

THE BAROMETER OF YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

If you and I were to discuss the matter personally, probably you would say that it is a most commendable practice for every Christian to have a daily meeting with God through the Word and prayer. And you would be right, of course. Except that this daily communion, this “quiet time” with God is more than a commendable practice; it is **absolutely vital** to a life of sustained spirituality, effectiveness and love. It is the barometer of the Christian life.

Let me sustain that position. Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, Matt. 4:4. You see here what man **is** to live on.

IT'S VITAL TO SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Whether you are newly converted or a mature Christian, it makes no difference.

I Pet. 2:2, “Like newborn babes, crave the pure milk of the Word ... and grow up.”

Heb. 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

IT IS VITAL FOR SPIRITUAL CLEANSING

You are initially cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus, that is true. And again and again you have to come back to the cross for restoration. But the day-to-day cleansing is from the laver of the Word.

Psa. 119:9, “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word.”

John 15:3, (Jesus speaking) “You are already clean by the Word I have spoken to you.”

John 17:17, (In Jesus' prayer) “Sanctify them (make them holy) by the truth; Your Word is truth.”

IT IS VITAL FOR SPIRITUAL COUNSEL

You can never know the true principles that determine a life of holiness and righteousness without letting the Word of God “dwell in you richly,” Col.3:16.

II Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, that the man of God may be mature (KJV, perfect), thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

IT IS VITAL IN EQUIPPING YOU FOR SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

The supreme example is our Lord Jesus Christ when He encountered Satan in the wilderness. I feel sure that for those forty days and nights, He had fed His soul on the book of Deuteronomy, and could therefore make His sword thrusts from a personal experience of the written Word. Matt. 4:1-11.

Paul later exhorted the believers at Ephesus to “take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God,” Eph. 6:17.

Important as all these things are, however, the greatest incentive to your having a quiet time each day is not your own need, great as that is, but the fact that **God wants to meet with you**. Therefore, it is not merely a duty; it is a privilege and an honor.

God has an appointment with you. His heart is saddened when you fail to keep it. He longs, as He did with the woman of Samaria, to drink afresh of your love, devotion and worship.

John 4:23-24, "... true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him." (God wants to be good to you, and worship puts you in position to receive.)

I would warn you that establishing your quiet time is **never easy!** As a pastor I will confess frankly that it is harder for me to have my quiet time now than it was when I was first converted. The reason for this is that what counts **costs**.

You will find that the **most vicious** attacks of the adversary will be directed toward robbing you that daily time with your Lord. And you will have to guard it fearlessly if you are going to keep it!

Whatever your sphere of service ~ as a pastor, missionary, or Christian in the office, shop, or home, I give you little hope of **living victoriously** unless you are successful in maintaining your quiet time.

HELPFUL THOUGHTS

Psa. 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

When there's something in your life which is out of line with the will of God, don't expect to have fellowship with Him. If you have something

against this person or that, leave your gift at the altar and go be reconciled first, Matt. 5:24.

Revelation and obedience are like parallel lines. As you obey, so He reveals. When you cease to obey, He ceases to reveal. My experience is this: When I have tried to pray and read the Word, and found it to be a dead book to me; on examination, I've discovered that there was an issue of obedience on which I had not followed through. And before proceeding with my quiet time, I had to get right with God.

Adore Him; pour out your soul to Him; revel in the sunshine of His presence, talk as a child to his father, and listen as a lover to his beloved.

God's best for you is closely linked to this daily meeting with Him. You cannot tell me that you have surrendered to God, that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life, or that you know the fullness of the Holy Spirit, unless this way to abide is your daily experience.

DAILY TIME WITH GOD



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