

Daily Devotional, August 17, 2020 A Recent Journey

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NIV)

“I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.” Philipians 4:13 (NIV)

For a number of years now, I have been taking steps on my long and winding Christian journey, sometimes with great difficulty, and yet at other times, with considerable effortlessnes. But no matter how significant the level or degree of effort, I continue in my search to know more about the mysteries of God, to recognize God’s ways, and to accept my responsibilities as His child.

One of those responsibilities has been the importance of deliberately spending time each day listening and praying to the Lord and setting time aside for reading the Bible. My desire is to be able to honestly say that God is the greatest treasure of my heart -- not writing, sleeping, gardening, chatting with friends, or the many, many errands and tasks that seem to continuously get in the way and prevent me from doing what I was created for: to know my Father who delights in me.

When I take a few moments to connect with God, I sit silently. I hear the hum of the air conditioner, a neighbor’s dog barking, music loudly exploding from the radio of a car coming to a brief halt at the stop sign in front of our home, and the occasional gushing sound of water splashing to and fro within the reservoir of our washing machine. My mind serves as an automatic daily planner, reminding me of calls for appointments that need to be made, e-mails that need to be checked, and a calendar to be re-packed. Gone is the time of relaxation, enjoyable recreation, and taking time off from daily responsibilities. In fact, these mental relaxations and distractions have in some ways altered my focus, in which being with God becomes an obligation instead of time spent with the One who knows me best.

The appointments can wait, I tell my meddlesome brain. I know what happens when I don’t spend time with Him, sharing concerns or questions, or waiting for Him to speak. Life is much harder, more difficult when I leave God outside of my schedule. Why would I want more difficulties? It’s time to get my priorities realigned and invite God back to being number one on my schedule.

PRAYER: God, Be the treasure of my heart . When I get too relaxed or distracted I forget who it is that makes my life and my joy so significant. Help me to never go on vacation from you, but to remember that you are responsible for every sunrise, every moment of rest, and every shimmering sunset that closes my day. Thank you for each breath you allow me to take and for the glorious good health and love you allow me to experience. I am forever grateful to you for your love and provision. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.