

## SHUT IN WITH GOD

I have a small study in my home. It's my personal refuge and man cave of sorts. I pray there. I meditate there. I obviously study there. I spend countless hours in silence there. It's there that the world's latest problems are resolved... at least in my mind. Lol. Mornings often begin in that room alone in quietness long before the home nest is stirring. Before I reach for a device to catch up with secular world events or any news that may have unfolded during the night, or before I check my texts and emails, etc., I feebly attempt to catch up with heaven's latest breaking news updates first.

Surrounded by my limited library of material, I often find comfort. But today, as with so many other days, I looked upon my shelves at the many study books and reference materials, but nothing appealed to me. One would think that with so much financial investment in study materials, along with the convenient access and availability to a vast array of study helps and even sermon books on a plethora of subjects, there should never be times of an "empty mind" or a "blank screen," but yet again today as is often the case, I hopelessly sat empty.

As a hungry man with a menu in hand and many choices to consider, but yet feeling nothing was appealing to him in spite of the apparent driving hunger pains... I sat staring at row after row of books that might as well have been written in Mandarin Chinese. I investigated carefully the subjects in hopes that some unique fresh illumination would just jump out at me and erupt inside of my empty head. But nothing. Nothing but the sound of crickets. Why?

So, I picked up the Bible for a second time that morning and began reading again, but now in 1 Samuel 3 for my daily readings. The official and certified call of Samuel. Upon reading a couple of chapters a fresh outlook was rebirthed inside of my spirit. There is no replacement for the voice of God in our lives. No amount of sermon books or preaching audios can ever replace that still-small voice of God speaking into our spirit. Thank God for the written word, but it's that timely spoken Word whispered into the ear and spirit of men that is life-changing. Whenever the written word is spiritually joined together with the spoken word, which then, through faith, becomes the engrafted word, revelation is born.

Sermons begin with thoughts. Messages and callings of God begin with the voice of God. To know the difference is to understand the contrast between knowledge and wisdom. Eli initially imparted knowledge to Samuel. Samuel ultimately received wisdom from God. Once the revelation of knowledge and wisdom is imparted, we must then pray for understanding as to know how to best serve the kingdom with both. What then do we pray for? In all thy getting... get understanding. Knowledge is the gaining of proper information and the intelligence needed to perform a spiritual task. Subsequently, knowledge is the arena of “what” we know about God. Wisdom is knowing “how” to administer the spiritual knowledge we currently have. Understanding is to know “when” to move in God. Knowledge teaches us what to do. Wisdom teaches us how to do it. Understanding teaches us when to do it. Let’s recap once more:

Knowledge - What

Wisdom- How

Understanding - When

No amount of digital help, whether written or otherwise, can replace the voice of God, who is leading, teaching, and guiding us in spiritual knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. There are no theological manuals that propel us in these most vital areas of spiritual activities. Thank God for educated minds that are skilled in ascertaining facts and compiling information as to bring a measure of order and discipline to our lives, but a “self-made man” that has been shut in with God in secret places and has sat together in heavenly places with Christ is our most valuable asset in the kingdom today. Oh, that I might know Him...

Shut in with God in a secret place.

There in the Spirit beholding His face.

Gaining new power to run in this race.

How I long to be shut in with God.

Bill Pitman