it since we’ve died to sin (see Romans 6:6-9).

God’s Holy Spirit indwells us and helps us obey Him (see 2 Timothy 1:14). Christ grants believers new natures that free us from sin’s bondage (2 Corinthians 5:17). We’ll sometimes trip, but we don’t have to fall – and when we do, by His grace and strength, we can get back up. Because our hearts are changed when we’re born again, we want a better way. “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you” (Romans 8:9).

Because of Christ's work on our behalf, we're free to reject sin and its misery, and instead, embrace righteousness and its joy. When we do this, we'll experience a flood of God's grace in our lives, restoring us to the abundant life of walking with the One who is our Lord, King and Best Friend (John 15:13, 15).

DAY 4

Baptism: A Step of Obedience and Public Profession - Demario Davis

1 Corinthians 12-13, Acts 2:38

First, watch what Demario Davis has to say about Obedience and Public Profession.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQQsNWEBX-I&feature=youtu.be>

Next, read the message below from Randy Alcorn and meditate on the verses that follow.

Just before ascending, Jesus commissioned His disciples to go, make disciples, baptize people in the name of the triune God, and teach them to obey all His commands (Matthew 28:18-20). Baptism should be important to us because it's important to Jesus.

When we are born again, we're each "baptized" by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, which is the Church: "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13). Water baptism is a visible, outward symbol of an invisible, inward transformation (Acts 2:38).

My baptism was unforgettable. Two years later, I had the privilege of leading my mother to Christ and baptizing her. That was 45 years ago, but in my mind, it was yesterday. How many things do we remember well four decades later?

Baptism is a powerful display symbolizing the believer's death to sin, burial (beneath the water), and resurrection to new life in Jesus (Romans 6:11; Colossians 2:12). Rising out of the water represents the cleansed new life (Romans 6:4).

Wherever the Good News of Christ is proclaimed, new believers are to be baptized in a joyful ceremony. Philip shared the Gospel with an Ethiopian official who, when he saw water, expressed his desire to be baptized (Acts 8:35–36).

As Demario emphasizes, Christian baptism is a public profession of faith in Christ. A draft pick doesn't hide his affiliation with his new team; rather, he proudly puts on the jersey for all to see. Likewise, in baptism we say, "I unapologetically affirm my faith in Jesus Christ, who secured my salvation. As His disciple, I unashamedly seek to serve and represent Him."

In 1519, Cortés and his ships landed in Mexico, at Veracruz. Determined to conquer, Cortés ordered his crew to burn their ships. His not-so-subtle message was: "There's no turning back." Christ's cause is infinitely nobler than that of Cortés, but He too calls us to not turn back (Luke 9:62). When we have struggles and doubts, we can look back at our baptism as a line drawn in the sand that states, "I am a Christ-follower, no matter what."

Have you placed your faith in Jesus, and by His grace been saved? Have you been baptized? Baptism won't save you, but it's a powerful public expression of following Christ. If you love Jesus but haven't been baptized, go to your church, talk with a pastor, and ask to be baptized in front of the body of Christ. You'll never regret it!

DAY 5

The Courage to Share Jesus - Matt Forte

Ephesians 6:19-20, Romans 1:16

First, watch what Matt Forte has to say about The Courage to Share Jesus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2Ddwkg8gvg&feature=youtu.be>

Next, read the message below from Randy Alcorn and meditate on the verses that follow.

Jesus did the hard work of redemption. He calls us to do our part: sharing the Good News with those who desperately need Him (which is everyone!).

I've shared Jesus with people on sidewalks, planes and tennis courts. Some friends think I'm a natural-born evangelist. But I'm not! I relate to Matt's honest confession that evangelism can be uncomfortable, but God doesn't call us to be comfortable. My biggest challenge is choosing to open my mouth. Once I do, the Lord graciously gives me the words.

Even the Apostle Paul requested that the Ephesian believers "pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should" (Ephesians 6:19–20, NIV). If Paul needed prayer for boldness, who doesn't?

Suppose your unbelieving friend has been diagnosed with cancer. He's on your heart, and you feel God wants you to share Christ with him. Does it take courage to do that? Absolutely. But compare it to the courage of martyrs around the world who are killed for publicly affirming Jesus!

I've asked myself while sitting next to someone on a plane, "If I share the gospel with this person, what's the worst that can happen? That they disapprove of me or think I'm strange? If they do, so what?"

What's more important: my momentary discomfort or the possibility of their eternal comfort?

When you know you need to share your faith with your friend or family member, ask people to pray for courage for you and a soft heart for him, then seek an opportunity and actually open your mouth. Once you start speaking the Good News, it gets easier because you're committed. It's easier when you remember it's not about you – it's about Jesus and the other person's desperate need to know Him.

To me, there aren't many joys comparable to leading someone to Christ. It's thrilling and exhilarating. It's also great to sow seeds of Good News that may not bear fruit until later. May we say with Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16 ESV). And may

we daily ask the Lord to give us opportunities to share His “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10 ESV). Let’s prayerfully share that Good News, and trust God for the results!