

The Christian's QUIET TIME

TABLE FOR TWO

He sits by himself at a table for two. The uniformed waiter returns to his side and asks, "Would you like to go ahead and order, sir?" The man has, after all, been waiting since seven o'clock--almost half an hour. "**No, thank you,**" the man smiles. "**I'll wait for him a while longer. How about some more coffee?**" "Certainly, sir." The man sits, his clear blue eyes gazing straight through the flowered centerpiece. He fingers his napkin, allowing the sounds of light chatter, tinkling silverware, and mellow music to fill his mind. He is dressed in sport coat and tie. His dark brown hair is neatly combed. The scent of his cologne adds to his clean cut image. He is dressed up enough to make a companion feel important, respected, loved. Yet he is not so formal as to make one uncomfortable. It seems that he has taken every precaution to make others feel at ease with him. Still, he sits alone. The waiter returns to fill the man's coffee cup. "Is there anything else I can get for you, sir?" "No, thank you." The waiter remains standing at the table. Something tugs at his curiosity. "I don't mean to pry, but..." His voice trails off. This line of conversation could jeopardize his tip. "**Go ahead,**" the man encourages. His is strong, yet sensitive, inviting conversation. "Why do you bother waiting for him?" the waiter finally blurts out. This man has been at the restaurant other evenings, always patiently alone.

Says the man quietly, "**Because he needs me.**" "Are you sure?" "**Yes.**" "Well, sir, no offense, but assuming that he needs you, he sure isn't acting much like it. He's stood you up three times just this week." The man winces, and looks down at the table. "**Yes, I know.**" "Then why do you still come here and wait?" "**Gregg said that he would be here.**" "He's said that before," the waiter protests. "I wouldn't put up with it. Why do you?" Now the man looks up, smiles at the waiter, and says simply, "**Because I love him.**" The waiter walks away, wondering how one could love someone who stands him up three times a week. The man must be crazy, he decides. Across the room, he turns to look at the man again. The man slowly pours cream into his coffee. He twirls his spoon between his fingers a few times before stirring sweetener into his cup. After staring for a moment into the liquid, the man brings the cup to his mouth and sips, silently watching those around him. He doesn't look crazy, the waiter admits. Maybe the person has qualities that I don't know about. Or maybe the man's love is stronger than most. The waiter shakes himself out of his musings to take an order from a party of five.

The man watches the waiter, wonders if he's ever been stood up. The man has, many times. But he still can't get used to it. Each time, it hurts. He's looked forward to this evening all day. He has many things, exciting things, to tell Gregg. But, more importantly, he wants to hear Gregg's voice. He wants him to tell him all about his day, his triumphs, his defeats....anything, really. He has tried so many times to show Gregg how much he loves him. He'd just like to know that he cares for him, too.

He sips sporadically at the coffee, and loses himself in thought, knowing that Gregg is late, but still hoping that he will arrive. The clock says nine-thirty when the waiter returns to the man's table. "Is there anything I can get for you?" The still empty chair stabs at the man. "**No, I think that will be all for tonight. May I have the check please?**" "Yes, sir." When the waiter leaves, the man picks up the check. He pulls out his wallet and sighs. He has enough money to have given Gregg a feast. But he takes out only enough to pay for his five cups of coffee and the tip.

Why do you do this to me Gregg, his mind cries as he gets up from the table. "Good-bye," the waiter says, as the man walks towards the door. "**Good night. Thank you for your service.**" "You're welcome, sir," says the waiter softly, for he sees the hurt in the man's eyes that his smile doesn't hide. The man passes a laughing young couple on his way out, and his eyes glisten as he thinks of the good time he and Gregg could have had. He stops at the front and makes reservations for tomorrow. Maybe Gregg will be able to make it, he thinks. "Seven o'clock tomorrow for party of two?" the hostess confirms. "**That's right,**" the man replies. "Do you think he'll come?" asks the hostess. She doesn't mean to be rude, but she has watched the man many times alone at his table for two. "**Someday, yes. And I will be waiting for him.**" The man buttons his overcoat and walks out of the restaurant, alone. His shoulders are hunched, but through the windows the hostess can only guess whether they are hunched against the wind or against the man's hurt. As the man turns toward home, Gregg turns into bed.

