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Theme: Shh! Shh! Quiet Time (Prayer)

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

A Thought:

Truth be told - sadly, as a Christian of record I shamefully neglect one the of the most critical and important commitments of being a Christian. That is to spend daily time in prayer with God and opening my heart to Him. Our Lord did just that in Chapter seventeen of the Gospel of John. He cries out to His father in heaven (John 17:20,21) *“I'm praying not only for the disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through this message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me., Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”* These two verses exemplify the spiritual conversation with God. Many of us study the Bible weekly if not daily. We take notes and we memorize scriptures and we do busy things at our respective churches...of course all very important. Like other Christians, on a personal level I have the prevailing problem of setting aside precious time to be with Him...one on one...humbly looking for guidance and telling Him to forgive me for my sinful nature. Truly a daily struggle. Though, as we know ultimately something significant happens if we submit to prayer as Paul states in 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV) *“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”* A spiritual light on our faces and our hearts...what more can we ask!

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Do you have a scheduled devotion and prayer time?
- How do you define prayer?
- What are the difficulties you are experiencing in your prayer time?
- How will prayer benefit you in your daily walk?
- To ponder...prayer is a platform to present your sins, your gratitude and adoration to Christ.

Scriptures to read:

- Jesus' Prayer Life: Matt: 11:25, 14:22-23; Mark 1:35, 6:46, 14:36; Luke 9:18
- Luke 6:12:16; John 11:41b-42, 12:27-28, 17:1-5, 6-19. 20-26
- General: Matt. 5:44, 6:5-9, 14:23, 17:20, 19:13, 21:13, 21:22, 23:13, 26:36; Mark 1:36, 11:17, 11:24-25, 12:40; Luke 1:13, 2:37, 9:18, 11:1
- Prayer w/Faith: Acts 2:28, 3:19; Eph. 3:12; 1Peter 5:7; Heb. 4:16; Psalm 5:3. 17:6;
- Pray w/worship and reverence: Psalm 99:5; John 9:38; Philippians 1:9; Heb. 11:6;

Quote: E.M. Bounds, author of countless books on prayer:
"When faith ceases to pray, it ceases to Live"

Bottom Line:

There are over 250 verses in the Bible about prayer. Take your pick and you can learn something from each of them. I did. Through prayer we have the opportunity to communicate with God on a personal level. We can share our most intimate thoughts and we can thank Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. We can go before Him with our sins and ask for forgiveness and He will comfort us with our daily circumstances. If we have a problem with praying listen to Jesus in his response to the disciples when they asked, Luke 11:1 (NIV) "Lord, Teach us to pray" His response, "When you pray, say: *"Father hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."* Shh, shh! It's quiet time.... pray with outstretched arms to our Father in Heaven.

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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