

“FLY TIME”

by

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Several years ago, when I was going through a challenging time, my mentor, author, and First Lady, P. Bunny Wilson, shared a practice with me that literally transformed my life. She calls it **FLY time**. **FLY** is an acronym that stands for First Love, Yes! In Revelation 2:2-4, Jesus tells the church at Ephesus that He knows their works and labor for His sake, however, He goes on to say: “Nevertheless, this I have against you, that you have left your First Love.” FLY time simply calls us to say yes to God, our first love, and put Him first, every morning. You see, if we are not working in His power and strength, we will soon get burned out, discouraged and disconnected. We must stay continually connected to our “power source” so that we remain energized to do His work.

FLY time in essence is, tithing our time back to God. It is offering an even more precious commodity than our money. It is offering ourselves, totally surrendered and available to Him. News flash: ***It’s not about you!*** God created you for His purposes...for intimacy with Himself. Developing that relationship should be your top priority.

For example, I’m up on average of 16 to 17 hours a day, so I get up early enough to spend an hour and a half every morning maintaining that vital connection to God. Now, before you say: ‘It doesn’t take all that. I can talk to God throughout the day, or I can pray and read the Word at night,’ let’s examine the importance of starting your day with God.

- First, if you’re like me, at the end of a busy day, I’m exhausted, just wiped out. I would attempt to read the Bible at night with one eye open. Soon the Bible would be reading me. Like bread, that’s fresh in the morning, by night it’s stale and so are we after a hectic day. It was hard for me to get up early at first until I saw the immense blessings that flowed from it. Now, I look forward to it. It is the best part of my day. We are our freshest and best in the morning. We expect God’s best. Why not give Him our best? Our best requires sacrifice!
- Seeking God first thing in the morning makes him your top priority of the day and if you don’t prioritize your day, your day will prioritize you! If God is first every day, there’s nothing that can bump him off your schedule.
- Probably the most important reason to start your day in God’s presence is because this is where spiritual greatness is born. Jesus Himself started His day in prayer to God because this was His power source. This is where He went to be restored and replenished. See Mark 1:32-35.
- Starting the day with God sets the tone for your day. Starting every day with God sets the tone for your life!

Now, that we’ve settled the necessity of giving God the first part of your day, let’s move on to the 7 components of FLY time.

- 1) **WORSHIP** - Worship is not part of your life, it is your life. We were created for God’s pleasure and worship brings Him pleasure. Worship is reverence, extravagant respect and devotion to God. Pouring yourself out to God pleases Him. When we fulfill our purpose of worship our spirit is refreshed because that is the way God designed it. John 4:23 says: “The hour is coming when true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth.” God seeks people who will worship Him according to the truth of the Scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is in your worship that you receive revelation knowledge and power.
- 2) **PRAISE** - Psalm 150 says: “Let everything that have breath praise the Lord!” 1 Thess 5:18: “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Even in tough times, give thanks and praise knowing that God is in control and He will work everything together for good for

those who love him and are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28. When I think of how much God loves me that He sent His only begotten Son to die so that I may have everlasting life, (John 3:16) I'm just overflowing with thanks and praise. When I let my mind wrap around the fact that He spoke everything that exists into existence with such precision and magnificence, (the solar system, the eco system, the human body etc.) I am just in awe. There is nothing too hard for God. Praise puts our focus on God not our problems.

- 3) **CONFESS AND REPENT** - 1John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That is His promise to us. Willful sin short circuits your faith and affects your intimate relationship with God because feelings of guilt creep in. Confession allows us to keep unbroken communion with God. There are no attempted secrets. Everything is out in the open. (As if we could ever hide anything from God in the first place.)

- 4) **PRAYER** - 1Thess 5:17 says: "Pray without ceasing." This is how you communicate with God. It must become instinctual and automatic whenever you meet trials. Prayer is the biggest timesaver. Since God knows everything, ask Him to direct your steps. He wants to answer your prayer. You have but to ask. Mathew 7:7 says: "Ask and it shall be given to you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened to you." Pray not only for yourself but intercede on behalf of others. Remember, the prayers of the righteous availeth much. Additionally, prayer is where you will do your most effective warfare. Fight your battles on your knees and win every time. Prayer works!

- 5) **MEDITATE IN THE WORD** - Don't just read the Bible, devour it! Memorize it! Psalm 119:11 says: "Thy Word I have hid in my heart that I shall not sin against Thee." Joshua 1:9-10 "The Word of the Law shall not depart from your mouth. You shall meditate in it day and night. Then you shall make your way prosperous. Then you shall have good success." Meditating in the Word is God's promise for success. In Hebrews 4:12 says "The Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." So, in this marvelous Word, you will not only learn who God is but you will also see who you are and if you're like me, you'll see some things that you won't like at all and you'll be forced to deal with them. John 8:31-32 Jesus says "If you abide in my Word, you are my disciples indeed and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Trying to live without studying it is like trying to put together a complex piece of machinery without the instruction manual and guess what? It just doesn't work!

- 6) **LISTEN** - Sit and listen to God's still small voice. Psalm 46:10 says: "Be still and know that I am God." God's voice won't compete with any other voices so shut down your mind and thoughts so you can hear the voice of God. Jesus said: "My sheep know my voice." When someone first told me that God told them to do something, I thought. 'I've never heard God talk to me like that.' Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, we cannot hear from God. You are to listen humbly, submissively and completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you. If you are unsure if the Holy Spirit is in you, please read the section called: The Most Important Thing. There is no mistaking when you've heard from God. You get an unction in your spirit that is undeniable and even if it's something you don't want to do, you will have a sense of peace. God's voice will always line up with His Word. Hearing God speak to us is life's greatest blessing.

- 7) **OBEY!** - Immediately. Faith without works is dead. Delayed obedience is disobedience. In Jeremiah 7:23: God says: "Obey My voice and I will be your God and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways I have commanded you that it may be well with you." When we obey God we are blessed. When we disobey, we are disciplined. One of the reasons people don't obey God is because they don't fully understand how much He truly loves them and that whatever He tells them to do will be the best plan for them. His love is not like our love. There are no conditions and it doesn't run out. God is love. There is nothing that you have done in the past, are doing now or will do in the future that could ever separate you from His love. Romans 8:38. Until you come to that understanding at your deepest most innermost level, you will struggle with trusting and obeying God with your whole heart. When you take that first step in faith it will become abundantly apparent that God is indeed with you.

And there you have it. Seven steps to a deeper relationship with God. Remember, this takes time! It's a daily process so do not lose heart.

Imagine what you can accomplish if you were to FLY every day. Now, imagine what your family can accomplish... your friends, community... I'm just crazy enough to believe that we can start a FLY movement. Imagine people all over the world waking up to spend time with God, hearing the call and answering it, moving in their purpose and blessing other people. We could wipe out hunger, eradicate AIDS, do away with homelessness, reverse the horrible statistics in our community and transform this world into the Kingdom God created it to be!

Recommended books for FLY time:

The Charles Stanley Life Principles Bible *by Nelson Bibles*

My Utmost For His Highest *by Oswald Chambers*

The Purpose Driven Life *by Rick Warren*

A Quiet Place Of Rest *by Nancy Leigh DeMoss*

Humility *by Andrew Murray*

How To Hear From God *by Joyce Meyer*

The Bait of Satan *by John Bevere*

Living An Extraordinary Life *by Charles Stanley*