

What Does it Mean to Be - “Alone With God?”

Lorraine Day, M.D.

“When they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.” Mark 4:34

“Jesus doesn’t take us aside and explain things to us all the time; He explains things to us as we are able to understand them.

“I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.” John 16:12

“We can only be used by God after we allow Him to show us the deep, hidden areas of our own character. It is astounding how ignorant we are about ourselves! We don’t even recognize the envy, laziness, or pride within us when we see it. But Jesus will reveal to us everything we have held within ourselves before His grace began to work. How many of us have learned to look inwardly with courage?

“We have to get rid of the idea that we understand ourselves. That is always the last bit of pride to go. The only One who understands us is God. The greatest curse in our spiritual life is pride. . . Whenever there is any element of pride or conceit remaining, Jesus can’t teach us anything. He will allow us to experience heartbreak or the disappointment we feel when our intellectual pride is wounded. Many things are shown to us, often without effect. But when God gets us alone over them, they will be clear.

Getting “Alone with God” often requires a disaster in your life

“When He was alone. . . the twelve asked Him about the parable.” Mark 4:10

“When God gets us alone through suffering, heartbreak, temptation, disappointment, sickness, or by thwarted desires - - when He gets us absolutely alone, and we are totally speechless, unable to ask even one question, then He begins to teach us. Notice Jesus Christ’s training of the Twelve. It was the disciples, not the crowd outside, who were confused.

“His disciples constantly asked Him questions, and He constantly explained things to them, but they didn’t understand until after they received God’s Spirit. There are vast areas of stubbornness and ignorance God’s Spirit has to reveal in each of us, but it can only be done when Jesus gets us alone. Are we alone with Him now? Or are we more concerned with our own ideas, friendships and the cares of this world? Jesus cannot teach us anything until we quiet all our intellectual questions and get alone with Him.” O. Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, Jan 12,13

We live busy lives. Our days often feel like one unending to-do list. Finding time every day to be still and communicate with God is a hard thing to do. And even if we are able to find the time, who even knows what a "quiet time" is supposed to look like?

In Mark 1:35, Jesus gives us an example of what quiet time should be.

“And in the morning, rising very early, still in the night, He came out and came away into a desolate place, and there He prayed.” Mark 1:35

Jesus got up very early in the morning, left the house and went to a solitary place to pray.

This one verse gives us three steps to help us have alone time with God on a regular basis.

First-We must set a time and routine. By rising early and making Jesus the first thing we focus our attention on, we can set the tone for our entire day.

Second-Jesus removed Himself from distraction so that His time with God is completely focused. For us, maybe this means getting out of bed and sitting at a desk or kitchen table. Wherever it is, like Jesus, we need to be in a focused, distraction-free location.

Third-Jesus went to a solitary place. He was alone for a time with God. Get alone with God on a regular basis, and it will change your life.

We must have time alone with our Creator to hear what He is saying to us. Though it may seem like a daunting feat at first, having daily, intentional time with the Lord is essential. It is so essential, in fact, that even Jesus needed it and provided a model for us to follow.

Our life is filled with busyness!

Unfortunately, the vast majority of people are so consumed with trivia that they

have no time to spend alone with God: Facebook, twitter, instagram, movies, TV, and every other distraction consumes everyone's day. Some have trouble finding time to work. Even Christians seem to have little time to spend alone with God. The little time they do find for "religious activity" is spent in working for the church, where they are often surrounded by fellow Christians, and receive kudos - and even awards - for their work for the church. Yet they, themselves, as well as their fellow Christians believe they are "working for God" when they are really working for "the church" - an organization under the complete jurisdiction of "man" (the state - because the church is a 501c3 tax exempt organization) which is very different from doing God's will.

Removing the Veil

"But even if our gospel (Good News) is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel (Good News) of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." 2 Cor 4:3-4

Theologians of various persuasions have varying interpretations of this text. Most pastors believe that people can "accept" Jesus Christ of their own volition - if they "choose" to do so. But Jesus says,

"No one can come to Me UNLESS the Father draws him."

The word "draws" is a slight misinterpretation by the Bible translators. The verse really reads:

"No one can come to Me UNLESS the Father DRAGS him."

A Major Crisis must develop in our life before we can come to Christ. If everything is going fine in our life, we don't need God - - - because we're "doing fine" on our own! That's why Jesus promised us,

"In this world you SHALL have tribulation. . ." John 16:33

But Jesus prefaces those words in the following way:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

And if we go further back in that chapter, we will find the context in which Jesus was speaking:

“If the world hates you, know that it hated Me first, before you. If you were of the world, the world would be fond of its own. Now, seeing that you are NOT of the world, but I choose you OUT of the world, therefore the world will be hating you.

“Remember the words that I spoke to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecute Me, they will persecute you also. If they keep My words, they will also keep yours. But all these things will they be doing to you because of My name (character), seeing that they are not acquainted with Him Who sends Me.’” John 15:17-21

The “Secret Rapture” is a FALSE Doctrine!

