



### Lent Day 21, March 13, 2012 Seeking God

*O God, You are my God;  
Early will I seek You;  
My soul thirsts for You;  
My flesh longs for You  
In a dry and thirsty land  
Where there is no water.  
So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,  
To see Your power and Your glory.  
Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,  
My lips shall praise You.  
Thus I will bless You while I live;  
I will lift up my hands in Your name.  
My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness,  
And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.  
Psalm 63:1-5*

In yesterday's Lenten devotional, we talked about the importance of seeking first the [kingdom of God](#) as we are striving for a life of simplicity. It would be remiss if we didn't talk about the importance of spending time with God. As Christians we know the importance of having a daily time of prayer and Bible reading. But the reality for many of us is that this time often gets choked out by the demands of life. Spouses, children, jobs, school, caring for parents--the list goes on and on--can rob us of the time we need to spend with God. I struggle with this as much as the next person. That's why I love the verses for today.

David actually wrote this Psalm when he was in the wilderness of Judah, and it captures perfectly his longing for God. I want to have that same longing for God that David did. His soul was parched for time with his God. What I notice about these verses is that David made his time with God a priority. He said "Early will I seek You." Before all the other duties of the day asserted themselves, David got up early to have that time with God. When we do that, we get God's perspective for our day. We can bring Him ourselves in whatever shape we may be: happy, sad, energetic, tired, and let Him put His stamp on us before we jump headlong into life.

There's so many different choices we have for spending this time with God, but I think we need the two most important things of prayer (listening and interceding) and Bible reading.

## Bible Reading

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful Bible studies in the United States. If you go to our website at [www.onlybyprayer.com](http://www.onlybyprayer.com) and click on the Bible Studies tab, you can download free studies written by Mary. Another option if you don't have a lot of money to spend on a study is the ancient practice of Lectio Divina. It won't cost you a cent, but what you will gain out of your study time is priceless. Just click on this link to a previous post I wrote explaining this process: [Lectio Divina](#).

One new resource (new to me, that is) I am going to begin using is called Daily Texts, a devotional that has been around for years that Dietrich Bonhoeffer used. It is put out by the Moravian church. The one I will be using is published by the [Mount Calvary Church](#). Whatever you decide to use, the most important thing is to be consistently in God's word, because it is powerful and will change us from the inside out.

## Prayer Time

Spending time in prayer is important also. This should include time when you are interceding for yourself and others, and it should also include time when you are listening in silence for what God through the Holy Spirit wants to say to you. Here is a previous post on this subject that may help you: [Silence Blog post](#). We also have a podcast on this topic with Ron Stohler, a pastor from my church, that you can listen to: [Silence and Solitude Podcast](#). It's helpful to write down your prayer requests and the answers you receive, so that you have a written record of God at work in your life.

**Application:** Today, decide what time each day you will spend with God, and plan that time. Which Bible study will you use? Do you want to make a list of prayer requests so that you don't forget who and what you want to pray for? Make sure you have a notebook or paper and pen. Or perhaps, you want to use your computer or other electronic device. Set a time and try to stick to it. But when you miss a time, don't berate yourself; just jump back in the next day. God will be waiting!

**Prayer:** Lord,

Help me to see the importance of prayer and Bible reading in my pursuit of simplicity. Without your perspective, my life becomes infinitely harder to figure out. I pray for the same desire to seek you that David had. In Jesus' name. Amen.