**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

**JOSHUA 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.

*Joshua 1 is stretched across 2 weeks: 2021 week 27 and 28. You can do each week independently but it will make sense to do them consecutively.*

1. Vv1-2: *“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.”* Moses has been their leader for 40 years. He has been their link to God for all this time. Now he is gone. If you were in the shoes of the Israelites, how would you feel about going into a new land at this point?
2. Notice what God says: *I will give, I will be, I will never.* God’s approach is to give all that is necessary for you and more. How do you feel knowing that God has the same attitude towards you as his child?
3. *“Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”* God remembers his promises. He swore that the land will be theirs for the taking and now he will fulfill his promises as Joshua leads. What promises of God have been especially important and meaningful to you? Claim them now before the Lord.
4. The Israelites have depended on Moses for leadership as well as for managing their relationship with God. And now they have to learn that what really matters is God and not Moses. Have you depended on others for your own spiritual growth? How does this help you look at your own walk with God? Claim God’s promises to Joshua for yourself: *I will never leave you nor forsake you.*
5. Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

**JOSHUA 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

**JOSHUA 1:7-9**

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. V7: *“Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you.”* If you were to translate that command to yourself as a Christian, how would it be phrased?
3. V8: *“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night.”* “Day and night” is probably a phrase to imply constantly, regularly, conscientiously. Once again, how would you translate this to yourself as a Christian? How can you make this happen? Would “occasionally read the bible or just listen to sermons and Christian songs” be sufficient?
4. In the context of the Israelites in Joshua 1, preparing to cross the River Jordan to occupy the Promised Land, what does “prosperous and successful” mean? If you apply it to yourself as a Christian now, what would be the result of being able to do what you have written in questions 2 and 3?
5. V9: *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”* Why did God say this so many times? Why is it important in the context of what you need to do to maintain your relationship with God?
6. While God is generous to promise you his presence, his victory and his resources, a relationship requires the effort of both parties. You need to play your part. Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

**JOSHUA 1:7-9**

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

**JOSHUA 1:10-11**

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. How did Joshua respond to God’s command? How would you respond to God’s command if you are in a comparable position — facing a challenging situation in your Christian journey to obey God?
3. What promise did he give to the Israelites? It expresses his faith in the promises of God, promising the Israelites what God had promised him. How would you respond to God’s assurances *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*?
4. *“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.”* Take this as God’s command to you, together with all his assurances. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

**JOSHUA 1:10-11**

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

**CLAIMING OUR PROMISED LAND**

It is tempting to read Joshua 1:8 and take it to mean that God promises material prosperity when we keep his Word. But clearly there is a context. Joshua is to lead the Israelites across the River Jordan into Canaan and there, as God promised, *“I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life.”* To be prosperous and successful in this context is to claim the Promised Land and to be blessed by it.

In our context as Christians, our Promised Land are the great promises God has lavished on us through Jesus Christ: forgiveness, mercy and grace, the Holy Spirit, righteousness, Sonship, and his unbreakable love towards us, and beyond these, to be with him in heaven. These are promises that are ours to claim even here and now but like Joshua and the Israelites, battles have to be fought, blood, sweat and tears have to be shed but “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

These great promises are far greater than the billion dollar bank account, the mansion, the top of the range car. The Bible poses to us the question, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”

But we must pay heed to the vital caveat: Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

This is vital because it is God who guarantees us victory. And we must be careful to make sure that God is by our side and on our side.

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.