

ALONE WITH GOD **(Genesis 32:24)**

A key measurement of a persons spirituality is the lessons learned by being alone with God. Not many Christians have ever accomplished much for God, been intimate with God, or been used of God, that have not first learned the importance of being alone with God.

Romans 15:4; I Corinthians 10:11 As we review the Old Testament men and women that were greatly used of God we find a pattern of humility and singleness of mind concerning time alone with God in order to work out that which God has called them to do, for example; Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Elijah, David, Nehemiah, and many others.

Acts 16:23-26 What made the early Christians spiritually and mentally so strong? They had met the Master and wanted to be like Him. The Holy Spirit was their teacher and their leader. They were not afraid of being alone with God, as a matter of fact, they relished the idea of solitary time with God.

James 5:16-17 We purchase books to read, we have radio, television, and internet to listen to. We have rally's, revivals, special days and special speakers to exhort and encourage us to have a better relationship with God. James writes that God desires effectual, fervent, intimate prayer and then He will hear us and direct us into the course that is best.

ALONE MEANS SACRIFICE

Matthew 14:20-23 We can be sure that after the multitude had eaten there were plenty of people that had problems and questions for Jesus, however, He sent them away. The lesson here is this; if we are not willing to turn people away who have needs and desire our time, we will never take the time to be alone with God. We must be willing to sacrifice some things in order to be intimate with God.

Matthew 10:36-38 Jesus is teaching us that if we truly want to put Him absolutely first in our life, there will be times that someone close to us will be hurt and there will often times be misunderstanding by those that are the closest to us. The cross is an emblem of sacrifice and death to self.

Matthew 16:24-27 If we are to receive a full reward at His coming, we cannot bypass our personal cross. We must anticipate conflict with others in order to fulfill the need to be alone with God. We must stop living in order to meet the expectations of friends and relatives, business or pleasure.

ALONE MEANS WAR

James 4:7 It is natural to anticipate that the devil will not want you to get alone with God. He makes it quite convenient to miss every opportunity for us to have personal quiet time by ourselves in order to pray, meditate and wait on God for any amount of time. Remember to submit to God first, and then resist.

Matthew 26:31, 36-43 The three best friends of Jesus failed Him because the flesh had battled with them when Jesus needed them the most. The devil uses the world and the flesh along with his entire arsenal of lies, demons and doubts in order to keep us from intimate prayer and fellowship with God.

Matthew 20:6, 16 Someone has said (I think Dr. Bob Jones Sr.) "it is never wrong to do right." Jesus is saying that it is never too late to start doing right. Some of us have lost our children, our spouses, finances, and our grand children because of our lack of intimate fellowship and prayer with our God. Let's start taking time to be alone with Him.