

As Christians, how should you and I start each day, and why?

Ecc 12:11-12 **The words of the wise prod us to live well. They're like nails hammered home, fastening (my) life together (with God). They are given by God, the one Shepherd.** MSGE

12 **My son (My daughter), beware of anything beyond these (words)...** ESV

How does my Shepherd wisely instruct me on how to start every new day of my life?

Matt 6:33 **But seek first the kingdom of God** (which Kingdom is in the Holy Spirit and within my own spirit) **and His righteousness** (which I am made, as I believe and obey Him), **and all these things** (food, shelter, clothing and all the practical necessities of life that the people of the world seek after) **will be added to you.**

Rom 14:17 **...The kingdom of God is...in the Holy Spirit** (to those who have the Spirit)

Luke 17:21 **...The kingdom of God is within you** (within your spirit or heart) KJV

2 Chron 26:5 **...As long as he sought the LORD, God prospered him.** NASU

Prov 8:17 **I love those who love Me (how?) those who seek me early will find me.**

Isa 26:9 **Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early;** (Christianity is spiritual)

Why else, other than to prosper me, does God want me to seek and find Him first thing?

1. So that I begin each day in the humility of submitting to and obeying God, who redeemed my life from destruction, and as a result be kept righteous and alive to Him. Rather than starting my day in pride by not obeying Him and therefore be dead to Him.

Rom 6:16 **Do you not know that...you are that one's slaves whom you obey, either sin (self-will) resulting in death (to God), or obedience (to God – by seeking Him early each day) resulting in righteousness** (and remaining alive to God).

2. As soon as I wake up to quickly become Spiritually minded (my will controlled by the thoughts of my spirit, where God is, and not my head) alive to God and at peace – And to not be naturally minded where the thoughts of my fallen reasoning mind together with Satan's harmful thoughts, and the words people have spoken to me, dominate my thought life and will – making me dead to God, now His enemy and without His peace.

Ro 8:6 -7 **For to be carnally minded is death (to God) but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. And so a person becomes an enemy of God when he is controlled by his human mind; for he does not obey God's rule, and in fact he cannot obey it** (for the power to do it comes from God's Spirit in my spirit). TEV

3. To be reconnected with God who is Spirit by my spirit, enjoying His presence, giving Him thanks, He renewing my spirit daily, to know more of and be made more like Him.

1 Co 2:14 **The natural mind does not receive the things of the Spirit of God...Spirit can be known only by spirit, God's Spirit and our spirits in open communion.** MSGE

Ps 140:13 **The righteous (obedient) will thank you; they will live in your presence.**

Col 3:10 **Put on the new self (my spirit controlling my will). This is the new being which God, its Creator, is daily renewing in His own likeness;** TEV

4. To receive God's directions on the matters that I currently face in my life. When God makes me certain of what I'm to do I'm happy. When I don't know I'm always unhappy.

Jer 10:23 **O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.**

Ps 119:133 **Direct my steps by Your word, And let no sin have dominion over me.**

Ps 143:10 **Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of righteousness (see also Rom 8:14 and 16).**

5. To be fed more of God, by living words He brings to me, so as to grow me up strong in faith, in love, in wisdom, in patience, in purpose and in complete satisfaction and joy.

Matt 6:11 **Give me this day my daily bread (Jesus, God's living word, is that bread).**

Jer 15:16 **Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God...**

6. To ask God in prayer to protect me from the evil power of Satan who rules the world.

Matt 6:13 **Lead me away from temptation, and deliver me from the evil one...**

2 Thes 3:3 **The Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one (the Devil).** NIV

1 Jo 5:18 **We know that no child of God keeps on sinning, for the Son of God keeps him safe (in the spirit), and the Evil One (Satan) cannot harm him.** TEV

7. To re-consecrate my life to God and re-affirm my belief that I am crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who has control of my will but it is Christ who is living in my spirit.

Luke 9:23 (Jesus) **If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself (not by self imposed rules but by) taking up his cross daily, and (so be able to) follow Me.**

Gal 2:20 **I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loves me and gave Himself for me (now I belong to Him).** KJV