

The Christian Home - Family Evenings with God - Psalm 55:17

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. Our daily schedule must be conformed to God's order. This will cause some disturbance, but remember, in order to change the future, the present must be disturbed. Are you weary? Do you know there must be a better way to make the most of your days? Psalm 55 is a testimony from the heart of King David, in which he goes to the Lord and pleads for help. David sought escape, and **the only place of escape from this world is in the bosom of God.** We escape by meeting with the Lord and communing with Him. This is the way God has designed the Christian life. We can find in Him the rest we need. Note very carefully the order that God gives us here, "*Evening, and morning, and at noon.*" God has a great principle here for us: the day should begin in the evening. Gen. 1:5, "*And the evening and the morning were the first day.*" After each of the first six days of Creation Week, God repeats this statement. In the Garden of Eden, God established this principle for Adam and Eve to begin their day, not in the morning, but in the evening. The devil has us so busy in the morning and throughout the day that we want to just "close down" at night, but if we are going to follow the clear teaching of the Bible, our day must begin in the evening - we need to spend our evenings with God. Most homes, even Christian Homes, have the television going in the evenings. **People rush in and family members go different directions in the evening. Finally exhausted, everyone falls asleep with little or no thought to planning and preparing for the night, and off they go in the morning without God and His Word.**

Seeking to please the Lord in our homes means that specific things should be found in our evenings with God...

1. Evening Faith - Hebrews 12:2

In the evenings with God we find faith, which is *looking unto Jesus*. Faith reflects on the activity of the day, believing that God's hand was in everything. **Faith delivers all the day's activities to God, resting in the Lord and knowing that God is in control, not only of this universe, but of our lives.** We have soul rest by trusting in the Lord, who has cared for us through the day, and will watch over us through the night.

2. Evening Gratitude - 1 Thes. 5:18

In the evenings with God we find gratitude, which is giving thanks in everything. The Lord has seen us through the day and allowed us to be together with our loved ones. Christians who live by themselves should realize that they are not alone; they are alone with God. **When we commune with the Lord and abide in Him, we cannot grumble and gripe about everything we do not have.** We will be grateful to God for His blessings.

3. Evening Bible Reading - Mat. 6:11

In the evenings with God we find Bible reading, which is *our daily bread*. Keep your Bible handy and develop a plan for reading your Bible systematically. The evening is a good time to read a designated Bible story. **God speaks to us through His Word.** Meet the Lord in His Word in the evenings. Talk with one another about what you just read. Learn the Bible together! There are certain things of God and God's Word that can be placed in the hearts and minds of children in their formative years, that will shape them into faithful friends, brothers, and sisters, and make them strong for life.

4. Evening Fellowship & Testimony - Jude 3

In the evenings with God there should be fellowship and testimony, which is finding out what you have in common. If there is fellowship between you and the Lord, that is wonderful; but if there is fellowship between you, the Lord, and others, that is even more wonderful! Turn the television off, put the books down, and lay aside the newspaper and smartphones and tablets. Talk to one another about how the Lord has blessed you throughout the day. Share some struggle that you may have had, and testify of how the Lord helped you overcome it (or maybe share how you didn't rely upon the Lord in that situation, but looking back you should have). If we are not careful, we will find ourselves dragging about, complaining, and being disgusted with what we did not accomplish. The praises of God's people, testifying and talking about the goodness of God, will drive the devil far away! **How is it that you can do this at church, but not in your own home?** If you live alone, seek other church members who may live alone, or other like-faith church members, and try to get together more often to have fellowship and testimony together. The devil wants you to isolate yourself from everyone, but God wants you to have *fellowship one with another* (1 John 1:7).

5. Evening Prayer - Phi. 4:6-7

In the evenings with God there should be prayer in everything. Hold hands and pray together. You do not have to pray lengthy prayers, just get your heart quiet before God. After thanking Him for what He has already done, *let your requests be made known unto God*.

6. Evening Meditation - Psalm 1:1-3

In the evenings with God there should be meditation on the Lord and His Word. The right kind of music in your home will help this meditation. The world's music (and "Christian" music that sounds worldly) is not going to quiet your heart and allow you to praise God for His goodness. We ought to dwell on God's blessings and provisions. **When you have an evening with God, you can lay your head on the pillow and get a good night's rest, and have a much better start in the morning.**

Bring your family together and tell them that you are going to start having evenings with God. **If you have some sort of entertainment in your home, put a time limit on it and make time to be together.** It doesn't have to be a long time, but in our homes, we must make time for faith, gratitude, Bible reading, fellowship and testimony, prayer, and meditation. **Hurry is the plague of family life.** We have more time-saving devices than any other generation that has ever lived! Because of this, we attempt to do more in limited amounts of time than any other generation attempted to do. Because we attempt to do so many things in so little time, we are always rushed, and we have don't have time for anyone (not even ourselves). Every one of us will look back someday with regret that we did not seize more of the moments we had when we were together in our homes. Cherish each moment God gives!

Home Work

- Each Evening, show faith in God by speaking of His care for you throughout the day.
- Each Evening, express your gratitude to God for His blessings.
- Each Evening, meet the Lord in His Word.
- Each Evening, fellowship one with another and share testimonies of the goodness of God.
- Each Evening, pray together with your family.
- Each Evening, meditate on the Lord and His Word.