

SECRETS FROM MEN OF GOD

KING DAVID

“I love the Lord because He hears my prayers and answers them. Because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe!”
(Psalm 116:1-2)

MARTIN LUTHER

“It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business in the morning and the last in the evening. Guard yourself against such false and deceitful thoughts that keep whispering: Wait a while.

“Prayer is a powerful thing, for God has bound and tied Himself thereto.”

GEORGE MUELLER

“There was a day when I died:

- “Died to George Mueller: To his tastes, his opinions, his preferences and his will.
- “Died to the world — its approval or censure.
- “Died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends.

“Since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.

“Feed your soul upon the Word of God and you will have an increase of faith in the measure that you exercise it.”

ABOUT BLE

BLE stands for Biblical Leadership for Excellence. We believe in these principles:

- ☑ Work is a spiritual as well as physical activity.
- ☑ The Bible has practical truths for people who work — at any level or rank.
- ☑ Leadership is a lifestyle — not necessarily a position or office; anyone can influence other people by friendship and wise example.
- ☑ Excellence is the result of wise leadership based on the Bible’s practical truths.

BLE was founded in 1985 by interdenominational business and professional people interested in applying these principles and helping each other grow. Today, more than 1,000 BLE alumni are in many jobs and walks of life, demonstrating that these principles are universal, timeless — and effective.

Spending time alone with God is foundational to being a person God can use in the marketplace.

A **BLE** Resource

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
Luke 5:16 (NIV)

HOW TO SPEND TIME ALONE WITH GOD

God’s acquaintance is not made hurriedly.

He does not bestow his gifts on the casual or hasty comer and goer.

To be much alone with God is the secret of knowing Him and of influence with Him.

E. M. Bounds

BLE

Biblical Leadership for Excellence

300 Skyforest Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78232

(210) 545-4050 (Voice and Fax)

info@**BLE**online.org
www.**BLE**online.org

WHY A DAY OF PRAYER?

1. For extended fellowship with God.
2. For a renewed perspective.
3. For catching up on intercession.
4. For prayerful consideration of our own lives before the Lord.
5. For adequate preparation.

THINGS YOU'LL NEED

Bible, concordance, notebook, pencil, and hymn book.

OPTIONAL

Praise tapes, Christian biography.

WHAT TO DO

The following items are just suggestions of how to make the best use of your time. Choose what you have time for. Try to get a good mix of time in the Word, prayer and praise.

Divide your day into three parts: waiting on the Lord, prayer for others, prayer for yourself.

Variety is important during your time alone with God. Read awhile, pray awhile, then walk around. As outside thoughts pop into your mind, incorporate them into prayer.

PRAY

Pray and commit the day to the Lord. Ask Him to guide and direct what you do, as well as speak to you through His Word.

READ AND MEDITATE

1. Choose a book of the Bible (such as an epistle or a minor prophet or one of the Gospels if you have more time) and read it through in one sitting. Look for the main theme or a sub-theme.

— *Or* —

2. Choose a biblical character and, using a concordance, read all the passages on his/her life. Look for the main teaching of the character's life.

— *Or* —

3. Choose a topic and use a concordance to look up all the references on that topic and record your observations.

PRAISE AND THANKS

1. Use a favorite psalm or hymn to praise and thank God for who He is.

— *Or* —

2. List as many attributes of God as you can and praise and thank God for them.

— *Or* —

3. List as many names of God as you can and praise and thank Him for what each one represents.

— *Or* —

4. Review the past week or month. Make a thank-you list for all God has done and what He has taught you (Philippians 4:6-7).

5. Make a list of things God wants you to do.

6. Make a worry list of things you're anxious about, commit each item to God in prayer, then throw away the list (1 Peter 5:7).

CONFESSION

Pick a motivating or challenging passage of Scripture, such as 1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 6, the Beatitudes (Matthew 5-7) or Romans 12. Meditate through the passage, praying where necessary, confessing where necessary.

REVIEW

1. If you made goals for the year, take some time to review them to see how you are doing. You may need to change them or make them more specific or measurable.
2. Luke 2:52 tells about the Lord Jesus. He increased in wisdom (He grew intellectually), and in stature (physically), and in favor with God (spiritually) and man (socially). You may want to examine your life in these four areas.

PLAN

Based on your review, plan goals in the four areas above for the next block of time in your life (year, summer, next three months, etc.).

INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

Review your day, and pray for what God has spoken to you about. Pray the same things for loved ones, friends, those to whom you are ministering and missionaries. Pray for your goals.

REST AND RELAXATION

Your body may need rest during the day. Don't feel guilty if you take time out for a nap or walk.

SUMMARY

The test of such a day is not how exhilarated we are when the day is over but how it works into our life tomorrow. Time alone with God is important, but it won't just happen; we must plan for it. Plan time the first of every month, or once a quarter.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Other pamphlets or books that can help you plan time alone with God include:

- Bounds, E.M., *Power through Prayer*
- Bounds, E.M., *The Best of E.M. Bounds on Prayer*
- Carroll, Joseph, *How to Worship Jesus Christ*
- Foster, Richard J., *Celebration of Discipline*
- Munger, Robert Boyd, *My Heart, Christ's Home*
- Sanders, J.O., *Developing Intimacy with God*
- Sanny, Lorne, *How to Spend a Day in Prayer*
- Tozer, A.W., *The Pursuit of God*

These books should be available for purchase from your Christian bookstore.

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