

## **What Do I Do Now?**

As I look back on my spiritual journey, I see four decisions I've made that have helped me tremendously in my relationship with God. I believe that if you implement these same things into your life, it will help you immensely in your pursuit to know God better and grow in your faith.

### **DECISION #1: DECIDE TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD EVERYDAY**

Communicating with God is a simple way of saying "prayer." Sometimes we make prayer out to be something that only the professionals can do. They use special words like "Thee" and "Thou", they wear special clothes, and put their hands a certain way. You might be surprised to know that Jesus didn't pray like that. In fact, He didn't teach His disciples to pray like that. In a conversation about prayer, Jesus said, "And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace." (Matthew 6:5-6) So here's my advice: don't worry about the words you use, because God knows your heart. Don't worry about if you're sitting or standing, because God wants to hear from you. When my kids were younger they didn't say too much because they didn't know how. But when they did, the important thing to me wasn't the position of their hands or the formality of their words; it was the genuineness of their heart. That's true with God as well. Decide to spend some time everyday telling God what's going on in your life and what you are thinking and feeling. It will do more for your journey than you know.

### **DECISION #2: DECIDE TO LEARN ABOUT GOD EVERYDAY**

I really enjoy reading but that wasn't always the case. If you aren't a person who reads much, that's OK. Most people aren't. But people who grow in their relationship with God spend some time reading the Bible on a daily basis. Why? Because in the Bible they get to learn things about God they never knew before. I have a box at home with all the letters my wife wrote to me while we were dating. I read and re-read those letters because I wanted to know her better. The same is true with God. The stories that we read in the Bible are how God worked in the lives of people throughout history. What's amazing is that as you read those same stories you will learn that God wants to be faithful to you the same way He was faithful to them. You don't have to read the whole thing in one sitting! Just decide to carve out some time each day to spend with God. Think of it this way: if prayer is you speaking to God, then spending time reading the Bible is God's opportunity to speak to you. What I've learned is that what I'm praying about, many times is the very thing that I read about during my time spent in the Bible.

### **DECISION #3: GO TO CHURCH EVERY WEEK**

As I wanted to grow in my faith, I thought the best place to be would be around others who wanted to do the same. When I started attending church, I sang songs from my heart to God, I opened the Bible and I was taught how to walk with God through a gifted Bible teacher, I got to know some people who became friends to me and helped me along as I took my first few steps, and I even had an opportunity to use the talents God has given me to help others connect with God as well. This is so important. I know we live in a world that is incredibly busy, but if we don't make the time to cultivate our relationship with God, no one will do it for us. So we have to protect our time and prioritize it. All these years later, I have never regretted that decision to go to church.

### **DECISION #4: FIND SOME FRIENDS ON THE SAME JOURNEY**

I had tons of friends when I became a Christian and started following Jesus, but I knew that I also needed friends who would help me along in my spiritual journey. As I went to church and got to know people, friendships naturally formed and I saw my spiritual life soar due to the people I had gotten to know. I have found that getting involved in a growth group helps tremendously because there's nothing greater than going through a tough time knowing that you're not alone. It's comforting to know there are people who are praying for me and ready to assist in whatever way possible when I have a problem. It really makes life a little easier knowing you have a support system of people who love God and love you.

### **CONCLUSION**

I recognize that these four decisions aren't the answer to all of life's questions, but they have served as a foundation in my life. They have helped me to keep taking steps in God's direction. I pray that you find yourself drawing closer to God by making these same wise choices.