Devotional Time Principles

I. **Objective**

A. To help a Christian have a _____ _____ _____ with the Lord through any God-given means possible.

B. In other words, the purpose of devotions is to _____ _____ with God by simply doing whatever it takes to bring you back to your heart and the heart of God.

II. What?

A. It's a _____ with God. As mentioned above, a "daily personal fellowship with the Lord."

B. "*Contemporary Christians have been caught in the spurious logic that those who have found him need no longer seek Him." – A.W. Tozer*

1. Xn paradox: Those who_____Him are those who_____Him.
2. "*The more one knows Him, the more one wants to know Him." –Brother Lawrence*

C. Open_____ with God. He wants to listen and feast. Rev. 3:20

D. More Biblical references:

1. 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. (NASB)"*
2. Psalm 46:10 – *"Be still and know that I am God."*

III. Why?

A. John 10:4-5 - "*When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

B. John 15:5 – "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

C. The key to quality DTs (Devotional times) – _____.

1. Who will know God's voice better: one who consistently spends time with Him or one who only does so when a crisis arises?
2. It far better to spend a little time everyday than one long time once a week.
3. If you don't have God and have him deeply, you will turn to other lovers.

D. Our DTs are not to be looked as a means of _____ _____.

1. We are not seeking the Lord to increase our knowledge or make us better leaders.

E. We are not reading the Bible to become notable Bible scholars, but to get to know the Author of the book.

F. *"If we seek God for our own good and profit, we are not seeking God." – Johannes Echkart.*

IV. When?

A. _____

1. Christian Trivia: No successful Christian leader has ever done their devotions only at night. It's either in the morning or both at morning and night.
2. Psalm 5:3; 59:16; 88:13;143:8

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B. Night
   1. Obviously, God can reveal himself at night too. Best example: The birth of Jesus happened at night.
   2. Gen. 31:24; 46:2; Num 22:30; Dan. 7:2

C. Both morning and night.
   1. Psalm 119:147-148

D. Two important things to remember:
   1. It should be a time when we are at our _____.
   2. We should aim for consistency, both in _____ and _____.

V. Where?

A. Anywhere (Psalm 139) : inside, outside, etc…
B. A place with the fewest amount of _____.
C. An _____ place.
D. Wherever you go, it needs to be a place where you and God are alone.

VI. How?

A. Remember, the key to quality in DTs is **consistency**.
B. Is there a particular order to follow? _____.
   1. It is recommended that you do the harder things first in your DTs.
C. *"Time with God each day is not about academic study or getting through a certain amount of Scripture or any of that. It's about connecting with God." John Eldridge*
   1. B/c we need to do whatever it takes to keep the communication lines open with God, use whatever helps.
      a. Listening to music, reading Scripture or a passage from a book, writing in a journal, go for a walk, sit in solitude and watch the sunset/sunrise, etc….
D. Selecting a scripture passage
   1. 5-10 verses is sufficient, except in the gospels (1 chapter should be read.)
   2. New Christians should start in the book of _____.
E. Various Methods of Doing your DT (using the Bible)
   1. Topical Summary & Application
      a. Title it, Summarize it, and Apply it.
   2. 1 Thought Method
      a. While reading, 1 verse stands out from the rest to you.
   3. S.C.O.P.E.
      a. S – Sins to Avoid
      b. C – Commands to Obey
      c. O – Observation
      d. P – Promises to Claim
      e. E – Examples to Follow
F. Application is the most important part of your DT, whatever you may be using for your DT.
   1. 3 P's to application
      a. _____, _____, _____
   2. _____ for Application

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G. Other Helps for DT
   1. Do your DT with someone else for accountability
   2. Journal.
   3. Always emphasize application.

Sources used:

Eldredge, John. *Wild at Heart*
Eyre, Stephen. *Drawing Close To God: The Essentials of a Dynamic Quiet Time.*
Kavanaugh, Patrick. *Worship- a Way of Life.*
Personal Notes.

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