

# The Danger of Neglecting Private Devotions



*Mark 1:35*

None of us would deny the importance of drawing apart and getting alone with God on a daily basis, yet sadly, few believers consistently do this. What a difference it makes when spending time with God becomes a fixed habit.

As we observe our Lord's life, a pattern becomes very evident: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into **a solitary place**, and there prayed" (*Mark 1:35*). "And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain **apart**, to pray; and when the evening was come, He was there **alone**" (*Matthew 14:23*). "And He **withdrew Himself** into the wilderness, and prayed" (*Luke 5:16*). Compare also *Matthew 26:36*; *Mark 6:46*; *Luke 6:12*; *9:18,28*; *Luke 11:1*; *22:41*.

If our Lord in His perfect humanity needed to come apart from His daily routine to spend time with His Heavenly Father, then certainly we ought to follow in His steps. Those who don't come apart tend to come apart! "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing" (Luther).

The Lord Jesus gave us this instruction: "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet (an inner room, a private place), and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (*Matthew 6:6*).

Spending time with the God who loves us should be a delight and something to look forward to each day, not just a duty to perform. Daniel had a devotional program which he faithfully practiced three times daily (*Daniel 6:10*). David had a similar program: "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice" (*Psalms 55:17*). **What about us? Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees!**

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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