

DELVE DEEPER

THROUGH BIBLE STUDY & PERSONAL REFLECTION

hearing from God... in silence

. . this study is to be used with the following blog post . .
<http://hugsandpunches.com/god-calling-and-embracing-silence/>

There is so much to be learned as we remove distractions or schedules and simply spend time in solitude with Christ. We learn first what we think of ourselves, whether we're comfortable with who we are. Or perhaps we're reminded of the ugliness and imperfections we try to drone out with the blaring of life.

It also allows Him to talk to us. To speak to our hearts.

Imagine being alone with God. No distraction of radio or television. No agenda. Just being together. Does the idea of this make you anxious? Or does it appeal to you? Why do you think it does?

"If you're lonely when you're alone then you're in bad company." -Jean Paul Sartre
What does this quote mean to you?

I encourage you to not only read the words in the verses below, but pray them. Stop and take a few moments to sit quietly with the Lord and let Him impress things onto your heart.

Remember, don't talk to Him the whole time...give Him a chance to speak with you.

Now to the God who can do so many awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things, things greater than we ever could ask or imagine through the power at work in us, to Him be all glory in the church and in Jesus the Anointed from this generation to the next, forever and ever. Amen.
{Ephesians 3:20-21 - The Voice}

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Take a few moments to journal. What awe-inspiring things do you feel Christ leading you to? Even if it seems crazy, totally out of grasp...is there something in the nether-regions of your heart that you feel Christ may be stirring up?

This is My command: be strong and courageous. Never be afraid or discouraged because I am your God, the Eternal One, and I will remain with you wherever you go.
{Joshua 1:9 - The Voice}

Have you ever heard of Jabez? His story is but a quick blip in the Bible, yet his prayer is one to pray daily:

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.
{1 Chronicles 4:10 - NIV}

Pray that the Lord will enlarge your territory! Expand the dreams you have for yourself!

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
{Isaiah 55:8-9 - NRSV}

Do you believe Him? Do you trust Christ enough to give Him not only your life, but your dreams? Why or why not?

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For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

{Jeremiah 29:11 - NIV}

.. be challenged ..

Spend time in silence this week.

Maybe it's 15 minutes driving home from taking the kids to school, or on your way to work. Perhaps it's while on a run or doing dishes or ironing.

Be silent before the Lord, He may not speak to you the first time you have a time of quiet...but I promise you, He most certainly will as you continue to calm your heart and mind and focus on Him.

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

{James 4:8a - NIV}

.. pray ..

Lord Jesus, You are so good and faithful. You knew me before I was born {Psalm 139:13,14}, designing me for a good and exciting purpose.

With all my heart, I pray Your blessings would rain upon me as You enlarge my territory. Help me trust You enough to give You everything. Because I know Your ways are awe-inspiring, You do immeasurable things, things greater than I ever could ask or imagine. Though it both excites and scares me, I want to be part of that. Part of Your plan...not my own.

Please help me quiet my heart before You as I seek to know what it is You have for me, as I live for You. Amen.

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'.

{Erma Bombeck}

Remember, great things have never come from comfort zones. Don't stay in yours.