

## Draw Near to God

by Joline Stewart

A mark of maturity in a believer's life is a commitment to draw near to God daily in prayer. Dick Eastman in his helpful book Talking with God says, "The degree to which we believe in God's Word and apply it to prayer is the degree to which God will pour out His power during our prayer."

We increase our effectiveness in prayer when we pray Scripture. Begin by reading a passage and meditating on it. Read slowly and take it as God speaking to you. Then like any conversation, respond back to God about the passage. Wait quietly, believing He is present and He hears you. Expect Him to communicate. Remember the example of Jacob in Genesis 32 who wrestled with God and would not leave until God blessed him. The more regular your prayer time is, the easier it becomes and the stronger your connection grows.

This morning, as I was reading and praying in First Peter, I was amazed to see how the first two verses reveal the message of the book. The believers to whom Peter wrote were exiled from their homes under the threat of death. Instead of voicing how wrong their enemies were, Peter reminded them of God's sovereignty. Peter talked about their need to be perfected rather than correcting their enemies. The sufferers were encouraged to judge their own sin, claim the forgiveness that is theirs by the sprinkling of Christ's blood, and be cleansed to walk in obedience throughout the trial. Praying this passage led me to confess any wrong attitudes towards offenders in my life and seek to be cleansed from sin. I asked God to cause me to walk in obedience through my present trials.

As you pray each day, expect to be anchored for the day, strengthened from within, and assured of His presence in your life.

## 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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