



becoming united in leadership disciplines

An example of how the BUILD disciplines might shape your prayerful approach to God through His word:

Heavenly Father,

I intend this time in Your Word to be an expression of worship of You, desire for You, love for You, need of You, dependence on You. Any of this and all of this is only possible through Your Son Jesus Christ, who is my Savior. I approach You through Him, my Substitute and High Priest.

I have Your Word open before me because You have revealed Yourself there more clearly than any other place and I long to know You better. I desire to see You in all Your glory in the pages before me. I simply and humbly draw near to You to study You. Nearness to You through these pages of Scripture is my good.

I also have Your Word open before me because I need to learn more of the nature of my sin and fallenness before You, so that I might better understand what danger I truly was in and what dangers still lurk within me. I need to see both the sin that provoked Your righteous wrath toward Your Son and Your grace that moved You to act as Savior toward me in Him.

Your Word is open before me so that I might undergird my life again today with Your saving heart and motive in the gospel of Your Son, who overcame the penalty of my sin and the power of my sin to enslave me. I need the foundation of Your gospel under me clearly so that I can see just how You have equipped me through it to fight against my sin and to fight for obedience to You through Jesus Christ. I am here to rehearse Your bedrock promises in the gospel to my soul.

I have Your Word open before me to also study what righteousness and holiness of life looks like for one who has been made into a new creature in Christ. By Your grace and power, as I see holiness of life placed in front of me in the pages of Scripture, I long to better align my life and behavior with what pleases You.

I desire my heart and mind to be full of You because of what these pages reveal to me about You. I long for You to spill out of me into my home and wherever You lead me today. All who come into contact with me today must interact with a man whose heart has drawn near to You. Their best hope for salvation or for growth in the gospel will come from a man who has searched for You in Your Word and gazed upon Your Son in the gospel.

In Christ's name I pray,
Amen.

ANOTHER example of how the BUILD disciplines might impact your prayerful approach to God through His word:

I begin this day desiring to be filled with the Word of God in order to see and know You, the God of the Word, and Your Son, my Savior, and Your Holy Spirit who indwells me.

I am here to worship You, meditate on Your character in Scripture, enjoy Your love for me in Christ, express my love for You through Christ, and grow in my fear of You.

I am also here to rediscover the exceeding sinfulness of sin from Scripture. I reinforce my belief that sin is offensive to You, dangerous to me, and can effectively deceive me. If I do not fight for this perspective on sin today from Your word, sin will grow familiar to me and become tolerable to me. Help me to see in Scripture just how wicked sin (my sin!) is in Your sight.

I am here to re-preach to my soul Your remedy for my offensive, dangerous and deceptive sin—Jesus Christ in the gospel. Jesus has taken on Himself at the cross my offensive, dangerous and deceptive sin. You crushed Your Son under Your righteous wrath in my place. Therefore my sin and guilt is no longer in Your sight. Your cup of wrath toward me is empty. And now Your righteousness is in me through faith in Your Son. But, Jesus Christ in the gospel is also my path of power for daily repentance from sin and progressive change. I entrust myself to Him again for that repentance and change. Point out to me in Your word the gospel of Your Son so that I may reinforce my hope once again.

I am here to confess, or agree with You concerning recent known sin that I have committed. Help me to consider what practical steps of repentance I must take today? The gospel powerfully enables me to put off sin and put on obedience. What must that look like today? Provide me examples in Your word for obedient living and for thorough repentance.

I am here to strategize for how I can position my heart near to Christ and Your word throughout the day, as well as, how to distance my mind from all impurity and deceptive sin. I confess that if I do nothing throughout the day to position my heart near to Christ, my heart will grow cold toward Christ and numb toward sin. My heart will even grow interested in sin. Help me today to confess the smallest of diversions from holiness and nearness to Christ as I become aware of them.

I confess to You that neglecting all of the above is utter foolishness every time.

I pray now at the beginning of the day for the end of my day. I need Your presence now, throughout the day and especially at the end of this day. I find that _____ fails to protect and secure my heart in devotion to Your Son at the end of the day. Rather it distracts me with unnecessary and even sinful thoughts that cause me to neglect thankfulness and worship of Christ at the close of the day. I must finish well today!

Meet with me now so that Christ's nearness to me today will be most fully realized and enjoyed!

In Christ's name,
Amen