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Spending Time With God

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Luke 2:46-51 "46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them 51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart." KJV

Jesus' priority was to his Father, knowing that there was a call on his life, but his attitude was submissive and obedience to his parents.

Luke 2:52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." KJV

What takes place as a result of spending time with God? There is an exchange that takes place .

The busyness of our lives must not take the place of our time with God. Our priority must be to Him. He must be #1.

Isa 40:28-31 "28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. 29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. 31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." KJV

Renew or change - exchange of natural ability over into super natural ability which knows no limits. This exchange comes as a result of waiting on the Lord or spending time with Him.

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" KJV

Luke 18:11 ALSO [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up). " AMP

This is the exchange as a result of spending time with Him.

We must realize the importance of spending time in the Word, in prayer or in a devotion time on a daily basis with the Lord. Statistics show that less than 10% of Christians have this kind of time on a daily basis. If we want a premium walk with Jesus, there is a cost involved. Most of the cost is a consecration or commitment to Him. Attending church, fellowshiping with other Christians is necessary, but it does not take the place of spending time with Jesus.

Mark 8:34-37 "34 And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interests] and take up his cross, and (joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party) follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me]. 35 For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for My sake and the Gospel's will save it [his higher, spiritual life in the eternal kingdom of God]. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life [in the eternal kingdom of God]? 37 For what can a man give as an exchange (a compensation, a ransom, in return) for his [blessed] life [in the eternal kingdom of God]?" AMP

The higher life involves helping people, walking in love, walking in forgiveness and will do away with the lower life, the temporal life subject to change, things that will pass away.

An exchange was given to Daniel as he prayed and God began to show him things to come. Jesus drew apart and prayed and the exchange was that he laid hands on the sick and they were healed and miracles began to occur.

Luke 6:10-12 "And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other. 11 And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might

do to Jesus.¹²And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." KJV

Luke 5:16-17 "16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. 17And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them." KJV

There will always be an exchange that will take place in our lives when we begin to spend time with the Lord. A growing and development in our lives as a result of the exchange.

James shared with his people an exchange which is not the exchange that we want, but due to our life styles, this is the result. We have nothing on which to hook our faith to, we have become so involved with satisfying our flesh, and this is a bad exchange.

James 5:5 Here] on earth you have abandoned yourselves to soft (prodigal) living and to [the pleasures of] self-indulgence and self-gratification. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter." AMP

James 5:5 But all you'll have to show for it is a fatter than usual corpse." Message

We must take control of our flesh and our inability to prioritize our time. We need a daily renewal in our soulful realm.

How do we begin to grow in the Lord?

1 Tim 4:11-16 "11These things command and teach. 12Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity 13Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine 14Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery 15Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all 16Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." KJV

How do we begin to develop our time? There must be a desire to grow, spending time with God and in the Word. Being obedient and a doer of the Word.

Let this 15 minute quiet time be a guide for us to use.

1 minute - adoration, praise and worship

1 minute - confession, repentance ie: bad or wrong attitudes

1 minute - being thankful, having thanksgiving

2 minutes - petitions, asking the Lord for specific things

Phil 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" KJV

Acts 4:29-31 "29And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus 31And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" KJV

If we will follow the first 5 minutes, it will begin to move our mind and thoughts over on Jesus where the answer is in the Word of God. There may be seasons in our lives where more time will be needed.

10 minutes - in the Word, reading and meditating. The amount read is not the important thing as what we receive from the Word that we read. Meditating and retaining the Word is the goal.