

Quiet Time
Fall Discipleship Conference
September 26, 2015

1. Tell him why.
2. Show him how.
3. Get him started.
4. Keep him going.

I Tell Him Why

Why have a Quiet Time?

Luke 10:38-42 Martha was 'distracted' with much serving.
Martha, one thing is needful...

The most important thing in our life is fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Martha's problem was busyness and distracted with worldliness.

ONE thing is needful! To sit at Jesus' feet and hear His Word.

The Quiet Time is:

- 1) A time when we get alone with Jesus Christ to have fellowship with HIM.
I Corinthians 1:9

How important is our fellowship to Jesus?

- 2) It is a time for spiritual cleansing.

Luke 22 where Peter denied the Lord. Verse 61 tells us, "The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter." A look from the Lord Jesus Christ reminded Peter of his sin. Peter weeps and repents! Have you had the Lord look at you?

- 3) Spiritual strengthening.

The world is reeling from one disaster after another. Look at the news! The homosexual agenda is being carried out in America, abortion on demand, same-sex marriage, chaos in the Middle East, economic cataclysm lurking around the corner.... Men do not know which way to turn!

Isaiah 40:28-31 Even youths shall faint and young men fall exhausted. BUT they that wait on the Lord..... The secret is they that WAIT on the Lord.

What is WAIT?

Strong's Expository Dictionary: to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect:—gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon). To twist, to bind; whence a rope. To be strong, robust (for the notion of binding fast, tying fast. We do this in the QT. They that WAIT on the Lord won't "run out of gas!" (Jerry Bridges)

4) The key to the Abiding Life.

John 15:4-5 "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

(Ask the branch how it produced that cluster of grapes. Not a workshop on the five ways to be a successful grape producer.)

II Show Him How

1) The Quiet Time is fellowship with Jesus Christ. Fellowship requires dialogue; give and take. A conversation. Jesus speaks to us through His Word and we speak to Him through prayer. Just make certain that when HE speaks; you listen!

I used to sit down for my Quiet Time with my Bible Reading Plan, devotional book(s), prayer list, and scripture memory verses. Many times, when I finished, I felt out of breath! How do you feel when you are trying to have a conversation with someone and they have one eye on the clock and are trying to rush you out of the room? This is not really fellowship.

2) Keep your objective clear. The objective is to have fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ! Not, complete your Bible Study assignment, prepare a sermon or Sunday School lesson, read through the Bible, cover your prayer list, etc. It may be that you only cover a couple of verses. The Word is the basis for the Quiet Time, whether one verse, one chapter, or one book! What you do in the Word is not so important as the objective!

Use a Bible that you are not afraid to mark in, preferably one without too much commentary. I have been distracted by too many comments in various Bibles. Instead of pausing to consider what God might be saying to me, I quickly jump to the commentary to see what said to that writer. His Spirit is right there to apply His Word to your heart. I Corinthians 2:12.

3) The Quiet Time is a time of worshipping the Lord.

To stop and recognize who Jesus Christ is and to adore Him for his attributes.

JESUS CHRIST is:

INFINITE - Jesus has no limits or boundaries.

Colossians 1:16 "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him."

IMMUTABLE - Jesus never changes.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

ETERNAL - Jesus has no Beginning or End.

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

Matthew 28:20 "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

OMNISCIENT - Jesus Knows Everything.

John 1:48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

OMNIPRESENT - Jesus is Everywhere.

Matthew 28:20 "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

OMNIPOTENT - Jesus is All-Powerful

John 1:3 "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

SOVEREIGN - Jesus is the Supreme Ruler

Revelation 19:16 "And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'"

Attributes Which Describe the Moral Nature of Jesus:

HOLY - Jesus is All Good and is Absent Any Evil.

Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

JUST - Jesus is Fair in His Dealing with Man.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

LOVE - Jesus seeks the Highest Good for Man

Romans 8:35a "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

TRUE - Jesus is Consistent with Reality and is Never Self-Contradictory.
John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

4) Take your time. Read as though you were having a conversation with God. When He speaks, meditate, think deeply about what He has said and pray your response back to Him. Meditation is how you get the Word into your spiritual bloodstream. Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:2-3.

Ask:

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a lesson to learn?

Is there a new truth to carry with me?

5) Pray for others. Not bless so-in-so, but be specific. Follow the pattern of Paul's prayers for others in Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:16ff and 3:16ff.

6) Keep a notebook handy to record at least one thought that God has given you for the day.

If the President of the US were to walk into the room, we would all rise to our feet; if Jesus Christ were to walk in, we would all fall our faces and worship Him!

Don't rush and try to get everything done! The objective is for God to speak to me through His Word and I respond to Him in prayer.

III Get Him Started

1) When? The time of day when you are least distracted.

2) Start small. "Seven Minutes With God" by Robert Foster (pdf available online)

3) Let's practice with Psalm 111.

IV Keep Him Going

John 6:66-69