

Development Phase Selected: Beginning

You selected the statement, "I attend worship regularly, but I am growing to realize that I must attend to God every day."

Congratulations! You have made a first big step in beginning to develop a lifestyle of honoring God. You have already begun to discover that there is something powerful about joining God's people for a time of praise for how God has been at work in their lives, learning the ways of God, and offering themselves to God. Worship has begun to find a place of importance and priority in your life. Where at one time you went only if it was convenient, now you arrange life to make this practice regular. This, of course, places you in a position to experience significant growth as a disciple of Jesus.

At the same time you are beginning to sense that worship is more than just showing up for a weekly event. God offers more for your life than that. God is available to you 24/7 and you are beginning to realize that there must be a way to make a more regular connection.

What's Next?

Most congregations offer some form of a 'Foundations' class to introduce basic practices to those beginning the journey of faith. These usually include an introduction to prayer, an introduction to reading the Scriptures, and models for developing a devotional time. Take advantage of this opportunity.

Another option is to find someone in the congregation who is further along the path toward maturity and ask them to mentor you in some of these foundational practices.

Some congregations have discipleship coaches that are trained to help disciples grow. These persons can help you process what you are discovering and point you in the direction of additional resources for your development.

You might also consider these very practical steps:

- Set aside time daily to spend with God. This does not have to be an extended time frame at first - perhaps only 15-20 minutes. This time might include some Scripture reading and reflection, prayer, and perhaps even some music that makes you mindful of God's presence.
- Begin to explore the core beliefs of the Christian faith. Several good resources are available for this, and most congregations have introductory classes, as well as connections to great online resources.

Enjoy the journey! This is a great time of personal discovery.

Suggested Resources

If you enjoy reading and study for personal development, you might find the following resources helpful:

Following Jesus, by Carolyn Slaughter

The 12 Essentials for Disciple-Making, by Joseph Arthur

When You Pray: Daily Practice for Prayerful Living, by Rueben P. Job

Foundations, by Phil Maynard

The Disciples' Path, by Jim Harnish