



DIALOGUE WITH THE LORD

Marriage Encounter Online

Dialogue with the Lord! It sounds so mysterious, unattainable but so wonderful. Could I ever dare to think that maybe I could dialogue with the Lord? Does He care enough? Would He talk to me? The answer to these questions is that He does want to dialogue with each of us and in a close and intimate way.

Dialogue requires two persons. It is more than talking. It is a deep conversation in which each person shares and listens to the other from the heart. St. Augustine said: "When you pray, you talk to God, when you read Scripture, God talks to you." This is the basis for Dialogue with the Lord. With this in mind, let us explore the concept of Dialogue with the Lord.

THE METHOD

Try to find a quiet time and place to dialogue with the Lord. Sit quietly for a few minutes and try to unwind; put earthly matters out of your head.

1. **WRITE:** Read the question for the day or the one you have selected. Keep a notebook and write the question in it. Think about the question and try to be open and honest in answering it. Write your answer in letter form: "Dear Lord, . . ." Spend about 10 minutes on this step. Try to express your thoughts and feelings. Let Him know "where you are at". You may find writing to the Lord difficult at first, but don't give up. The more you write, the easier it gets.
2. **READ** the Lord's letter (His message to you): Open your bible and read the Scripture passage as indicated after the question you just answered. Read it twice, once for the head and once for the heart. Read rapidly. Allow various lines and phrases to "jump out" at you. Remember, it's not necessary that you understand most phrases or sentences in the scripture passage. Perhaps only one or two will really have meaning for you.
3. **DIALOGUE** with the Lord: Now close your eyes and relax. Sit quietly. Think about what the Lord has said. Reflect on what He is telling you and see how it pertains to your life. Ask questions. Try to understand. Listen to what the Lord is saying to your heart. Be open to the Spirit so that there may be a deeper sharing and understanding between you and the Lord. It might be helpful for you to jot down a few notes in your notebook while you are dialoguing with the Lord.

HELPFUL HINTS

Don't get discouraged. As in any relationship, it takes time to develop new ways of communicating. In time you will become comfortable with each other. Remember, perseverance is a virtue. Give the process time to work.