

QUIET TIME

The Wasted Life vs. The Satisfied Life

What Am I Waiting For?

They said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.' Exodus 20:19

"We don't consciously and deliberately disobey God – we simply don't listen to Him. God has given His commands to us, but we pay no attention to them – not because of willful disobedience, but because we do not truly love and respect Him. *"If you love Me, keep My commandments"* (John 14:15). Once we realize we have constantly been showing disrespect to God, we will be filled with shame and humiliation for ignoring Him.

We show how little love we have for God by preferring to listen to His servants rather than to Him. We like to listen to personal testimonies, but we don't want God Himself to speak to us. Why are we so terrified for God to speak to us? It is because we know that when God speaks we must either do what He asks or we tell Him we will not obey." (Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest)

"One moment after a man died, he knew exactly how he should have lived. But then it is too late ... too late to relive his life, remake his choices, this time following his King more faithfully." (Randy Alcorn, Safely Home)

"A life is too precious to waste, but sadly, we find ways to do it." (Mike Fisher)

- Am I constantly humiliating God by ignoring Him, while He lovingly continues to treat me as His child? How specifically?
- What am I waiting for in order to change my life? Does that truly make sense? Explain.
- As I see how I'm living my life, could it be said that I'm wasting it?

What Is My Choice?

"... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ..." Joshua 24:15

"A person's will is embodied in the actions of the whole person. I cannot *give up* my will – I must exercise it, putting it into action. I must *will* to obey.... When God gives me a vision of truth, there is never a question of what He will do, but only of what I will do. It is absolute and irrevocable surrender of the will at that point. Your choice must be a deliberate determination – it is not something into which you will automatically drift. In fact, if you try to just drift ... you'll wind up walking the other direction – away from God and into the world. We tell God He doesn't know what our obedience will mean. Keep to the point – He does know. And still He asks....

'The people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the Lord!' (Joshua 24:21). This is not an impulsive action, but a deliberate commitment. We tend to think we're too unworthy, too weak, too feeble. The more weak and feeble you are, the better. The person who is still relying and trusting in anything within himself is the last person to come close to saying, "I will serve the Lord." Remember! You place yourself in a position where God's almighty power will flow through you." (Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest)

- Have I made a deliberate choice to walk with the Lord? Why or why not?
- Are there people, circumstances, things that I'm relying on instead of Jesus? Write them down.
- If I'm choosing today to serve the Lord, who can I talk to to help hold me accountable?

Full Surrender

He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things. Romans 8:32

“In the Old Testament days, it was when the burnt offering – *whole*, no part held back – was laid on the altar that ‘*fire came out from the presence of the Lord*’ (Lev. 9:24) and accepted the gift. And it is when we bring ourselves, a *whole* offering, to the Lord and lay ourselves thus upon the altar that fire comes and God accepts the gift. Jesus made the full surrender for us – He held nothing back.

Many are afraid to make a full surrender to God because they fear God’s will. They are afraid God’s will may be something dreadful, some hard thing. Remember who God is: He is infinite love, and absolute surrender to God is simply absolute surrender to infinite love. Is there anything dreaded in that? And God is our Father. God’s love is not only wiser than that of any earthly father, but more tender than any earthly mother. ‘*No good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless*’ (Psalm 84:11). There is nothing to be feared in God’s will. God’s will will always prove in the final outcome the best and sweetest thing in all God’s universe. Lay your will down and look to your Father ...” (R.A. Torrey, The Holy Spirit)

- What has kept me from surrendering to God in the past?
- Are there areas that I’ve refused to give to Him? Name them.
- What steps do I need to take in order to be a whole offering to Him?

