

## *The Quiet Time*

The greatest sin in the church today, and the one from which all others flow, is our lack of attention to our lovely Lord.

Many Christians who have time for two hours or more of television a day have not time for fifteen minutes with their God! And most of those who do take time to pray, spend that precious time begging God for the things they want.

The Word tells us to seek the Lord with all our hearts, to look to Jesus, to hunger and thirst after Him Who is our righteousness, to set our affection above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, to worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Our Lord Jesus, when He was here on earth, needed often to go apart into the mountain to pray. Yet we seem somehow to feel that we can live *our* lives here on earth, in a way that pleases Him, without doing likewise.

We admire openly Brother Lawrence's *Practice of the Presence of God*, yet do nothing much more to implement it in our own lives than to wish it were true, or take a brief and futile crack at trying to think about God all the time.

### **A BETTER WAY**

There's a better way.

Take time each day, lots of it, with God alone.

- 1) Ask Him to enable you to set aside every concern that you have in the full assurance that He is fully capable of caring for each one, and so be able to focus your loving attention on Him alone.
- 2) You may seek Him, hunger after Him, yearn for Him, sing praises to Him, thank Him for Who He is, name His names to Him, make mention of His attributes (characteristics), rejoice in Him, praise Him, worship Him, love Him, adore Him, delight in Him, honor Him, glorify His name, wait on Him, or rest in Him. But, however, you do it, set your affection on Him alone, and do it as earnestly yet as restfully as you possibly can.
- 3) Seek that your motive be pure. --Nothing for yourself. Everything for Him and the praise and glory of His name alone. --Nothing by yourself. Everything by Him alone for the praise and glory of His name alone. --Nothing to yourself. Everything to His praise and glory alone. "*For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen*" (Romans 11:36)
- 4) Be content, then with what He gives you as you wait on Him. Let it be dissatisfaction with, or pain at, your sinfulness. Let it be ecstatic joy at His sensed Presence. Let it be some truth revealed and joyously received as you never knew truth could be. Let it be struggle against a wandering mind. Let it be disappointment at the lack of any revelation of God. Thank Him that as you sought Him earnestly, yet in rest and peace, He kept His promise and you received all

of Him that was good for you and in the way it was best for you to receive Him this day. “Ye shall seek and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

- 5) Spend just as much time as you need with Him alone in love even if, as Hudson Taylor sometimes did, you must find the time from 2 to 4 in the morning. Make it the prime preoccupation of your entire life to live joyfully in pursuit of your God for Himself alone.
- 6) Do not be discouraged. Never give up. Even if no life-transforming dynamic is realized. Even if you continue to displease your God in things you do. Even if your longing for Him is not as keen as it should be. Even if your prayer for His love to visit you seems unanswered. Even if the whole world turns against you, your body is wracked with pain, and financial catastrophe threatens or occurs.

### **NEVER GIVE UP**

Never, never give up. Not even when others testify of God’s miraculous intervention in the circumstances of their lives and you feel deserted by God. Don’t quit.

He has something better for you than the most delightful of circumstances –Himself. And, if He must deprive you of all else to give you Himself, let Him. Believe me, that is no loss.

- 7) After seeking Him for Himself alone, and only then, turn your attention to intercession and supplication. Then let your first prayer for everyone you pray for be that they will be drawn to Himself for His praise and glory alone. And let your first prayer for every personal concern be that His will be done for His praise and glory alone –“That in all things He might have the preeminence.”

And let this prayer-style infiltrate the whole of your life and become your life-style, too, “that in all things He might have the preeminence.”

This is a serious matter. Your intimacy with God for eternity depends on your intimacy with Him in the time left to you before you meet Him face to face.

And my dear Christian friend, that may not be long.

So make no delay. Begin seeking Him today in an extended quiet time. Do it in rest and peace. Do it, not for any personal benefit, but to rejoice the heart of the One Who died for you, the One Who rules the universe but wants more to be Lover-King of your heart.

He waits for you. Don’t disappoint Him.

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