

Daily Conversations with God

By Dr. Gary Chapman

Author of *The 5 Love Languages*

When we view the Christian life as a relationship with God, then talking and listening to God seems natural. After all, that is what we do with family members and friends. For many years, I have planned my life so that I can have a sit-down conversation with God every day. For me that is in the early morning. However, I know that many people are not 'morning people.' The good news is that God is always available —morning, noon, or night.

I believe that God speaks to us most clearly through the scriptures. So, each morning I read a chapter in the Bible. Before I read, I ask God to show me what I need to hear. Then I underline any sentence or phrase that jumps out at me. Then I go back and talk to God about what I have underlined. Sometimes that means I am thanking Him for the truth in that sentence. Other times I am confessing that I have failed in that area and I am asking forgiveness. Or, I may ask God to give me wisdom and power to apply His truth to my daily life.

Thus, I am having a conversation with God. He speaks and I listen. I speak and He listens. It is as simple and yet profound as that. Not every conversation is earthshaking, but every conversation allows me to hear God's heart and to share my own with Him. This is the essence of a healthy relationship. If you are just starting, you may want to begin with the gospel of John and then perhaps go to the book of Philippians, reading a chapter a day.

Sometimes, when my schedule allows, I will also read a short devotional reading, written by a fellow traveler. (Some of these are found in this booklet.) I am often encouraged or challenged by the thoughts of a brother or sister who is also walking with God. One of my favorite devotional books is *My Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers. Another is *Streams in the Desert*, by Mrs. Charles Cowman. These are classics, written by those who are now with Christ in the heavenlies.

I have written *Love as a Way of Life Devotional*: a 90-Day adventure that makes love a daily habit. I hope people will still be reading it when I too am in heaven.

If you are married, I would also encourage you and your spouse to share a devotional reading with each other. I wrote *The One Year Love Language Minute Devotional* for this purpose. Many couples have found it to be a way of keeping love alive in their relationship. I would also encourage you to share with each other something that you discovered in your own personal 'conversation with God,' something that encouraged or challenged you.

I believe that your relationship with God will be greatly enhanced if you make time to have a daily conversation with Him.