He is tired after an evening out with friends. As he reaches toward his night stand to set the alarm, he sees the note that he scribbled to himself last night. '7:00,' it says. 'Spend some time in prayer.' Rats!, he thinks. I forgot Jesus again. He feels a twinge of guilt, but quickly pushes it aside. He needed that time with his friends. And now he needs his sleep. He can pray tomorrow night. Jesus will forgive him. And he's sure Jesus doesn't mind.

Colossians 2:6 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

Unless you get what I am going to teach you, you will never get past eating milk in the Christian life.

1 Pet 2:1-2 *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*

2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

Milk is predigested food.

There are some Christians who never get past using milk. They never eat meat.

Heb 5:12-14 *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

13 *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

14 *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Amos 3:3 *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

If I asked you, "How is your Walk with God?" what would you tell me?

You cannot know God outside of His Word.

You cannot have a wonderful walk with God and an Okay relationship with His Word.

One of the names of our Lord Jesus Christ is, "THE WORD OF GOD."

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

What is Jesus' name?.....The Word.

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Rev 19:13 *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

You don't have a love relationship with Jesus because you don't love His word.

You can't love the Living Word without loving the Written Word.

If we were to make a list of reasons we as Christians miss our Bible reading and Prayer time, the list would sound something like this.

1. Got up to late
2. To tired
3. Unscheduled
4. Procrastination
5. Lack of desire
6. Emergencies
7. Sick
8. Side Tracked
9. Pride
10. Get mad at God
11. Studying
12. Guilt

There is nothing on this list to keep you from eating but these things keep you from God.

There is nothing on this list to keep you from sleep but these things keep you from God.

We aren't honest enough to say, "I miss because I am no good." So we make up a bunch of excuses.

Why is it that you will eat 3 times a day but you won't read the Word of God 3 times a day.

Ps 55:17 **EVENING**, and **MORNING**, and at **NOON**, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Amo 3:3 **Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**

The reason I don't walk with God and I miss my time with God is because I don't agree with God.

God says if you agreed with me then you would spend time with me.

List 6 things you know God is displeased with in your life.

2 of things on the list will be prayer and Bible reading.

The rest of the list will be because of these 2.

We are experts at deceiving and fine tuned to sin.

We know a lot about it.

I don't want to be a phony, I don't want to be heard hearted.

I want to have a soft and tender heart to sin.

The more time I spend with God the more pliable I am.

If we were with God enough, we would have a broken heart like God.

If your fellowship time with God was fixed, then your other problems would be more readily solved.

God converted me, convicted me and gave me character on my knees.

If you don't get constant, consistent help from Heaven, you will continue to be a scoundrel.

Mark 6:30-32 *And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.*

31 *And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.*

32 *And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.*

If you don't have a time when you come apart to be with God you will COME-APART at the seams.

Ps 46:10 *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

Ps 4:3 *But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.*

If I give you a fish for supper, I have fed you a meal.

If I teach you to fish I have fed you for a life time.

If I Preach or teach you something from the Word of God, I have fed you a spiritual meal.

If I teach you to find God for yourself in Reading His Word and Praying, I have fed you for a lifetime.

ILLUSTRATION

Physical food vs. Spiritual food

The more you eat physical food the less you want of it.

The more spiritual food you eat the more you want of it.

The more you stay away from physical food the more you want it.

The more you stay away from spiritual food the less you want it.

This is why faithfulness to Church is so important.

This is why you spending time with God faithfully is so important.

This is why you don't like reading your Bible . . . Because you haven't read in so long.

There is a beautiful description of getting our spiritual food from God every morning and evening in the Word of God.

Exod 16:1-21 *And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.*

2 *And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:*

(You murmur and complain and gripe and bicker because you don't eat right spiritually)

3 *And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.*

4 *Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.*

5 *And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.*

6 *And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:*

7 *And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?*

8 *And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.*

SKIP DOWN TO VERSE 12

12 *I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.*

SKIP DOWN TO VERSE 16

16 *This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.*

(Daddy is supposed to gather it for his household.)

17 *And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.*

18 *And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.*

19 *And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning. (It won't last you through the week, You must get it every day.)*

20 *Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.*

21 *And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.*

We need to find out what God says this bread is so we can get it.

The Old Testament is physical pictures of spiritual truths for us to learn.

