



Got Seven Minutes for God?

Most Christians will tell you that they firmly believe in the importance of spending regular time in God's Word and in prayer each day, yet so many of us struggle to do this consistently. Perhaps that's because we think this time with God has to be a monumental, mystical experience. In fact, you can begin developing this spiritual discipline in as little as seven minutes a day. Here's how:

½ Minute—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 (Scripture Reading)

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

2½ Minutes—Talking to God (Prayer)

After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer. One method is to incorporate four areas of prayer that you can remember with the word ACTS.

A - Adoration. This is the purest kind of prayer because it's all for God. Tell the Lord that you love Him. Reflect on His greatness.

C - Confession. Having seen Him, you now want to be sure every sin is cleansed and forsaken. "Confession" comes from a root word meaning "to agree together with." When we apply this to prayer, it means we agree with God's estimation of what we've done.

T - Thanksgiving. Think of several specific things to thank Him for: your family, your business, your church—even thank Him for hardships.

S - Supplication. This means to "ask for, earnestly and humbly." Ask for others, then ask for yourself. Include people around the world, missionaries, friends, and those who have yet to hear about Jesus.

Want a deeper walk with God? Give Him just seven minutes and see what happens!