



by Cindy Melius

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,
with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another
with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
~Colossians 3:16*

I. The Necessity

A. Jesus Himself saw the necessity.

B. The godly women of scripture had knowledge of His words.

II. The Obstacles

A. _____

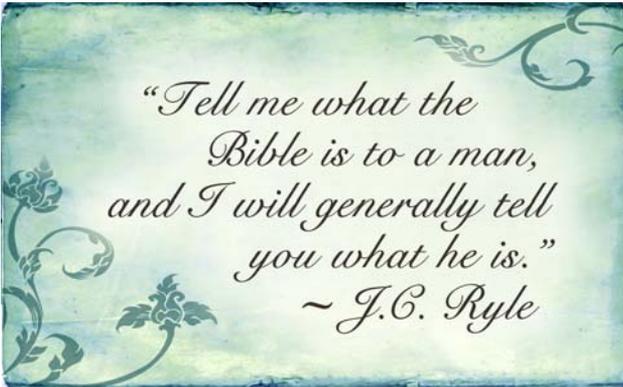
1. Psalm 66:18—*If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear.*

Regard = to see, look at, inspect, perceive, consider

2. How do we deal with sin?

B. _____ - _____

C. _____



III. The Means

A. Be _____.

1. Jesus was—He often withdrew (Luke 5:16).

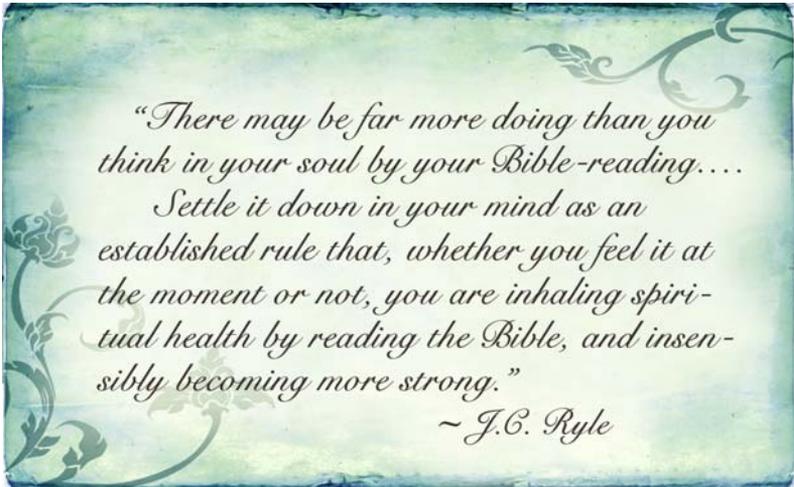
2. Scriptural support:

a. _____

b. “Give us this day our _____
bread”

3. Establish a _____.

4. Don't be discouraged when you hit the
_____ seasons.



B. Do it _____.

1. Scriptural support:

- a. *In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch (Psalm 5:3).*
- b. *But I, O LORD, have cried out to You for help, and in the morning my prayer comes before You (Psalm 88:13).*
- c. *I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Your words (Psalm 119:147).*
- d. *Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul (Psalm 143:8).*
- e. *The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple (Isaiah 50:4).*

2. Scriptural examples:
- a. Jacob *rose early in the morning* to set up an altar to the Lord after his amazing vision (Genesis 28:18).
 - b. Frequently, God told Moses to meet Him in the morning (e.g. Exodus 34:2).
 - c. Even the manna came early!
 - d. Jesus got up a great while before day (Mark 1:35).
 - e. Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb *early* (Matthew 28:1).



3. Church history examples
a. Horatius Bonar (1808-89)

“Begin the day with God!
He is thy Sun and Day!
His is the radiance of thy dawn
To Him address thy day.

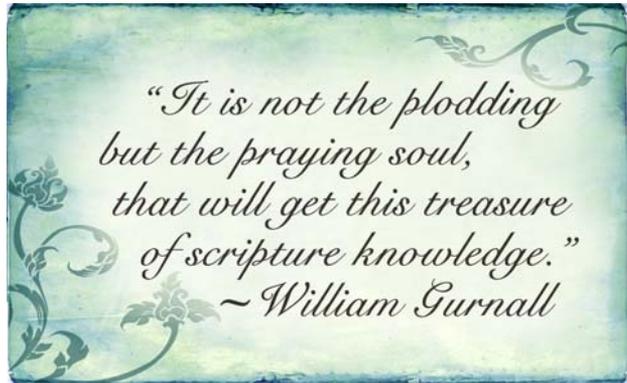
Sing thy first song to God!
Not to thy fellow men;
Not to the creatures of His hand,
But to the glorious One.¹

- b. J. Hudson Taylor
“Do not have your concert first and tune your instruments afterward. Begin the day with God.”
- c. Charles H. Spurgeon
“It is a good rule never to look into the face of man in the morning till you have looked into the face of God.
- d. Thomas Watson
“The best time to converse with God is before worldly occasion stands knocking at the door to be let in: the morning is, as it were, the cream of the day; let the cream be taken off, and let God have it. Wind up thy heart towards heaven in the beginning of the day, and it will go the better all the day after. He that loseth his heart in the morning in the world, will hardly find it again all the day.”

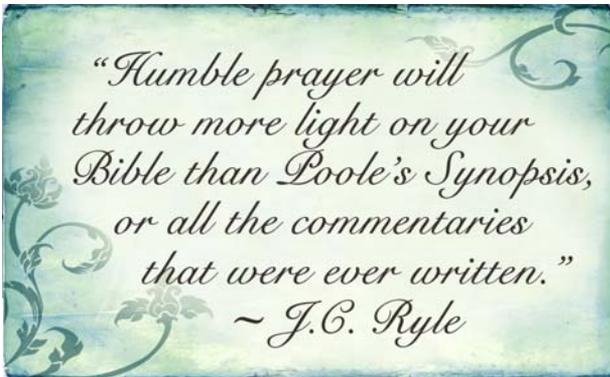
¹ Public Domain

C. Seek a _____ place.

D. Read _____.



E. Read _____.



F. Read _____.

1. Read through your Bible! (_____ work)
2. Study books of the Bible (_____ work)

IV. The Tools

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

E. Other helps:

1. Devotional books
2. Hymnbooks
3. Christian classics (e.g. Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*)
4. Bible studies
5. Other inspirational literature

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