



Diving Deep in God's Word

by Tim Tripp

October
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I think most Christians have the desire to be involved in regular study and deep engagement of God's word. I also suspect that many or most don't experience that on a regular basis. There are at least two things that challenge Christians who desire to experience a quality quiet time daily. One is the challenge of motivation and organization to set aside the time for a daily quiet time experience. The second is how to study in a way to not only gain a better understanding of scripture but also to experience God's presence and a deeper relationship with Him.

I'm guessing that I am not alone when it comes to experiencing the struggle with making the time to do a regular quiet time each day. A daily quiet time is such a strong weapon in the battle against the dark spiritual forces that it should not seem strange that Satan would make it difficult. The best way to start a regular quiet time is to choose a time slot in your day and block it off on your calendar so that you will not plan anything else during that block of time. Some like mornings before work or the start of the day. Some get up very early to avoid being disturbed by others. Some like to do it at night right before bedtime. There is no magical time or right time. Just pick one that works for you and then defend it against things, even good things, that try to get in the way. For me, it is important to choose a time and a place for my quiet time that is less likely to have people infringe upon it. My time is usually in the mornings before I come to the office. I do it at my home. It has been a good time and place that works well for me. Of course, there are still things that come up that cause the need to abbreviate, change or even miss it but I must make that the exception not the rule.

Once a time is chosen and blocked off, the next hurdle is to avoid being caught in the habit of quick readings and rote prayers. Routine things can easily become mindlessly repeated just for the sake of doing it. That could certainly limit the benefit you receive from a daily quiet time. My goal for quiet time is to experience God in his word and in prayer. I want to hear from the Holy Spirit about what I should see in the passages I read. I want to hear him affirm my plans or show me needed changes. Lately, I have been using a quiet time journal to help me. In my quiet time I read a chapter or several depending on time and write a summary of what I took from them. I list my prayer concerns and be sure to reference the list when I pray. I also write what I believe God is wanting me to hear or see or do from the time spent with him. I also take some time to do nothing. I just try to be quiet in his presence and let God guide my thoughts. I feel that with this routine I have experienced God's presence in my quiet time more than ever. I would invite you to adopt my routine as well if you are looking for ways to deepen your quiet times. I pray that God will use them to guide you as he has me.

Maybe there is someone reading this who has yet to insert a regular quiet time into their day. Let me encourage you to start. I believe that you will gain so much from spending time with God in his word, through prayer and through just being quiet. I wish you blessings as you dive deep into God's word.

DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Recently I was reading a study that brother Flavil R. Yeakley, did about the Churches of Christ in the US. By 1975, The Church had a growing percentage of only 1%!! That number was alarming back then, but as we know or familiar today, so many congregations are closing the doors because they are dying. Today I know a few congregations that are almost empty, having an attendance of few members only. And what I have seen in my experience, is that many of those congregations somewhere along the way, stopped doing "evangelistic work" for some reason or another. Members who were attending church, became still on doing the work of going to share the Good News, the Gospel of Salvation to their families, friends, neighbors and much less, to the strangers. Something happened about inviting others to church, to their homes to have bible studies. Many have been faithful attending services and bible classes at church, but have not been teaching to friends, families, neighbors or to a strangers (well, today is dangerous to invite strangers to our house) Time has had an influence on the Christian that has made life so busy with work, and activities not related to the church. For so many, spending so many hours at the office has taken the place of spending time outdoors, connecting with people, making friends to reach them. Now, when I read in the Scriptures about the life of the Christians back then, the moment when a person was converted to be a Christian, he or she started to follow Jesus, doing the walk, the work, the sacrifice, since day one. No matter if that person was rich or poor. Those who were converted by heart and soul, became strong disciples of the Lord, so strong that many gave their life (literally) because they believed in Jesus Christ as The Lord of their lives.To be continued next week...

Gathering Times

Sunday Morning 10 Am Worship
& Kids for Christ
ages 1yr-5th grade

In- Person Adult/Teen Bible Study
Wednesdays 6:30pm - Room 3 & Cornerstone

Friendship Cafe and Conversational Christianity
Sunday Mornings at 8:45

In- person Adult Bible Study
Sunday Mornings at 9am

West Side News

It's Friends & Family Day!

Join us this afternoon

at

Old Post Park Pavilion # 8

4-6pm

Pulled pork will be provided.

Please bring side dishes, desserts and canned drinks.

Baby Shower

Next week, October 17th,

we will be at Old Post Park again for a baby girl
shower in honor of Erin Grice Putman at 2pm!

(also in Pavilion #8)

Erin and Cory are registered at babylist.com

www.babylist.com/baby-erin-putman

Sign up for WS emails at
westsidear.org/subscribe

Week of: 10-3-2021

Weekly Giving: \$ 12,929

Attendance

Weekly Budget: \$ 13,820

Sunday AM - 293

YTD Giving: \$ 538,750

Wednesday PM -125

YTD Budget: \$ 552,790

Family Illness and Recovery

Please continue to remember Sid Womack and family as he battles esophageal cancer. Pray for effective treatment, strength, and complete healing.

Margaret Grant is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on October 26th. Please pray for successful surgery, lessened pain, and a rapid recovery.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Mark Hixson and family in the recent loss of his grandfather Joseph Borden of Fort Smith. Please keep Mark and Sandi and the entire family in your prayers for comfort and peace during this time of loss.

OTHER NEWS

Transportation Assistance

Randy Powell has offered to provide transportation to anyone needing assistance in that area, especially for doctor's appointments. He has experience loading wheelchairs and would love to help out if needed. Feel free to reach out to him directly at 479-567-4235, or if you prefer, you can call the office and let your need be known.

Cookbook

It's time to order your copy of the new West Side Delights Cookbook! Order forms are available at the Friendship Cafe as well as the West Side Friends & Family facebook page.

Cookbooks will be here December 5th!

\$20 each and proceeds benefit our KFC program!

Love. Share. Disciple.