**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday

**2 TIMOTHY 1:1-6**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. In v6 Paul writes *“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”* We are not told what "the gift of God" is and perhaps this is deliberate but the idea of fanning into flame something tells us that the flame has begun to grow dim and likely it is not only the matter of the gift. How is your own “flame for God”? If you were to assess your own spiritual walk with God, how would you describe it? Is there cause for concern?

1. In encouraging Timothy, Paul reminded him of his heritage: his mother and grandmother, and his own experience coming to faith in Christ. How did you become a Christian? Who brought you to Christ? What led you to respond to the Gospel in repentance and acknowledge Jesus as your Saviour and Lord? How did you feel?
2. Paul describes himself in v1 in terms of God’s will, that ultimately he is who he is by the will of God. What do you think is God’s will for you at this stage of your life? What does he want you to do; who does he want you to be?
3. Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

**2 TIMOTHY 1:1-6**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Wednesday

**2 TIMOTHY 1:7-10**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”* How does this truth affect the shape of your Christian life? Is the Spirit that God gave you shaping in your life, or do other matters have a greater hold on you?
3. *“So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.”* The idea of “ashamed” would be related to “timid” in the preceding sentence, and Paul persuading Timothy to join him in suffering for the Gospel. What holds you back in your own walk with God and in your identification with God among your peers (do they know about your walk with God)?

1. *“He has saved us and called us to a holy life.”* This is the shape of a Christian life. This is what walking with God is about. Once again, from the point of a life lived for God, if you were to assess your own spiritual walk with God, how would you describe it? Is there cause for concern?
2. Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

**2 TIMOTHY 1:7-10**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Friday

**2 TIMOTHY 1:9-14**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Vv9-10 is a short summary of the Gospel. If your friends were to ask you why they should become a Christian and how they can become a Christian, would you know how to help them? Would you be able to explain these 2 verses to them?
3. *“And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.”* We may not be specially called to be a missionary like Paul but all of us should understand why and how we became Christians (how else did you become a Christian?) and understand what Jesus Christ has done in order to make the Gospel possible (what then did you believe?). If you don’t, how can you be sure you are a Christian; you should ask someone to help clarify things for you if this is the case. Be sure of the Gospel for yourself and be a source of the Gospel for your friends.
4. *“Guard the good deposit.”* In his life Paul makes sure he is genuinely living the Gospel, and in his teaching he makes sure he teaches the genuine Gospel which is able to burn in the lives of believers and he entrusts it so that down the generations the Gospel remains available to all who would respond to it. Why does Paul make such efforts to protect the Gospel?
5. How do you feel about what Jesus Christ has done?
6. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

**2 TIMOTHY 1:9-14**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Sunday

**THE FLAME OF THE GOSPEL**

It is easy in the many demands of life to lose sight of your salvation; to drift; and to let the reality of God in your life become a mundane affair of going to church, saying grace before meals, and once in a while some church activity that you take a part in.

We must know however that this is not how it should be. God is not a hobby or a comforting pillow or soft toy. Paul describes the presence of the Holy Spirit in terms of power, love and self-discipline. In describing the Gospel he uses words like saved, called, purpose, even suffering. It is about destroying death, bringing about life and immortality. Paul is passionate about the Gospel for what it has accomplished and he communicates that passion to Timothy with these words: *That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.*

What has Paul entrusted to God? His life and destiny. He is in the hands of his God.

Don’t shortchange yourself with a tepid and timid Gospel. If your faith leaves you cold and inconvenienced it could be that your Gospel is not the real and genuine one and you should look to have the real thing. The other possibility is like Timothy you have allowed other concerns to smother the flame of the Gospel in you.

Whichever the case may be, know that the will of God, the life that is in Jesus Christ, the gift of God, the Holy Spirit: all that pertains to God in your life imparts life, power, love, and yes, suffering and self-discipline; it is a flame that burns, not a set of passionless activities, a badge we wear or a creed we give intellectual assent to.

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. What conclusion can you draw from the passages of Scripture you have been considering? Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Read the short sharing above. Do they add anything to your own conclusions?
4. Review the past week. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
5. Write down a prayer in response.