This tells us clearly that there is No “Secret Rapture.” The followers of Jesus Christ WILL go through persecution – on earth - during the time of trouble. They will NOT be secretly “raptured” out of the earth to be “having a party” in heaven while others suffer on this earth.

These things I have spoken to you that you may not be snared, for they will be putting you out of the synagogues; but the hour is coming when everyone who is killing you will believe he is offering divine service to God. And these things they will be doing to you, for they do not know the Father, nor even Me. But these things I have spoken to you that, whenever their hour may be coming, you may be remembering them, see that I told you.

“Now these things I did not tell you from the beginning, because I was with you. Yet now, I am going away to Him Who sent Me, and not one of you is asking Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

“But I am telling you the truth. It is expedient for you that I am going away, for if I were not going away, **the consoler** would not be coming to you.”
John 16:1-7

The correct translation given here - the “consoler” - is the word often mistranslated as “Holy Spirit” in the King James version and most other Bible versions in other texts.

“Now, when I am gone, I will send **him** to you. And, when **he** comes, he will be exposing the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judging: John 16:8

Notice that “the Consoler” is referred to as **him** and **he** in the text above.

“Concerning sin, indeed, because they are not believing in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I am going away to My Father, and no longer will you be beholding Me; yet concerning judging, because that the chief of this world (Satan) has been judged.

“I still have much to say to you, but you are not able to bear it at present.

Read WHY the disciples were not able to bear it at that time!

“Yet whenever **that** may be coming - - the spirit of truth - - **it** will be guiding you into ALL the truth, for **it** will not be speaking from itself, but whatsoever **it** should be hearing will it be speaking, and of what is coming will **it** be informing you.” John 16:11-15

Notice that in the texts directly above, the “Consoler” is referred to as **that** and **it**.

Is the “Holy Spirit” a person – a being?

Almost all pastors and theologians believe – and teach – that because the pronouns **he** and **him** are used to describe the **Consoler** (what they mistranslate as “Holy Spirit”), the Consoler is a person. But they ignore the following texts that refer to the consoler as **that** and **it**.

The answer to the confusion is that the Greek, like the Spanish language, requires that the adjectives or pronouns reflect gender. A house in Spanish is la casa (female gender). That obviously does **not** mean that a house is an actual woman. What it does mean is that **casa** is a feminine noun in Spanish, so it is preceded by a feminine adjective.

The Consoler (aka Holy Spirit) is spoken of as both he/him and that/it because of the syntax of the Greek language, NOT because the “Consoler” (or Holy Spirit) is an actual person. The Consoler is the essence/character of Jesus Christ who is with everyone, even though Jesus is not physically present on earth. After all, Jesus Christ is God – in human form – and God can be everywhere at once!

If Jesus had remained on earth, in human form, He could **not** have been with everyone at once. That’s why Jesus said it was **expedient** that He go away!

So, Why could the disciples not understand UNTIL the Consoler came?

Because, it is only the spirit of God who can open our eyes to see truth. The disciples could not understand what Jesus was telling them - - until Pentecost, after they had been through the terrible grief and disappointment of Jesus’

crucifixion, thinking that that the One the disciples considered as their Messiah, was dead. It was only then, when they were truly searching for God, and became changed men because they were filled with God's spirit – his character and disposition - that God was able to “open their minds, eyes, and hearts” to understand truth.

In this passage in John, chapter 16, Jesus was telling them that they would have tribulation in the world. Jesus' disciples said to Him:

“Lo! Now with boldness You are speaking, and not one proverb are you telling. Now we are aware that You are aware of ALL, and have no need that anyone may be asking You. By this, we are believing that You came out from God.

“Jesus answered them, ‘At present you are believing. Lo! The hour is coming, and has already come, that you will be scattered, each to his own home, and you will be leaving Me alone. But I am not alone, for the Father is with Me.

“These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace!

“In this world you will have tribulation. But have courage! I have conquered the world.” John 16:29-33

There it is! The promise by Jesus Christ that we WILL have trouble in this world. And that is the **Good News** – because it is only **trouble** that can lead us to Jesus Christ. When everything is going fine, we don't need the Lord!

Why we NEED Trouble!

It is only **trouble** that has any chance of getting us on our knees.

It is only **trouble** that has any chance of understanding how much we need Jesus Christ to run our life.

It is only **trouble** that helps us understand how destitute of foresight, understanding, and wisdom we are without the Lord making every decision in our life.

It is only **trouble** that “unveils” the truth of the Gospel (Good News) to us.

The Prayer of Faith

Putting on the “whole armor” of God is something that cannot be accomplished

without “praying on every occasion.”

“During every prayer and petition be praying on every occasion. . .” Eph 6:18

Some people are under the impression that prayer is nothing more than the opening of their heart toward God, just like the opening of a flower toward the light. They consider this to be their utmost effort. God will have the rest. To a certain degree this may be correct in a case of great personal affliction. If this, however, became our permanent attitude we would remain in the realm of emotion instead of taking the path leading toward the highest praise of God.

