[**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**](http://timealonewithgod.org/)

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

[**GENESIS 3:1-6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203&version=NIV)

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. *“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”* This question sounds innocent, merely asking the woman to recall what God said. But the focus is not on the freedom that God gives but on the restriction which was a warning of danger (which again the question ignores). How do you view the life that God desires in you? Is God restricting you?
3. *“... and you must not touch it.”* Eve exaggerated God’s warning. Often Christians also exaggerate God’s restrictions; for example, how a person dresses, punctuality at meetings, or drinking alcohol. These exaggerations dilute God’s actual restrictions. How can you be clear and sure about God’s commands?
4. *“You will not certainly die.”* This statement makes God out to be a liar. *“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”* The follow-up remark makes him out to be selfish and insecure. These are blasphemous statements. Instead of defending God’s honour, the woman began to examine the fruit herself. What do you think is going through her mind as she does so?
5. Do you believe God when he says “The wages of sin is death”?
6. *“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”* Eve relied on her own judgement (what she saw) and on the serpent’s claim (gaining wisdom). God’s word was completely absent in her consideration. What can you learn from Eve’s mistakes so you will not fall into sin?
7. Was her husband wrong as well or was he a victim? Note that “he was with her”. What can you learn from Adam and Eve’s mistakes?
8. Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**GENESIS 3:1-6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203&version=NIV)

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

[**GENESIS 3:7-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203&version=NIV)

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. *“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”* Genesis 2:25 tells us that *“Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”* Now they needed to cover themselves from each other. What is this consequence of sin? Was the serpent right in that their eyes were opened?
3. *“They hid from the Lord God.”* Can they really hide from God? “I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” Why did their new awareness cause them to fear God? What then is the consequence of sin?
4. *“The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”*

*“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

From the way they answered, what has man (and woman) become? Contrast that to the fact that he was created in God’s image and given the authority to rule over creation and to work the Garden and take care of it.

1. Why did God tell man not to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?
2. Why does God command us against acts of sin? What is the underlying sin when we disobey God? What are the consequences of sin?
3. Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**GENESIS 3:7-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203&version=NIV)

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

[**GENESIS 3:14-24**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203&version=NIV)

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 the sin of Adam and Eve affect life? What is the difference before the Fall and after the Fall?
3. Before the Fall, God viewed his Creation as very good. What happens to Creation now? Why does the act of Adam and Eve affect Creation?
4. *“Dust you are and to dust you will return.”* The unique dual nature of man is gone and man returns to his commonness. What has man lost as a result? Is this the death that God spoke of?
5. *“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”* Why this little detail? How had Adam and Eve attempted to cover themselves? What does it imply?

1. And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” Why is it important that man must remain subject to death? Is God really afraid that man will be immortal?
2. *“So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.*” Here is the final nail: man is banished from the environment of blessing that God created for him and drove him into the world where he must toil to live. Is work now a curse?
3. What can man do to regain what he has lost? Is this the end of the road for man?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**GENESIS 3:14-24**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%203&version=NIV)

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 FALL OF MAN

One cannot really see how far man has fallen unless one sees God’s destiny for him. From one who bears God’s image, who carries in him the divine breath of the life of God, who carries God’s authority to rule over his Creation, who enjoys God’s love and care in the Garden lovingly built by God — from the heights of one destined for greatness to one who is now exposed, naked — dust you are, and to dust you shall return!

It is difficult for us to imagine the seduction that went on between the serpent and Eve, how the serpent was able to cast doubts in Eve’s mind about the character of God. In the terse description that Genesis 3 gives us we can see the simple modus operandi: focus on the restrictions and blind the person to the real freedom that is already given; contradict the key reason given for the restriction but instead suggest selfish motives behind the restriction. Once we let go of God’s wisdom and instead seek to apply our own wisdom, the war is won. We have decided that WE will be the ones to judge what is right, what is wrong; what is good, what is evil; what is sinful, what is righteous; what is acceptable, what is not.

What Adam did not appreciate is how much who he is rests on his ties with God. Without God he is dust. With God he rules the whole of Creation.

Is it not true the same battles are fought, even now, in our hearts, minds, and lives? And is it not true that through Christ we now have everything, but ONLY if we remain in him. Let us not repeat the mistakes Adam and Eve made. We have so much more than they have then. We have God’s Word; we have God’s Spirit; and we have God’s Son. But the truth still remains: all that we are and can be is only true when we remain with God.

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.