

Hearing God

Designing Your Plan

Hearing God

Discerning His Voice

Hearing God

Spiritual Training

1 Timothy 4:7-16

- 1) Spiritual Transformation . . . Is Not Automatic.

- 2) Spiritual Transformation . . . Requires A Plan.

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Designing Your Plan

- 1) _____ . . . With "_____?".

- 2) _____ . . . Your _____.

If you love me, you will obey my commands. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. . . . he lives with you and he will be in you.

(John 14:15-17, NCV)

- 3) _____ . . . Your _____.

The general rule is this: The best time is when you are at your best. Give God the best time of your day—when you are freshest and most alert. Don't try to serve God with your leftover time. . . .

Whatever time you set, be consistent in it. Schedule it on your calendar; make an appointment with God as you would with anyone else. (Rick Warren, *Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods*)

4) _____ . . . _____ To _____.

The reality is, saying yes to any opportunity by definition requires saying no to several others.

(Greg McKeown, *Essentialism*)

5) _____ . . . _____ To _____.

Find a comfortable, peaceful place as your habitual place of prayer. Having a pleasant and familiar environment will bring you more quickly and naturally into an attitude of prayer. To help you relax, take a cup of coffee or a glass of juice with you. There is nothing wrong with feeling good while you are praying.

(C. Peter Wagner, *Warfare Prayer*)

6) _____ . . . _____ To _____.

1) _____

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

(John 15:7)

2) _____

If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

(John 8:31-32)

3) _____

In my opinion, journaling is one of the most overlooked and underappreciated spiritual disciplines. Journaling is the difference between learning and remembering. It's also the difference between forgetting and fulfilling our goals.

(Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker*)

It takes time to discover the rhythms and routines that work for you. What works for others might not work for you, and what works for you might not work for others. I've always subscribed to the sentiment shared by Oswald Chambers: "Let God be as original with other people as He is with you."

(Mark Batterson, *The Circle Maker*)

7) _____ . . . And _____ .

I agree . . . that a reasonable long-range goal for a daily prayer time is one hour. I also understand that for many this will be a lifelong goal that may never be reached on a regular basis. If you are starting from scratch, use short-range goals and plan to increase your time gradually. If this sounds quite demanding to you, try starting with 5 minutes, then increase it to 10. In my opinion, 5 minutes every day is much more valuable than 15 minutes every 3 days, even though I would consider either clearly inadequate for strategic-level spiritual warfare. (C. Peter Wagner, *Spiritual Warfare*)

Most of all the Enemy will try to jam communications with Headquarters. Commit yourself to prayer every morning for two weeks and just watch what'll happen. You won't want to get up; an important meeting will be called that interferes; you'll catch a cold; or, if you do get to your prayers, your mind will wander to what you'll have for breakfast and how much you should pay for the water heater repair and what color socks would look best with your gray suit. Many, many times I've simply come under a cloak of *confusion* so thick I suddenly find myself wondering why I ever believed in Jesus in the first place. (John Eldredge, *Wild At Heart*)

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One Final Question

⇒ _____ You _____ . . . With _____ You _____ ?

I am constantly astonished at people who say they believe in God but live as though happiness were to be found by giving him 2 percent of their attention. Surely the end of the ages will reveal this to be absurd. (John Piper, *Desiring God*)