

Hear God - Part 6 ~ Tower 5 - Silence and Solitude

Luke 5:16 (NIV) *Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

Psalms 46:10 (NIV) *"Be still, and know that I am God."*

_____ Daily

_____ Seasonally

_____ Weekly

_____ Annually

4 Benefits to Silence & Solitude

1 Kings 19:1-4 (NLTSE) *When Ahab got home, he told Jezebel everything Elijah had done, including the way he had killed all the prophets of Baal. So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: "May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them." Elijah was afraid and fled for his life. He went to Beersheba, a town in Judah, and he left his servant there. Then he went on alone into the wilderness, traveling all day. He sat down under a solitary broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life, for I am no better than my ancestors who have already died."*

**1. When we withdraw in silence and solitude,
we are forced to _____.**

3 Things to do when facing yourself:

a. See Jesus for who He is. The Jesus prayer (ancient 6th cent. prayer)

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

b. Examine yourself

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLTSE) *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*

c. Confess & receive forgiveness

1 John 1:9 (NLTSE) *But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

1 Kings 19:5-8 (NLTSE) *Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!" He looked around and there beside his head was some bread baked on hot stones and a jar of water! So he ate and drank and lay down again. Then the angel of the LORD came again and touched him and said, "Get up and eat some more, or the journey ahead will be too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank, and the food gave him enough strength to travel forty days and forty nights to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God.*

**2. When we withdraw in silence and solitude,
we experience God's _____.**

Luke 22:41-43 (NLTSE) *He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him.*

1 Kings 19:9-10 (NLTSE) *There he came to a cave, where he spent the night. But the LORD said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah replied, "I have zealously served the LORD God Almighty. But the people of Israel have broken their covenant with you, torn down your altars, and killed every one of your prophets. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too."*

**3. When we withdraw in silence and solitude,
we are able to _____ what is really going on in our souls.**

1 Kings 19:11-16 (NLTSE) *"Go out and stand before me on the mountain," the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave...*

Then the LORD told him, "Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there, anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. Then anoint Jehu grandson of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from the town of Abel-meholah to replace you as my prophet."

**4. When we withdraw in silence and solitude,
we receive _____.**

5 questions to ask when you think you have heard from God:

Does it agree with the Bible?

Does it make me more like Jesus?

Do my sacred friends agree with what I believe God is saying?

Is it convicting or condemning?

Do I sense God's peace?

John 10:27 (NLTSE) *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*