To Ponder:

“But as for me, my contentment is not in wealth, but in seeing You and knowing all is well between us. And when I awake in heaven, I will be fully satisfied for I will see You face to face.”
Psalm 17:15

*“I don’t want your sacrifices,
I want your love.
I don’t want your offerings,
I want you to know me.”*
Hosea 6:6 (Living)

“He had only his mind, and what he had put into it. How thankful he was for every hour spent meditating on His Word, which constituted the reservoir from which he now drew daily.” (Randy Alcorn, Safely Home – a novel about a persecuted, imprisoned Christian in China)

When it comes right down to it, we only have two choices: walking with God, or walking away from Him. Regardless of what we may think, there is no “in between”. God wants to fill me up ... to make me complete ... to enter into an intimate, love relationship with me ... to transform this wasted “pre-life” into the satisfied, abundant life.

- When I think of standing before the throne and looking into Jesus’ face, will I truly be satisfied with the choices that I made? Why or why not?
- God’s desire is His relationship with me. Help me, Lord, to have this be my utmost desire as well.
- What constitutes the reservoir that I draw from?

Application:

Lord, make me, a sinner, saved by grace, as holy as only You can ... identify me with Your death until I know that sin is dead in me. (Oswald Chambers)

With my mouth I have declared my trust in you, but with my heart I have shown myself unfaithful. Help me today to stand firmly in my trust in You and to rise above the circumstances. Whatever comes my way, may I rest in the power of Your resurrection ... may I seek Your face ... may I hold on to Your unchanging love. Thank you for knowing me, choosing me, and loving me. Amen – “so be it”.

WHO THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL JESUS TO BE:

Old Testament:

1. Genesis---Messiah and Prophet
2. Exodus---Savior
3. Leviticus---Sinless Servant & Guilt Bearer
4. Numbers---Sinner's Refuge
5. Deuteronomy---Prophet & King
6. Joshua---Victor
7. Judges---Deliverer
8. Ruth---Redeemer
9. I Samuel---Warrior & Equipper
10. II Samuel---Righteous King
11. I Kings---Omniscient
12. II Kings---Faithful
13. I Chronicles---Christ
14. II Chronicles---Fulfiller
15. Ezra---Keeper of Promises
16. Nehemiah---Restorer
17. Esther---Advocate
18. Job---Identifies with our suffering
19. Psalms---Source of our life and ministry
20. Proverbs---Has perfect wisdom
21. Ecclesiasties---Provider of ultimate satisfaction
22. Song of Solomon---Heavenly Bridegroom
23. Isaiah---Saving Worker
24. Jeremiah---Shepherd & Righteous Branch
25. Lamentations---Heartsick over those rejecting salvation
26. Ezekiel---Tender Twig who became a stately Cedar on a lofty mountain
27. Daniel---Stonewall
28. Hosea---Great Forgiver
29. Joel---Righteous Judge
30. Amos---Final Authority
31. Obadiah---Possessor of the Kingdom
32. Jonah---Omnipotent
33. Micah---Ruler
34. Nahum---Judge
35. Habakkuk---Giver & Provider of salvation
36. Zephaniah---Keeper of the trust
37. Haggai---God's Signet Ring
38. Zechariah---Servant & King
39. Malachi---Proclaimer of truth

New Testament:

40. Matthew---Messiah
41. Mark---Ministering Servant
42. Luke---Perfection
43. John---Deity
44. Acts---Lord & Christ
45. Romans---Justifier
46. I Corinthians---Relevant to every Area of Life
47. II Corinthians---Comforter
48. Galatians---Giver of Liberty
49. Ephesians---Seeker of an intimate relationship with men
50. Phillipians---Model & Transformer
51. Colossians---Source of Hope
52. I Thessalonians---Sanctifier
53. II Thessalonians---Reassurer
54. I Timothy---Mediator
55. II Timothy---Giver of Immortality
56. Titus---Redeemer
57. Philemon---Substitute for sinners
58. Hebrews---High Priest
59. James---Lord & Teacher
60. I Peter---Living Hope
61. II Peter---Lord
62. I John---Incarnation of God
63. II John---The Only Way to God
64. III John---Truth
65. Jude---Preserver
66. Revelation---King of Kings & Lord of Lords