

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions:

1. When (and possibly where) do you tend to feel most connected to God? In your daily life, what helps you grow in awareness of God's Presence with you?
2. What "unforced rhythms of grace" (Matt.11:28-30 The MSG) are you finding most helpful in your walk with God? What one habit would you like to incorporate to further cultivate your intimacy with Jesus?



LAST WORDS

Unforced Rhythms of Grace

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John 15:1-8 NLT

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Rhythms of Grace to help us stay connected to the Vine:

1. Daily ORIENTATION

Prayer: "Good morning God. I look forward to my day with you."

2. Deliberate ALONE Time

Matthew 4:4 NLT

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

a) Renew the mind _____

b) Review the heart _____

Romans 12:2 NLT

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Prayer: "Father, show me my heart. Expose the lies I am believing. Show me what is true."

3. Conscious CHECK-INS

Prayer: "Jesus, I love you. Thank you that are with me. Restore my soul."

4. Updated CONFESSIONS

Prayer: "Jesus, am I disregarding or minimizing any sin in my life at present?"

5. Repeated RELEASE

1 Peter 5:7 NLT

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Prayer: "Jesus, I give everyone and everything to you."

6. REST in God's grace

Prayer: "Thank you, God, that your grace covers me and is sufficient for me in my weakness."

Matthew 11:28-30 MSG

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Further Reading:

- 1) Get Your Life Back – John Eldredge
* Mobile App: "One minute pause"
- 2) God is Closer than you Think – John Ortberg
- 3) Renovation of the Heart and Practice – Dallas Willard and Jan Johnson
- 4) Sacred Pathways – Gary Thomas