

One friend you will surely want to check with regularly is God, even if you have fallen into a habit of not praying regularly. Summertime is usually a little less hectic and with a fresh new start you can set aside a little time each day to talk with God.

How do you check with God? To begin with, think of God as a friend not as a fearsome, old man sitting on a throne high in the heavens. Once you think of God in this way, prayer becomes relatively easy. Talk with God in the same way you would with any other well-loved friend. Begin by saying hello as you would in a phone conversation. Tell God what is happening in your life-- your hopes and plans, your frustrations and problems, and then spend a little time listening quietly to him.

Prayer is as natural as the rain. It does not require special words or gestures or even any special method. These can be helpful but may come a little later in your friendship with God. For the present, just set aside a short time each day, perhaps ten or fifteen minutes to begin with, and use that time faithfully to talk to God and listen to him.

If even that ten minutes seems long and hard to manage, then take a copy of the New Testament and read the gospels for a few minutes. Read a few verses and then talk to God about what you read. If you don't understand, tell him. If you discover an insight, thank him. If you see a challenge to the way you are living, ask him to help you with it. Summer friends are wonderful. Hope you and they have the happiest of all summers!

"There's a lot of power in us, but that power must be used for the Lord. It must lead to Him and glorify Him, or else it will lead to evil. If it's going to take you away from God, or compromise your faith, then that is not where you're supposed to be."

Use Me Lord . . .

Ready to Give Up Life for Christ

MADE FOR MORE:

Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are, and what they ought to be.

Under all the false; overloaded, glittering masquerade, there is in every man a noble nature beneath.

There is a native, elemental homing instinct in our souls which turns us to God as naturally as the flower turns to the sun.

STEWARDSHIP

- Is a loving response on our part to the love we have received from God, most visibly seen in Christ.
- Is a deliberate management of all that God has entrusted into our care.
- Is year-round. It is far more than one's money.
- Requires an examination of our priorities. How do we share our time, ourselves and our possessions?

God has given us all we possess, our very lives.

Responsible stewardship employs all our gifts as a joyous response to our Creator.

Our abilities are both gifts of Talent and Treasure as well as Time.

An old pilgrim was making his way to the Himalayan Mountains in the bitter cold of winter when it began to rain.

An innkeeper said to him, "How will you ever get there in this kind of weather, my good man?"

The old man answered cheerfully, "My heart got there first, so it's easy for the rest of me to follow."