

Dwell Daily with God

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God;

REFLECTION

We are privileged to share some beautiful property with Paul's family we call The Valley. It is hills and trees, two sets of bluffs, a trout stream. 3 cabins, one of them being ours, are nestled below one bluff. It is remote, set 1 mile off the road. We have no TV, cell phone or computer service. A true retreat from the world. We thoroughly enjoy starting our day sitting on the covered deck sipping on a hot cup of coffee observing the activities in the valley below and the bluff above with the sound of water rushing over the rocks in the background. There is a variety of wild life including deer, turkey, bald eagles, geese, birds, hummingbirds and much more. God's presence is all around us. On a clear night with no city lights to detract from the view the night sky is amazing. It is impossible to gaze at it and not marvel at the awesomeness of God's creation and the God who created it. And then it's time to go. We drive up the hill to reenter the real world where life and busyness await us. E-mails, phone messages, laundry, work, household tasks and so much more need to be taken care of. If only we could take the peace of The Valley with us.

We can have peace in our everyday life despite circumstances and busyness around us.

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

The first issue we need to settle is that we must know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. 1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. John 14:6 I am the way, the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father except by me. These verses tell us we need to know Jesus in order to have life and to come to the Father. If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior you need to do that today by confessing you are a sinner. Acknowledging that Jesus died for your sins and confess that He is your Lord and Savior. Without Jesus we can't dwell with God or have God's peace.

The next issue is to be filled with the Spirit. Look up 1 John 4:15. It tells us that if we have given our life to Jesus by acknowledging Him as the Son of God then God _____ in us and we _____ in God.

In John 14:16-17 Jesus promised to send _____ to believers after His death. Where did He say this advocate will be?

Read in Acts 2:1-4. Who was the Advocate? _____ He came and _____ everyone present. Once you know Christ as your Lord and Savior you can have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you.

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 we are God's _____ and God's Spirit _____ in us?

Read 1 John 4:13. We know He lives in us and we live in Him because He has given us _____

Why is it important to know that God dwells in us through His spirit? Romans 8:2 tells us the Spirit _____ for us according to _____

Romans 8:26 the Spirit _____ us in our weakness. When we do not know what to pray the Spirit _____ for us.

According to John 4:23-24 God is _____ and He desires His worshippers to worship in the _____.

So for us who know Jesus and have the Spirit dwelling in us what are the benefits of dwelling with God?

Psalms 27: 4-5, Psalm 31:20 and Psalm 91:9-10 all talk about being _____ if dwelling with the Lord.

Read Psalm 91. List 3 benefits for those who dwell with God.

Read Psalm 62:5-8. List 3 more benefits God has for us.

In Matthew 11:28-30 what does Jesus invite us to do?

And what does He tell us He will do? _____

So then, how do we dwell with God?

Read Isaiah 26: 3-4 The first thing you need to do is _____. (verse 4)

The second is to keep our minds _____ on God. (Verse 3) NLT says whose thoughts are fixed on you.

We've seen in the previous lesson that God is trustworthy. So how do we keep ourselves steadfast on God?

Read Philippians 4: 8-9. It tells us to fix our thoughts on what kinds of things?

Galatians 5:19-21 gives us a long list of things to avoid. List several.

This would also be things we should AVOID thinking about or fixing our thoughts on.

In Joshua 1:8 God tells Joshua to meditate on the Book of the Law _____.
_____. The Book of The Law is God's Word, The Bible.

Notice He didn't say now and then or when it's convenient. He said day and night. Every day! Some of my best quiet times have been when I had a long to do list but I forced myself to take time out first to be with God. He would set my priorities and thinking right. Then I would have a very fruitful, often enjoyable day.

The greatest reason for us to seek God and dwell with Him is because He longs for us to. Read Isaiah 55:1-3. What is God asking us to do?

Genesis 1:26 tells us we were created in the image of _____.

Before the fall, Genesis 3:8 tells us God walked in the garden in the _____.
_____. This would imply that He fellowshiped with Adam and Eve.

God wants fellowship with us so badly that He came to earth and died a horrible death so He could restore the fellowship with man that He had before the fall.

James 4:8 assures us that if we spend time with God He will _____ to us.

You need: to realize this is decision you have to make. You choose what to focus on and how to spend your time and energy. If you don't make a deliberate choice life will decide for you. We have all wondered, at times, where our time has gone and what we have accomplished.

What time of the day is best to spend with God? David started his day with God. Look at Psalm 5:2-4. David prayed _____. In Psalm 88:13. David prayed _____. This is a good time because it puts your mind on God for the day. It also puts God's word before you so you can meditate on it throughout

the day. However, everyone's life is different so you have to do what works for you. The important thing is; DO IT!

KEY THOUGHT: Spend time DAILY with God.

APPLICATION

Let's go back to the first issue. If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you need to do that. Pray this prayer if you truly mean it. Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I know you came to save me from myself. I know you were sinless and died to pay the penalty for my sins. I ask you to forgive my sins. I accept the sacrifice you made for me. I ask you to be my Lord and Savior.

Welcome to God's family and the Body of Christ!

The second issue is to be filled with the Spirit. As soon as you prayed the prayer above you became God's dwelling place. Ask the Spirit to come into you and fill you. Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you. Pray, "Holy Spirit fill me." Matthew 7:8 For everyone who asks receives. The outward sign of being filled with The Spirit is speaking in tongues. Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Let this happen. You have to allow the Spirit to speak. He will not force you to do anything. Open your mouth and let the sound or sounds come out. It may start as one syllable. Say it. Keep repeating it. It will grow into other syllables and eventually a language. Don't let Satan tell you this is foolishness. Read 1Corinthians 2:12-14. It tells us that these are words taught to us by _____ expressing _____ truths in _____ words. It also tells us that the Man without the Spirit _____ accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, They are _____. Believe you have received the filling of the Spirit and keep practicing speaking in tongues. Start with 5 minutes and keep progressing the time you are speaking in tongues.

Now you need to make a commitment to God and yourself that you will spend time DAILY in God's Word. It takes 21 days to make something a habit. Write out your commitment including the amount of time and the time of day you will spend with God. You may want to commit to 21 day to make this a habit. You may start with 5 minutes or 1 hour, whatever is right for you. You may want to choose a particular place to have your quiet time. My now adult daughter commented once about always seeing Mom with her Bible on the couch each morning when she got up. The important thing is to start and to do it daily! Write out your commitment

Now that you've committed to daily time with God what do you do? Have a plan. Praising God will usher you into His presence. You may want to use praise music or you may make praise statements declaring who and what God is. Out loud is good. There are many ways to approach God's Word. One approach is to Read 1 chapter in Psalms, the chapter in Proverbs for the Day, (Proverbs has 31 chapters so there is there is 1 chapter for each day of the month) and 1chapter in the New Testament. The Gospel of John is a good place to start. Pick out one statement that speaks to you. It is a good idea to journal those things and what it speaks to you. Meditate on that (think about it) through the day. Listen for what God is saying to you through this word. End your time with God with prayer about what He showed you and with your requests of Him. Remember always to thank Him for answering your prayers. Believe you've received the answer before you see it. Mark 12:24.

Start here journaling your next 5 days.

Day1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4 _____

Day 5 _____
