

PAM FARREL



PLANT Yourself in the Word WATER your Growth with PRAYER

The Spirit's ability to lead and influence our lives is fed by our intake of the Truth of God's Word. It is like a seed that gets put in the ground. Its influence starts out small, but under the right conditions it will grow to be the best part of your life. You can create those conditions by **PLANT**ing and **WATER**ing.

First, **PLANT** God's Word into your life consistently:

Probe (2 Timothy 2:15, "a worker...who correctly handles the word of truth.") This is the process of studying God's Word so it makes sense to us.

Listen (Romans 10:17, "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.") Hearing other people teach the Bible and relate how it is affecting their lives encourages growth in all of us.

Acquaint yourself (Deuteronomy 17:19, "he is to read it all the days of his life.") There is no substitute for reading God's Word consistently.

Nail it down (Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart.") Memorizing specific verses makes them readily accessible when we need them the most.

Think it over (Psalm 1:2, "Blessed is the one...who meditates on [God's] law day and night.") Asking questions like, "How do I live this out? And how does this apply to my life?" energize God's Word in our lives

Second, **WATER** your relationship with God through interactive prayer:

Wait for God (Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.") Listen in prayer by saying, "God you go first," and then assume the thoughts that come to mind are what God wants to talk to you about.

Acknowledge your sin to God (1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.")

Thank God (1 Thessalonians 5:18, "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.")

Exalt God (Psalm 103:1, "Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.")

Request of God (Philippians 4:6, "in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.")

I practice PLANTing and WATERing God's Word in my life on a regular basis because I know that I am just as susceptible to getting off track as the next person if I don't keep up that daily imputing of Truth. I have seen this verse rescue me from myself on numerous occasions:

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11, NIV)

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