



**BEYOND THE
BOOK:
CONNECTING
WITH GOD**






**DO YOU FEEL YOUR CONNECTION WITH
GOD IS EVERYTHING YOU'D LIKE IT TO
BE?**



PEOPLE OF FAITH

- Abraham
- Moses
- Joseph
- David
- The early church...




“What the Lord did for His people in that time [early church], it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do.”

- 7 Testimonies p. 33

BREAKING THE BLOCKAGE





“For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- Hebrews 4:12

1. THE POWER OF FIRST THINGS





WHAT MATTERS TO ME MOST?



SELECT A SPECIFIC TIME

Morning or Evening?

- Manna – Exodus 16

Whatever time you set, stick to it!

THE BATTLE OF THE BLANKETS!

Go to bed **early!**

Pray for God to **wake you up**

Have a prayer partner **call you**

Fall asleep thinking **of your morning devotions**

Get up **immediately!**

FORMING A HABIT

It takes three weeks to become familiar with a task

It takes another six weeks before it becomes a comfortable habit

Science shows that occasionally skipping a day is not a long-term indicator if you have a strategy to get back on track.

2. THE POWER OF PERSON





THE POWER OF PERSON

Quality over quantity

Are you just reading?

What do we know about Jesus?

Are we truly connecting?

PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT

Music

Journaling

Nature

Studying with others


Art

Talking out loud

Research


3. THE POWER OF PRAYER





“Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved.”

- Gospel Workers p. 254



“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- Philippians 4:6-7




“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

- James 5:16

- If your prayer life is stuck, try praying for others

- Try praise!



“There are many who, though striving to obey God's commandments, have little peace or joy. This lack in their experience is the result of a failure to exercise faith.”

- Acts of the Apostles p. 563

4. THE POWER OF PATIENCE

The strongest of
all warriors are these two —


TIME AND PATIENCE.

Leo Tolstoy




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“Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. **They are in too great haste.** With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel....



“They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.

These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power.”

- Education p. 260-261



“We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart.

When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.”

- Ministry of Healing p. 58




HOW DO I KNOW IF IT'S GOD?




“The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears.”

- 6 Testimonies p. 393



“To him [the shepherd] the doorkeeper opens, and **the sheep hear his voice**; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”

- John 10:3



“...in the hush and silence of the sould that voice which never fails to answer the cry of human need will speak to our hearts.”

- Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p. 84


5. THE POWER OF SURRENDER



THE POWER OF SURRENDER

Could it be that we're not connecting with God because there's something between us and him?

- Sin
- Bitterness
- Doubt
- Resentment




“In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings.”

- Ministry of Healing p. 474



“If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties”


- Early Writings p. 119



“Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His experience testifies to the power of importunate prayer.... The greatest victories... are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power.”

- Patriarchs and Prophets p. 203





“Not until he fell crippled and helpless upon the breast of the covenant angel did Jacob know the victory of conquering faith and receive the title of a prince with God.”

- Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing p. 62