

Pray with A.C.T.S.

A.C.T.S. is an easy way to remember key elements of prayer. It's simply prayer in four parts:

Adoration

"Praise be to God!" -Psalms 68:35

Tell God how much you appreciate Him. Express your love for Him. Praise His power and majesty. This is a great way to begin your prayer time. Sometimes I watch the sun rise, and praise God for the beauty of His creation. You should never run out of praise.

Confession

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." -1 John 1:9

Tell Him where you have fallen short. Be specific. Thank Him for the forgiveness you have in Christ, and ask for help and strength to turn away from future temptations.

Thanksgiving

Always "glorify him with thanksgiving" -Psalms 69:30

You have plenty of reasons to be thankful. Thank God for His love, His faithfulness, His patience and a million other things. Express gratitude for what He's doing in your life. Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for you. Thank the Holy Spirit for indwelling you, and never leaving. Thank Him for being your conscience, your counselor and that "still small voice."

Supplication

"Make your requests known to God." -Philippians 4:6

Tell God what you want, no matter how small it seems to you. Do you really think any of your requests are big to God the Creator? You should have lots of intercessory prayer here.

What does the Bible say About....

Finding **COMFORT** when you are **LONELY**:

Psalm 23:1-6 | Isaiah 41:10 | Hebrews 13:5-6

Finding **COMFORT** when you are **TROUBLED**:

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 | Romans 8:26-28

Finding **COURAGE** when **FEARFUL**:

Hebrews 13:5-6 | Ephesians 6:10-18

Finding the **PATH TO SALVATION**:

John 14:6 | Acts 16:31 | Romans 10:9

Finding **FORGIVENESS** in times of **CONVICTION**:

Isaiah 1:18 | 1 John 1:7-9

Finding **GUIDANCE** when making **DECISIONS**

James 1:5,6 | Proverbs 3:5-6

Finding **PEACE** in times of **TURMOIL**

Isaiah 26: 3-4 | Philippians 4:6-7

Finding **PROTECTION** in Times of **DANGER**

Psalm 91:1-16 | Psalm 121:1-8

Finding **RELIEF** when you are **SUFFERING**

*2 Corinthians 12:8-10
Hebrews 12:3-13*

Finding **REST** when you are **WEARY**

Matthew 11:28-29 | Psalm 23:1-6

Finding **STRENGTH** in times of **TEMPTATION**

James 1:12-16 | 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Finding **WARNING** when you are **INDIFFERENT**

Galatians 5:19-21 | Hebrews 10:26-31

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

1. Pick a book of the Bible and work your way through it.

If you are anything like me, if you don't have a Bible reading plan, you'll waste precious minutes thumbing through the Bible, never quite landing. Instead, pick one book of the Bible and read a little each day, one chapter, perhaps. If you are new to the Bible, start with the book of John, which is the story of Jesus and was written to help us believe. Then move on to the other gospels – Matthew, Mark or Luke. Next read Philippians, Ephesians and Colossians, which provide practical encouragement for living the Christian life. Work your way through one book at a time, and you'll never find yourself fumbling for where to read again.

2. Commit to reading a few minutes each day.

Getting God's Word into your life doesn't have to take long. Start small—five or ten minutes is better than none. Sometimes less is more, especially when reading less means you'll actually remember more.

3. Pray this before you begin....

What's the "this", I'm referring to? It's a simple prayer I pray before I read the Bible each day, and it's revolutionized my time with God: "Lord, if you were here with me right now (and You are, because You are everywhere), what would You say to me today?" When I pray this prayer, I open my heart to allow God's word to be personal to me; to my life, my circumstances, my relationships, my questions, my concerns, my heartaches, my needs.

4. Read until a verse resonates with you, then stop.

Reading the Bible is more than an intellectual exercise to learn about God. The Bible is God's personal love letter to you, meant to change your life. When you read the Bible, allow God's word to penetrate your thoughts and perspectives. How? When a verse resonates with you—when a verse relates to something you are going through, something you've been grappling with or something you need—God is speaking to you. Pause. Let it sink in. To help remember and think about what God is saying to you, write the verse down, word for word. This practice has cemented God's word into my thoughts in countless ways. Sometimes I keep the verse with me throughout the day. Sometimes I ask God to help me remember it, when I need it. Sometimes I memorize it. Be intentional about getting God's word into your thoughts and you'll soon see your relationship with God thrive!

5. Ask Questions

Because reading the Bible is about growing in my love relationship with God, I want to understand fully what God wants to say to me each day. To help me, I take the passage of scripture I've read and ask these simple questions:

1. God, what do You want me to know about You? About Myself? About my Circumstances?
2. God, what do You want me to feel?
3. God, what do You want me to do?

Not every Bible verse will have something for you to know, feel and do, but many will. The Bible is filled with examples to learn from, promises to claim and commands to follow. These were written to give you the hope and the help you need to follow God in your real, everyday life.

**God loves you and wants an intimate, personal friendship with you.
Now that you know how to start growing in your relationship with
God, open a Bible and dive in!**