John 6:32-35 *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.*

33 *For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

34 *Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.*

35 *And Jesus said unto them, **I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE**; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

John 6:48-51 **I AM THAT BREAD OF LIFE.**

49 *Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*

50 *This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.*

51 **I AM THE LIVING BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN**; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:58 *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*

The bread that they were getting in the morning was Jesus the Living Word of God.

Prov 10:29 *The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.*

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

1 Cor 15:31 *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.***

Gal 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Every Christian should have a time that he spends with God Every day.

You should thank or praise God every day

You should worship God everyday.

You should confess your sins to God everyday.

You should have a designated time and a designated place everyday where you spend time with your heavenly Father.

Let me show you a misunderstood phrase today that is in the Bible 2 times.

Ps 29:2 *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.***

Ps 96:9 **O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.**

Worship - prostrate, homage, inward intimacy with the Lord.

in the beauty - a designated time

Holiness - a designated place

God says you are to have a designated time and a designated place where you are intimate with Him.

Don't trade your Work for Worship

Eph 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Eph 4:11-12 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

12 *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

Sometimes Christians will come to our church from worship centers. This is not bad because everyone is welcome but they are used to being taught that worship is service for God and that is not true. You worship so you can serve God better. It is easier to seek a worshipful experience in an auditorium than it is to spend yourself and try to get someone saved.

THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A MOMENT

In the wintertime the trees are alive
In the spring and summer the trees are dying.
Most people would think that these are untrue statements.
Most would think that the trees are living in the summer and dying in the winter.
It is in the winter that the trees are getting life to spend in the spring and summer.
It is in the spring and summer that the trees are spending the life they got in the winter.

When I plug my razor in to recharge, it is living.
When I use my razor, it is dying.
Using my razor takes up the energy that it got when it was recharging.
When the razor is recharging, it is storing up life to be spent again.

1 Cor 15:31 *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

What God is saying is that Paul serves daily.
Serving is spending your self for God's people.
Dying is time spent with our fellow Christians in service to them and for them.
Living is spending time with God where new life is received.

Look at this verse.

1 Tim 5:6 *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*
A woman that only thinks of herself is dead and not really living because she is not serving.

Death is the using up of life that you get when you spend time with God.

Rev 3:1 *And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write..... I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

The Christian life has two major parts

Living - Being plugged into heaven

Dying - Spending yourself serving others with the life you received from heaven.

THERE ARE TWO TRAGEDIES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Trying to die all the time

You can't live for others unless you spend some time getting life from heaven.
Only that which is alive can die. You must get life from heaven or you will have nothing to give.

Trying to live all the time

Becoming so enchanted with the prayer closet that you never take time to die.
This is like becoming a monk in a monastery.
He is of no value to his fellow man because he is not willing to die.

A balanced Christian life is one that spends hours alone with God getting life.
And then leaves the prayer closet and study to spend time with man dying.
To leave off the dying means there is no purpose in living
To leave off the getting of life will mean there is nothing that can die.

The Christian who does not spend time with God is starving himself and on their way to getting burned out.

It is a lot like breathing

When you read the Bible, you are inhaling or getting life.

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword,*

When you serve others and try to be what they need you to be you are exhaling or dying.
You are selfish because you don't spend time with God.
You don't get along with people because you don't spend time with God..
You have an attitude because you don't spend time with God.
You criticize because you don't spend time with God.
The main problem isn't what you think it is. The main problem is not them. The main problem is not their personality.
The main problem is that you don't take time for God.
You smell of death in your attitude and actions because you have not taken time to get any life.

Do you know how much Jesus spent time with God alone? MUCH TIME. **If He needed to** and He was sinless how much more do we need to?

Matt 14:23 *And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.*

Mark 6:46 *And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.*

Luke 6:12 *And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.*

Acts 6:4 *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

Ps 138:2b *.....for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*

The Word of God is very important to God.

What you do with the Word of God determines what God will do with you.

Isa 34:16 *Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.*

Reading the Word of God is so important to the Christian.

Spending time with God gives me strength to live for God. My Quiet time helps me die to self or flesh.

Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Rom 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

Rom 8:8 *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Rom 8:13 *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

The Flesh is defined as self. You are in the flesh when you live for yourself.

There is a lot in the Bible about meditating on the Word of God.

