[**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

[**1 PETER 1:13-16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&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. *“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”* “Therefore” follows from last week’s devotion on 1 Peter 1:3-13 about what God had put into the salvation of our souls. Peter now calls on us to be clear-minded and sober as we decide where our hope lies. This is not to be something spontaneous or impulsive because it must shape our lives. Have you really thought through your decision to be a Christian? Is your life built on the expectation that Christ will come again? Is your life built on the expectation that when he does it will mean you will “be with him in paradise” as he promised the thief next to him on Calvary?
3. *“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.”* If your hope is on Christ, then your life must reflect Christ. What would “evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance” be for you? What would it mean to you to be “holy in all you do”?
4. What if you are unable to comply with such high standards of character and life? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**1 PETER 1:13-16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&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

[**1 PETER 1:17-21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&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. *“Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.”* Peter reminds the Christians that they live as foreigners in the land. They are Christians among non-Christians. If God is to be impartial then the standards we live by must be standards that he requires of everyone, Christian and non-Christian. Even though we are under grace we must live in reverent fear of him, rather than abuse that grace. Do you agree with Peter?
3. *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.* The second reason Peter gives for us to live in reverent fear is the purity of the source of our salvation. Can we ever justify thinking that the perfect lamb of God is sacrificed so we can indulge in sin?
4. *“He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.”* Finally because salvation through Christ has been ordained by God from the beginning of time so that now, in our time, our hope and faith rest on God. If God has gone to such lengths to bring us to this point, can we now profane his intentions and his grace by returning to the “evil desires” (v14) instead of continuing onwards with God?
5. Do these arguments of Peter hold any weight for you to commit to living out your time as God’s people in an ungodly world in reverent fear? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**1 PETER 1:17-21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&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

[**1 PETER 1:22-2:3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&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. *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.”* What does Peter mean when he says that we have “purified yourselves by obeying the truth”? Peter tells us that as a result of our becoming Christians, we “have sincere love for each other”. This is the work of the Holy Spirit (see [Romans 5:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans+5&version=NIV)). What should we therefore do? Do you think this has anything to do with the holy living in the previous verses or Peter is saying something new?
3. *“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”* How is it possible that we who are sinful can hope to live holy lives loving one another? Is Peter claiming that when we become Christians a change happens in us so that we are now capable of living the life that God calls us to? Is this possible? Are we called to live holy lives because we have been enabled to do so, or are we called to live holy lives because we no longer are guilty of our sin in God’s eyes?
4. *“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”* What is the basis of Peter’s call to put away our sinful attitudes and our sinful behaviour? If these we no longer want, these we reject, what should we desire instead? What do you think is the pure spiritual milk? Why do we need it?
5. Take a step back and look over what you have meditated upon in the week from Peter’s teaching about holy living, loving one another and desiring God (for example, in his word). How do these truths come together “so that by it you may grow up in your salvation”? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**1 PETER 1:22-2:3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&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

**BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM HOLY**

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.*

The logic is simple, straightforward and undeniable. You conform to the values of your master. You represent him, and the things you do, the lifestyle you display, your choices, your priorities, all that you are reflect on him. He is holy, so be holy in all you do.

Peter does not give us a comprehensive definition of what the holiness of God looks like. There is an assumption as he writes that we know; perhaps not to the smallest detail, but certainly we know if we are in the right ballpark.

He tells us, “do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.” Simply put, don’t let the fact that these desires have been with you for a long time mean that you have to give in to them as you have done so in the past. If you know that God is not pleased then you listen to God, as his obedient child. He should dominate, not desires that are evil and displeasing, however long they have been around.

He calls us to be conscious that we are among non-Christians, and therefore to live lives that express how God’s values and concerns dominate in you, so that they can see and acknowledge God’s proper place in life. At the very least we cannot live lives that are worse than their standard of holiness!

And more specifically, he calls on us to rid ourselves of “all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.” Clearly these destructive behaviours are incompatible with God. Instead he calls on us to “love one another deeply, from the heart.”

It is easy to respond to the general rule “be holy” and create many sub-rules that we think conform to what it means to be holy. And we start to pontificate about the things we look at, the clothes we wear, the books we read and even the thoughts we should have.

But what Peter calls us to is not a rule but a person: God. As we know him, so we become more like him. As we live in reverent fear of him (that is, we honour and respect his authority and his judgement) so we are obedient to him rather than conform to the evil desires in us. And as we are more and more conscious of what he is doing in our lives (for example, the Holy Spirit in us giving us the ability to love, as well as the rest of his fruit) we exercise these qualities wholeheartedly, in faith, so that what is a seed becomes an abundance of fruit. In doing so we reject their antithesis, like malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander.

Being holy is less about fighting our sinful nature by restraining it with a set of rules as much as letting God be the rightful king in our lives.

For this to happen, we must know God and to know God, we must know his Word. Knowing his Word and knowing God provides the anchor for our souls, in the midst of the transience and capriciousness of human life.

*“All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”*

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.