

GOOD MORNING, my beloved

I am so glad you are here today. I have been waiting for you for quite some time now. You didn't realize it but I have been here since last night. I didn't move from this very spot, because I knew you would be here this morning. So I decided to wait for you. I didn't want to risk missing you. You don't know how much I have been looking forward to this moment. I love you more that you could ever possibly realize. Since the beginning I have loved you with everlasting love. One that no human could ever fully understand, but my plan is to share a little more of this love with you this morning, there is nothing I wouldn't give to show you how much I love you. No cost is too high; my desire is to give you everything. Everything that is good and everything that you need, I came here today to give you life and to give it abundantly. There is nothing that you lack that I can not give you today. My dream is you and I walk together in power, in victory, and in joy.

I desire that because I care for you more than you care for yourself. I have never taken my eyes off you for a single moment, or twinkling of an eye. Now I am excited that you came here this morning, so that I can shower you with more. More of whatever it is you need in life. More power, more joy, more peace, and more of me in your life. And most of all, I am excited reveal a new aspect of my relationship with you. Today I am going to bring you one step closer to me and one step closer to the kingdom. There is nothing that gives me more pleasure than to give you the kingdom. My deepest and strongest desire is that we maybe one, as I, my father are one. That is why I am so glad you came this morning I have been waiting to spend this time with you. I do not want anything from you, I just want you. I do not want your time, I do not want your money, I do not even want your words. I just want your heart, I want you to be mine and I want to be yours that is why I am here this morning knocking at the door, I am coming to see you.

- God

Be Still and Listen

Quiet time, or devotion time, refers to our daily appointment with God, when we shut out as much outside interference as possible. During our quiet time, we may sing praise songs, pray, read Scripture or daily devotions, meditate on God's Word, or simply be still and listen. Making that appointment is one thing; keeping it is something else entirely!

The Outer Challenge

Quiet time is a goal that sounds simple, but which meets with greater challenges than many physical endurance contests. In America particularly, we live in a world of noise. Everywhere we go, even in our own homes, there is some kind of noise to distract us, from telephones to TV to traffic. But making time for daily devotion is critical to hearing God!

If we stop to think about it for a moment, we recognize that we live in enemy-occupied territory, so constructing an ideal spiritual surrounding is nearly impossible. Satan, our chief opponent, does not want us to spend quiet times with God. In fact, it is his goal to prevent that in any way possible. He knows that the more time we spend with God, the more like God we will become and the more we will be accomplishing God's goals on this earth. Satan does not want us to succeed.

God wants all people to be saved, but Satan wants us all to perish. Praise God because His plan is greater! Satan is no match for God, but he can trouble God's children, and he does. The next time you are finding it difficult to get away from the noise and get alone with God, remember who is standing in your way. Then remember who is greater!

The Inner Challenge

Quiet time involves an inner state of being, as well as an outward condition. Have you ever noticed that when you sit down to read your Bible or pray, your mind begins to wander or you suddenly remember what you needed at the grocery store? Inner "noise" can be just as troublesome as outer noise when it comes to having quiet time with God.

Our own human weaknesses combine with the enemy's efforts to keep us from God. There is a reason he is known as the Prince of the Power of the Air! But again, God is greater still. Defeating the inner noise can be done, but it requires commitment and discipline.

What's the Big Deal? Why Is It Important?

Quiet time can be so difficult to prioritize. It's tempting to make excuses or just not bother. Preparing our hearts to hear from God requires a focused effort. Noise, whether outside or

inside, distracts us. If we fail to understand the importance of having a regular, committed quiet time with God, we are not likely to hear His voice... the One that whispers, "This is the way; walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21).

God longs to spend time with us. Consider what He was willing to do for us, in order to reunite us with Him. Is it asking too much that we devote daily time to Him?

Jesus set the example for us concerning quiet time. He took time to connect with the Father regularly, as the following Scriptures tell us:

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray'" (Matthew 26:36).

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mark 1:35).

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16).

When Should I Meet with God?

Quiet time is such an easy habit to forget, especially if we haven't yet made it a priority. It's all too tempting to slip our lives into cruise control and forget that we need to gas up the engine before we can go anywhere. We may already have a grip on the Bible, the owner's manual of life, but without a daily filling we're in danger of burning out, running on empty, stalling on the side of the road. Yes, we can always put in a call to God's "auto club," but why not be prepared before the emergency occurs? King David sought God daily before he went into battle. Maybe you know the familiar melody put to the words of Psalm 5. If you do, sing it now:

"Give ear to my words, O Lord. Consider my meditation. Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God. For unto Thee will I pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning. O Lord in the morning, will I direct my prayer unto Thee and will look up."

What a great pattern for us to follow! Setting aside quiet time to seek Him everyday reminds us that we rely on Him everyday! Seeking Him every morning, putting the day in His control before it gets out of control, is the best way to be sure we're ready for whatever comes our way.

Finally, do you desire to hear from God? Are you passionate about wanting His will in your life, above your own? Daily quiet time prepares your heart to listen. You may "hear" Him speak to you in those quiet moments... or you may hear Him through a friend or circumstance later in the day. But because you've made time with Him a priority and have been willing to shut out the world to hear Him, He will make sure you do.