



The One Necessary Thing

by Linda Minnick

*But we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,
just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

2 Corinthians 3:18

Basic Principles for Profit

Goal

1. Learn to function out of NEED not duty.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Isaiah 50:4b He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.

Mark 1:35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

Luke 6:11-12 But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus. It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

2. **Be flexible.**
3. **Don't be a perfectionist.**
4. **NEVER give up.**

Time

1. A question of **PRIORITY** not time.

Luke 10:38-42

- Is social media gaining the upper hand with my time?
- How much time do I spend “googling?”
- Has physical exercise become more important than spiritual exercise?

1 Timothy 4:8 For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness (our goal) is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

- Is being “healthy” physically more important than being Spiritually healthy?
- Jesus suffered all the same physical limitations that we do.

2. **First thing in the morning is the ideal but not always possible.**

- First thing equips your spirit for the challenges of the day.
- Start your day with a short devotional and prayer.
- Be flexible with the amount of time you spend.

3. **My family needs to learn to respect my time with the Lord.**

Place

1. A place without distraction.

- If you can't be entirely alone, your family profits from your example
- not for show

Matthew 6:5-6 When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

2. Don't get too comfortable!



Basic Spiritual Disciplines

Prayer

1. Prayer Journal

- Prayer Lists
 - Keep a list but don't be bound to it.
 - Be willing to vary.

- My family
 - General every day
 - Specific as need arises
 - In times of crisis

- Prayer Journaling
 - Write out prayers.
 - Go back later.

2. Prayer Principles

- Pray Scripture.
 - Prayer sheet: Brethren Pray for Us
 - *A Method For Prayer* by Matthew Henry

- Pray in Faith.
 - How many times do I have to ask before the Lord hears?

1 Kings 8:59-60 And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day requires, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no one else.

- Make mention:

*Romans 1:9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I **make mention** of you.*

*Ephesians 1:16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while **making mention** of you in my prayers.*

*1Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, **making mention** of you in our prayers.*

*Philemon 1:4 I thank my God always, **making mention** of you in my prayers.*

- On the other hand. . .

Luke 11:5-10 So I say to you, ask (keep on asking), and it will be given to you; seek (keep on seeking), and you will find; knock (keep on knocking), and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

- Pray without ceasing.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always; **pray without ceasing**; in everything give thanks; for **this is God's will for you** in Christ Jesus.*

- Believe in Prayer!

- Thanking the Lord for answers helps unbelief.
- Read books about prayer.
 - *Mountain Rain* by Eileen Crossman
 - *The Hidden Life of Prayer* by David McIntyre
 - *The Practice of Prayer* by G. Campbell Morgan

God's Word

Isaiah 55; Psalm 19; Psalm 119; 2 Peter 1; 2 Timothy 3

1. Bible Reading

- Profit!! Don't be enslaved to a method at the sacrifice of profit.

- Methods.
 - Vary your approach.
 - highlight with colored pencils
 - keep journal of special verses
 - *What Do I Know About My God?* by Mardi Collier
 - read a different version
 - read a Harmony of the Gospels
 - read Chronological Bible
 - Read with purpose.
 - Don't necessarily need to meet a deadline.

- Benefits of reading through the whole Bible.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - It gives you the overall picture.
 - It exposes you to the WHOLE counsel of God.
 - It's a right thing to do and to do many times, but it's not a mandate.

2. Bible Study

- Be patient!
- Learn how to listen to preaching for **learning** as well as personal applications.
- Methods: (See supplement)
 - Book study
 - Word study
 - Topical study
- Invest in Tools.
 - Computer programs: I recommend *e-Sword*
 - Complete *Strong's Concordance*
 - Laymen "friendly" commentaries
 - Study Bibles

3. Bible Memory

- For Meditation.

Psalm 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

- Find a method.
 - *His Word In My Heart* by Janet Pope
- Be persistent.
- Combine with other activities.
- Benefits.
 - In Prayer
 - In Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of God
 - In Understanding
 - In Ministry to others

Romans 8:26-32

*In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He (Christ) who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that God causes **all things** to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to become conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called (past); and these whom He called, He also justified (present); and these whom He justified, He also glorified (future). What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us **all things**?*

