

## Making Spiritual Progress

by Joline Stewart

Are you stopping half-way through your spiritual growth by limiting your spiritual intake to attending church, reading the Bible, going to Bible studies and listening to sermons? These are all great! But what if they are only half of the equation? What if God has designed spiritual growth to be accomplished by coming to Him in prayer? In prayer, you take the Word of God into the presence of God where He ALONE can work it into the fiber of your being. When you do this, you are being personally disciplined by God your Father.

A baker kneads dough to strengthen the gluten and give it texture. Praying is kneading each truth, causing it to grow and work into the fiber of our lives. It begins with meditating on the Word, but it includes conversing with God. It builds our relationship with our Father. It's how we walk dependent upon Him. It's how we are taught to walk by the Spirit.

Author and pastor, Daniel Henderson says, "The great privilege of prayer is to open your Bible and experience a conversation with the Author who lives in you to explain what He meant by what He said and then inspire your heart to apply that truth in an intimate engagement that will transform your life—and empower you as an agent of gospel transformation in the world" (*Praying the Psalms, Vol. 3*).

Which verses should you pray? Start with the Psalms, Proverbs, and the Gospels. It is best to have a quiet place and an unhurried time. We honor Him by giving Him the first hours of our day. God promises, "Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained" (*1 Samuel 2:30*). To despise is to think of little worth. Our desire to be with someone demonstrates how highly we value them.

God gives us His Word and His Spirit and says, "according to your faith let it be done to you" (*Matthew 9:29*). We honor Him, worship Him, and glorify Him by quietly waiting in His presence with His Word. We are meant to experience the richness of life that is found only in His presence.

**So don't limit your spiritual growth. Begin today to pray the Scriptures and your life will be transformed.**

## How to Start a Cords of Three Prayer Ministry

**Step 1 - Commit** yourself to God as His servant to begin this new prayer ministry. Ask Him to help you identify one or two (max.) other believers and invite them to join you each week for a 10-15 minute phone prayer meeting. Don't expect everyone to say "yes."

Write the names below of those you are going to invite to join you.

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**Step 2 - Organize** an initial phone meeting to decide on the logistics (day, time, who will initiate the call, etc.). Put it on your calendar and don't let anything supplant it.

**Step 3 - Resolve** to begin on a specific date and to be committed to the Lord, to each other, and the weekly prayer meeting.

**Step 4 - Deploy.** Get started. It may seem a bit awkward at first, but your *Cords of Three* prayer ministry will quickly become a powerful spiritual influence in your life and the lives of those you meet with each week.



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