

Keys to Richer Intimacy with Christ in Your Quiet Time

Question 1.

What does God desire to do in my time with Him and what do I desire from my time with Him?

	God		Me
1.	_____	1.	_____
2.	_____	2.	_____
3.	_____	3.	_____
4.	_____	4.	_____
5.	_____	5.	_____
6.	_____	6.	_____

Question 2.

What are 5 keys to a more intimate, more significant and more consistent quiet time?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Question 3.

What are some of the challenges that we face to a more intimate, more significant and more consistent quiet time?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Question 4.

What are some solutions that can transform our minds and lead us back into close fellowship with God?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Keys to Richer Intimacy with Christ in Your Quiet Time

Like all relationships, our relationship with Jesus requires tending. Together we will look at our goals, the challenges, and a few of the keys to cultivating a more intimate, more significant, and more consistent life of devotion through the daily quiet time.

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. I Cor 1:9

Part 1 – Intro - 10 minutes:

Introductions (yourself and Mack)

Pray for guidance and impact

Preface

I led a workshop 2 years ago at the 2011 KMI. It was an introduction to the devotional discipline that the Navigators call the Quiet Time. I based on the 4 steps of discipleship – Tell ‘em why, Show ‘em how, get ‘em started, and keep ‘em going. I explained why it was important, how to do it, we got started, and we talked about how to keep going. If you’d like to hear it, you can go to www.discipleshiplibrary.com, search Lamkin, and you will find a recording of the talk and my notes.

So today’s topic is more like Part II of my previous talk. I am going to assume that you know what I’m talking about when I talk about our Quiet Time and that you’ve had some experience with this spiritual discipline. I want to talk about making our Quiet Time everything that we ever hoped it could be and everything that God wants it to be.

Part 2 – Interaction 1 - 10 minutes

Question 1 for the men:

What does God desire to do in His time with me and what do I desire from my time with Him?

ALLOW THE MEN TO SHARE ANSWERS FROM THEIR WORKSHEETS.

Part 3 – Intimacy, Significance, Consistency - 5 minutes

In thinking about God’s desires for His time with me and my desires for my time with Him, I came up with three categories that I think begin to corral these various thoughts and areas.

INTIMATE

My soul yearns for you in the night;

In the morning my spirit longs for you. Isaiah 26:9 ----- My desire

Seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 -----His plea

⁶ I want you to show love,^[a]
not offer sacrifices.

I want you to know me^[b]

more than I want burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6 NLT ----- His desire

By intimate I mean I want it to be **richer and more fulfilling**

Only to sit and think of God,

Oh what a joy it is!

To think the thought, to breathe the name,

Earth has no higher bliss. Frederick W. Faber

Let me seek thee in longing,

Let me long for thee in seeking;

Let me find thee in love,

And love thee in finding. Anselm

By intimate I mean that I want it to be **more prayerful**

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Psalms 119:147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.

SIGNIFICANT

By significant I mean that I want my quiet time to be **more insightful** because of my understanding. Luke 24:45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures.

By significant I mean that I want my quiet time to have **more impact** in my life and the lives of others. Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

CONSISTENT

By consistent I mean that I want my quiet time to be **more non-negotiable**.

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Isaiah 26:9 My soul yearns for you in the night; In the morning my spirit longs for you.

By consistent I mean that I want my quiet time to be **more necessary**.

Psalms 119

16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

20 My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Part 4 – HOW? The 5 Keys – 10 minutes

Question 2: What are the keys to intimacy, significance, and consistency?

1. Prepare your heart.

Present yourself in humility – you are a prodigal returning each and every day.

Luke 15:18-20 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.” So he got up and went to his father.

Quiet yourself and pray for illumination through the Word.

Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

2. Listen to God by hearing Him speak through His word.

John 10:27-28 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

Write a verse that stands out.

3. Wait

Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Micah 7:7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.

Psalm 38:15 I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God.

Wait – the prodigal waits as the Father runs to him. Luke 15:20

Write a few sentences - let your thoughts untangle. Daws Trotman
As you write, ask the Holy Spirit for understanding.

4. Respond in Prayer

Pray in response to what you have heard from God.

Pray for strength to change or boldness to act.

Pray for guidance and wisdom.

5. Respond in Life

Be obedient to what God has told you. If you do not act on what He’s saying, He may decide that He is wasting His breath.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Part 5 – Interaction 2 – 10 minutes

So we see that we must discipline our lives for a regular healthy diet of the Word of God. We need a planned time each day for reading or studying the Bible. Every Christian who makes progress in holiness is a person who had disciplined his life so that he spends regular time in the Bible. There simply is no other way.

Satan will always battle us at this point. He will try to persuade us that we are too sleepy in the morning, too busy during the day, and too tired at night. It seems there is never a suitable time for the Word of God. This means we must discipline ourselves to provide this time in our daily schedules.

-from The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges.

Question 2 for the men:

What are the challenges that we face that keep us from reaching our goals?

ALLOW THE MEN TO SHARE ANSWERS FROM THEIR WORKSHEETS.

Part 6 – Transformative Solutions – 5 minutes

I want to address a few of these that I have found to be the most common attacks that we face.

LACK OF MOTIVATION

Consider that HE desires fellowship with us: MHCH story

1 Corinthians 1:9 God who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Consider what HE did for us that He might have fellowship with us

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.

LACK OF PRIORITY

Consider what I am placing before my relationship with Christ (idols.)

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Consider that apart from Him, I can do nothing.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

And consider that with Him, I can do everything.

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

DRIFTING INTO LEGALISM

Remember that the heart is deceitful above all things.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Hosea 6:6 NLT I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices.

I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

SEPARATION DUE TO SIN

Remember that unconfessed sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

But 1 John 1:9 offers the solution.

Part 7 – Mack’s Testimony on QT and the stages of life – 20 minutes

Part 8 - WHY IT’S SO IMPORTANT – Closing 5 minutes

No matter what stage of life we are in . . .

We minister out of the overflow of our devotional life.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

When God speaks to us, He has a specific purpose – for our lives or for the lives of others.

Exodus 34:2 Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain.

God desires for us to be salt and light so watch for Him to create a situation for us to share.

Philemon 6-7 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love have given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

ASK FOR EVALS AND PRAY!