

# Seeking God First in 2020

*Matthew 6:33*

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (ESV)*

*WELCOME...How exciting to join with you as we seek GOD this morning...*

## Goal Setting and Instructions for Quiet Time

Gibbs Wilson

*Pray and ask the Father for His theme for you in 2020.*

*List and review your accomplishments during 2019.*

*Rate your current state in these areas (from 1-10, 1 =low, 10 = great)*

- *Spiritual*
- *Relationships and family*
- *Physical*
- *Business and/or Job*
- *Financial*
- *Life Long Learning*
- *Life Balance*

*Prayerfully make SMART Goals for each area -Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time Specific. Proverbs 3:5,6*

- Write down the goal and your reason(s) to achieve it
- Include a reasonable **deadline in the goal**
- Break the goal down into **smaller action steps**
- **Daily calendar actions steps**/ check off when complete
- Reward yourself when you achieve each goal

## *Devotion Time - Seeking God First*

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*A combination of Bible Reading, Prayer, Listening, and Journaling*

*Below are suggested passages for bible reading and meditation.*

*\*\*\*Please select a few passages for today & read other passages another time.\*\*\**

- **John 3:16-21 (salvation)**
- **Matthew 22:37-39 (loving God and loving our neighbor)**
- **Mark 1:35 (having quiet time early in the morning like Jesus)**
- **Isaiah 55 (invitation to the thirsty)**
- **\*John 15:1-17 (abiding in Christ)**
- **Psalm 1:1-3 (God's formula for success)**
- **Psalm 24:1-6 (the earth is the Lord's & all it contains-Seek Him in purity)**
- **Psalm 25 1-14 (Trust God & Ask Him to teach/guide you ... benefit of Fearing God)**
- **Proverbs 2:1-11 (How to understand the Fear of the Lord & receive wisdom/success)**
- **Proverbs 3:1-14 (How to have longer life...plus, trusting God, & honoring God w/ 1<sup>st</sup> fruits of wealth)**
- **Proverbs 8:10-21 and 30-36 (To Fear the Lord is to hate evil, Seek God/wisdom to find Him, Blessed are those who listen to wisdom... watching/waiting daily at His doors)**

*Review scriptures and ask God to identify one scripture He wants you to understand, learn or practice. Then respond to the following questions:*

1. *What was the most meaningful scripture you read or heard from speakers today?*

2. *Rewrite the scripture into a prayer of response to God.*

3. *Is there something God wants you to do in response to today's devotional?*

## **Prayer - Talking With God**

Broken into Four Components (A.C.T.S.)

Adoration–Praising God for who He is: loving, omniscient, merciful, majestic, Psalm 18:46

Confession – I John 1:9, Psalm 51:1-12

Thanksgiving – Philippians 4:6

Supplication – Asking (prayer requests) Matthew 7:7, John 15:7

*Example prayers:*

Matthew 6:9-13 "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." (KJV)

**Listening** – God speaks through His Holy Spirit to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways. God speaks through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church or other believers.

*\*\*Consider spending 5 or 10 minutes in quietness before God just listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Write down the promptings you sense from your time in the Bible study and prayer.*

### **Achieving your Dreams & Goal Setting Tips - Gibbs Wilson**

- Prayerfully make SMART Goals
  - SMART = (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Bound) – Proverbs 3:5,6
- Write down the goal and your reason(s) to achieve it
- Include a reasonable **deadline in the goal**
- Break the goal down into **smaller action steps**
- **Daily calendar actions steps**/check off when complete
- Reward yourself when you achieve each goal

### **#1 Goal to Set for 2020**

**Top priority goal**, when achieved, will have the highest positive impact on my life.

*Reason(s) to Achieve the Goal*

*Action Step(s)*

**Spiritual Goal:**

○ *Reason(s) to Achieve the Goal*

○ *Action Step(s)*

**Family Goal:**

○ *Reason(s) to Achieve the Goal*

○ *Action Step(s)*

**Physical Goal:**

○ *Reason(s) to Achieve the Goal*

○ *Action Step(s)*

**Professional Goal:**

○ *Reason(s) to Achieve the Goal*

○ *Action Step(s)*

**Financial Goal:**

○ *Reason(s) to Achieve the Goal*

○ *Action Step(s)*

**Other Goal:**

○ *Reason(s) to Achieve the Goal*

○ *Action Step(s)*