

Morning Thoughts: Quiet Time the Counts

Our times with God are what connect us with him every day. They are what fuel us up for the spiritual walk. Ask yourself the questions: What am I going to study? Where and what time am I going to spend this time with God?

Imitate the Bereans (Acts 17:10)

Those who dare to be close to God do so on a daily basis. Imitate the “Three E’s” of the Bereans - 1) Eagerness, 2) Examined the Scriptures and 3) Every Day. Deciding to spend time with God is a decision that will change your life and help you to have a noble character in the eyes of God.

Pray for Wisdom (James 1:5-6)

So many times we lack the power in our times with God because we are studying out the “wrong thing”. It may seem weird that you can study the “wrong thing” in the Bible, because it is all the Word of God, but sometimes we can do just that. We randomly open the Bible and start reading and we may miss what we need for that day. We need to take the time to ask God for wisdom. My advice is to study your Bible in a way that will meet your current needs, and go back to you Bible in a Year program when you are ready. For me, it is much more powerful if I am reading something that is connected to my personal life. Pray about the following questions:

- Q: What do I need right now in my life?
- Q: With all that is going on, what is the area I need to focus on?
- Q: What is something that you are struggling with right now?
- Q: What is an area that I need to change?
- Q: What is a strength that I need to develop?
- Q: Is there a part of the Bible that I have neglected?

If you don’t have a personal topic to study, then ask spiritual people in your life for some suggestions, based on what they see. I was inspired last year to get an email from a friend who was asking people in his life some simple questions: ‘Why do you pray? What do you pray about? How does this help you?’ It wasn’t that he had never prayed before, but he was looking for input and ideas, so he could change something he was working on. He was asking God and others for wisdom.

Great Expectation (Lamentations 3:22-25; Psalm 5:3)

Lamentations 3:22-25 - This passage is one that always inspires me because in one of the saddest times in the history of God's people, the time before they were taken into captivity, Jeremiah still found new hope daily in God. He trusted God and was rewarded each day and over his entire lifetime. Do you expect to change on a daily basis because of your relationship with God? What is a area of your life that you need new faith and hope in? God wants change your heart, attitude, and faith today!

Psalm 5:3 - You can feel the excitement and anticipation as David starts his day with prayer. He is looking throughout the day to see God answer his prayer. This is important in three ways: 1) to start our day off with faith and 2) to see God when he answers and 3) to thank him when he does.

Q: Do we start our day off with prayer?

Q: Do you have a set place to go where you can focus on God?

Q: How is your faith when you pray?

Stay Focused (Hebrews 12:1-3)

God always calls us to put him first in our lives above everything and everyone else. In this way we honor him and put our trust in him. Distractions, worries, and sin can keep us from connecting with God. As we come to him let us throw off everything that hinders.

You can hear God saying, "Stay Focussed on Jesus!" He is the one who untangles our sin and tears away any hindrances in our lives. We can feel like we are having a challenging time, until we remember him. We can feel that no one cares for us, until we see that we are his joy. He focussed on us and wants us to focus on him.

Q: Who am I focussed on today?

Q: Do I have any sins that I need to untangle/confess?

Q: What priorities would Jesus set for my day today?

Focus for the Day:

Make it your ambition to have a "quiet time that counts" everyday this week