We need to learn more thoroughly how to pray *with the renewed mind*. This means we have to abandon any passive attitude in prayer and become as active in it as we possibly can. Mature prayer requires our undivided attention in addition to spiritual wisdom and realization of God. If the words are vague and general, this is a sign that something is lacking.

Perhaps we have not yet fully grasped all of God’s promises that pertain to us. They ought to be studied repeatedly, and as thoroughly as possible; otherwise our faith is in danger. Often we ask God to fulfill our will – to have a certain situation turn out as We desire. But our prayer should be for God to open OUR eyes so We can see **HIS will** for that specific situation, as well as HIS will for our life!

We should become acquainted with the Lord’s will before we attempt to do our best for His service. We ought to learn what He expects from us now, and we should heed His warnings of the traps of the Adversary. It is true that the Lord said that no one is able to snatch the disciples out of the Father’s hand (John 10:29). And nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:35). But it is also true that Satan *claimed* even the apostles, to sift them as grain. The Adversary was *authorized* in his attempt to ruin Job’s faith. God told Satan, “He is in your hand!” But there was the restriction, “You cannot take his life.”(Job 2:6)

Even today Satan is requesting such authorization, especially to prevent the most fervent of the faithful from growing into maturity in Christ. If he cannot obstruct their spiritual growth by the equivalent of Job’s plagues, he will try time and again to distort God’s Word before their spiritual eyes, so that they don’t come into a realization of the truth, and will fall into the trap of the Adversary (2 Tim 2:25,26).

Are the Bible translations accurate?

The most common deception is to assume the translation of the Bible is inspired

and therefore infallible. Therefore, people are reluctant to accept any truth that is obvious in the original Hebrew and Greek Scriptures only, but not in their translation. Somehow, Christians believe that the Translators, who were chosen **by “man”** – and worked as a committee reaching a consensus in their translations - were inspired by God, even though they were NOT. And Christians also believe that the authors of the books of the Bible in the original Scriptures, who WERE chosen and inspired **by God** – cannot be trusted.

This is clearly upside-down: a major deception by Satan. Yet virtually all Christians believe that way. They **believe** the **uninspired** translators, but they do **NOT believe** the authors of the Bible who were specifically chosen – and **inspired** – by God Himself!

Yet most Christians think they cannot be deceived by Satan – when they already have been!

Why are we here on earth?

As we have regularly repeated, we are on this earth for one reason only: to get to know God, and to learn to trust Him with everything in our life. It is impossible to get to know someone well unless we spend time alone with that person.

Jesus had spent virtually every day with His disciples for 3 ½ years, yet they didn't really know Him. When Phillip asked Jesus, “Show us the Father,” Jesus responded,

“Jesus said unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet you have not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; why do you then say, “Show us the Father?” John 14:9

Like most Christians, Philip considered himself a “follower of Christ” but He really did not “know the Lord.”

How should we think about Prayer?

The correct concept is to think of prayer as the breath in our lungs that circulates in our blood to every cell in our body. God breathed into Adam (and through Adam – the whole human race) physical breath, and “Adam became a living soul.” Physical breath keeps us alive physically. When we are no longer breathing – we are dead.

God breathes spiritual breath into us when we truly become one with Him. That's what occurred at Pentecost with the disciples. God's Spiritual Breath keeps us alive spiritually, just as physical breath keeps us alive physically.

“And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the breath of Holiness (NOT “the Holy Ghost”). John 20:22

The Greek word for spirit is *pneuma* (4151 in Strong’s Concordance) – meaning breath – relating to the breath in the lungs, as in *pneumonia*.

Physical breath gives physical life (*psuche* in the Greek: # 5590 in Strong’s Concordance). Without physical breath, the body dies.

God’s spiritual breath (His “breath of holiness”) gives spiritual life (*zoe* in the Greek: # 2222 in Strong’s Concordance – which means *eonian* life (Not “eternal life”). *Eonian* life refers to God’s character and disposition exhibited by a true Christian.

One must have *eonian* life – the life of Christ exhibited in that person – **before** one is fit to live with Jesus Christ forever.

Without spiritual breath, the spiritual life dies!

Our spiritual life is kept alive by receiving our “spiritual breath” from diligently studying God’s Word and praying fervently. Jesus IS the “Word” according to the writings of John.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. . . and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1-3, 14

When we continually keep our eyes focused on Christ, by daily in-depth Bible study, and fervent prayer, we will be changed into His image.

“Now we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor 3:18

When we spend time alone with God in Bible study and prayer, the Lord promises that we will never be lonely, no matter what our circumstances may be.

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Heb 13:5

Paul said, “At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. **But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.**” 2 Tim 4:16,17

When you truly **know** the Lord, you will never be lonely again.

Prayer is not an exercise, it is the **life** of the true Christian.