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Appointments with God

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Appointments with God

For many of us, making an appointment with a medical professional is something we do only when it is necessary; arranging a date, time and location for meeting someone for a friendly meal together is normally a pleasant option. We make appointments with people for a great variety of reasons: recreation, business, service, meeting some of life's necessities or personal interests. We might also set specific times in our days for mental, physical or spiritual purposes such as reading, taking a walk or appreciating beauty in nature or in works of human creativity.

Some of us make plans for optional meetings with God, as are meetings with friends, though we might think of some appointments with God as necessary when we are sick at heart or otherwise troubled. Though we can make brief contact with almost anyone through use of electronic media or telephones, and can encounter God at any time or place, we set up appointments as normal means for ensuring that we will have the quality time together that we desire.

One kind of appointment with God is for prayer, such as reciting prayers or reading scripture passages, engaging in honest conversation or being together in quiet companionship. Even people who live together might make appointments for special events that would otherwise not take place spontaneously, or they plan for a conversation about a serious matter that will require preparation beforehand. When some of our thoughts run contrary to bringing a particularly sensitive issue to our relationship with God, setting an appointment to consciously and honestly deal with it is a very wise thing to do. Many of us have found that, in any significant relationship, the sooner we can talk about a matter that weighs on our hearts, the sooner we recover peace in our hearts.

Appointments with God do not have to be lengthy, but we will find more satisfaction when we allow enough time to let ourselves be fully present to the encounters. If we ask someone to dinner, we think of a particular kind of place that would be pleasing to the other person or persons as well as to ourselves. In making appointments with God, location is not an issue, beyond having sufficient privacy and freedom from interruption. We will, just as with making appointments with friends, consult our experience as to whether one or other place seems more advantageous or less for our desired interaction.

Though it appears that we are the ones who initiate and organize appointments with God, we might recognize elements of invitation for such meetings when thoughts spontaneously occur suggesting them. God is

always more interested in communicating with us than the other way around, so we might find, upon reflection, that we receive many gentle reminders during an ordinary day about meeting with the only Person who is always present wherever we might be. Even if we make the appointments, God is never late, and never has a conflict such as "double-booking" that would present an obstacle to our being together.

What will we talk about, if we make appointments with God? We might have specific incidences to deal with, just as couples do, or friends who meet regularly: those that are causes for gratitude, hurts and joys, anything and everything that engages our minds and hearts. Some things in life are especially appropriate for conversation with God, such as healing of our spirits, forgiveness, and all that we cannot change by our own powers, including acceptance of our human limitations.

Where, in our personal calendars, are our appointments with God?