Josh 1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt **meditate** therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Ps 1:2 *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he **meditate** day and night.*

Ps 119:15 *I will **meditate** in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.*

Ps 119:23 *Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did **meditate** in thy statutes.*

Ps 119:48 *My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will **meditate** in thy statutes.*

Ps 119:78 *Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will **meditate** in thy precepts.*

Ps 119:97 *O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

Ps 119:99 *I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.*

1 Tim 4:15 ***Meditate** upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*

Meditation is in the Bible more than reading the Bible is. It is so important that you as a Christian think about good things and meditate on the scriptures.

Your flesh is not supposed to tell you what to do.

Your mind is supposed to tell you what to do.

Make your body take orders from a Bible filled headquarters.

Everyone finds it very difficult to exhale when you haven't inhaled.

You will begin to grow when your time with God becomes a priority in your life.

You must spend time with God.

You were made for God.....God made you in His image with an ability to know Him and walk with Him.....God made you for Himself.

The Purpose For A Quiet Time

Is. 50:4 *“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.”*

*Do you know why Dr. Gearis can give instruction from God? Because he has received God*s instruction. One of the biggest problems among preachers today, not knowing what God wants them to do, is that most have no purpose.*

Using five fingers on the hand, the five steps show you why you need to get the Word of God into your life:

1. Hear the Word of God (The pointing finger)

Romans 10:17; Revelation 2:7,17 This must be the starting place of every believer. No one ever was saved until he heard the Word of God first. This is why it is so important for new Christians to be faithful to Sunday school and preaching services.

2. Read the Word of God (The middle finger)

I Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3 You need to have a copy of the Word of God. Start carrying the Bible to church, and read it every day.

3. Study the Word of God (The ring finger)

Acts 17:11; II Timothy 2:15 There must come a place in your Christian life that you desire more than what the preacher can give you on Sunday morning. At this point, you are looking for what God is saying to you and not the whole world in general.

4. Memorize the Word of God (The little finger)

Deuteronomy 6:6; Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 7:1,3 At this point, you are more interested in the will of God for your life than anything else. You want to make God a part of your thought life.

5. Meditate on the Word of God (The thumb)

I Timothy 4:15; Psalms 1:1,2; Joshua 1:8 You are now to the place in your life of being given over to doing the will of God. Nearly everything you do is a result of the truths you have received from the Word of God.

These five steps are to get you to the place of doing the will of God. Proverbs 22:17, “Apply thine heart unto my knowledge.” Without the five fingers on the hand, you could never grab or take hold of things or apply the truth of God*s Word to your life.

The reason most people don*t do the will of God for their lives is that they don*t know what it is. No man ever feels he owes God anything until he knows God, but God will not make Himself known to anyone until there is a purpose and a life to carry it out. If you want to get saved and not go to Hell, God will make it known unto you. The reason preachers “dry up” is because of no purpose.

They don*t know what to do.

Five Essentials In Order To Have A Quiet Time

AMOS 3:3

- Scheduled Time** .to get up, to read, to pray.
- Scheduled Place** .that is quiet, that is out of the way.
- Scheduled Reading** .number of pages in the Old Testament, New Testament, and Proverbs.
- Scheduled Prayer List** .thanksgiving, confessing, others, power.

5. **Scheduled Notebook** .accountability to a piece of paper, Walking With God Notebook.

I. SOME THINGS GOD WILL MAKE US IF WE WALK WITH HIM!

A. Spiritually stronger

Job 16:5 *But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief.*

B. Wiser

Ps 119:99 *I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.*

C. Joyful

Job 22:21 *Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.*

John 15:11 *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

II. SOME THINGS THAT GOD WILL GIVE US IF WE WALK WITH HIM!

A. Light

B. Guidance

C. Power and strength

III. SOME THINGS THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR US IF WE WALK WITH HIM!

A. Arm against temptation

B. Song In our heart

C. Appropriate word for people we meet

Develop an expectant attitude in every part of your christian life. You must pray believing. You must read your bible believing God is going to give you something.

A. When I read the Bible, I expect to be fed.

B. When I pray, I expect to receive an answer.

C. When I give, I expect to receive.

D. When I go to church, I expect to be blessed.

E. When I go soulwinning, I expect to win one.

Develop an expectant attitude in every part of your Christian life. You could get one if you want one. If you can 't get a big one, get you a little one. You can alter your life by altering your attitude.

As long as there is no demand on your life from other people, you will never know that importance of having a quiet time. God is the only One who can equip you for today, because He knows already where you are going to be, what you are going to do, and who it is you are going to meet.