

Quiet Time

by Stephen Olford

The quiet time is a vital part of a Christian's life, and it's essential for living by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Duration: 45:33

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:3, Psalm 119:105, Matthew 4:4, Matthew 6:33, John 7:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, James 1:22

Topics: "Spiritual Discipline", "Quiet Time"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker reflects on his experiences in Central Africa and the lessons he has learned about youth. He emphasizes the importance of harnessing the energy and emotions of youth in line with God's purpose. The speaker also discusses the significance of having a quiet time with God, using a quiet time notebook to reflect on previous messages from God and maintain a strong spiritual constitution. He highlights the discipline needed to keep the body under control and references the commandments of God as a guide for living. The sermon concludes with the importance of having an expectant spirit and the need to remember that man does not live by bread alone.

Transcript

Chapter 8, and thus one. The words of God through Moses to his people. Words from which our Savior quoted, you remember, in the Temptation in the Wilderness.

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go well and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna which thou wouldst not, neither did thy fathers know.

Now notice this, all this happens, all this happens, that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only. That may be important to keep body and soul together. Most of the world is doing nothing but living for bread.

That he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only. But, this is the positive statement, by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord, doth man live. Now I don't know if that hits you with the impact that reached my heart this morning in re-reading it.

Which is all that really matters outside of tent-making just to keep soul and body together. That I hear his voice every day. That a word is spoken to my heart every day.

And that I live by that word. Well now just a moment's prayer and then right into our message. Oh Lord open thou our hearts and our minds.

That we might receive wondrous things out of thy word for thy blessed name's sake. Amen. If I were to come down alongside of you this morning and ask you whether or not you considered the quiet time or the devotional hour, the morning watch, whatever you like to call it, was important in your life, there wouldn't be one of you Christian workers here who would say yes, this was very important indeed.

But I wonder how many of you would look up and say, ah it's far more than important. It's far more than important. This is absolutely vital.

Absolutely vital. Now I want to confess and confess very humbly that throughout my whole Christian experience I've never found anything more difficult than having my quiet time. It's harder to have my quiet time in that disciplined fashion today than when I was first converted when I yielded my life to the Lord Jesus in totalitarian surrender.

Or during the crusades and missions and churches I have passed through. I find it harder today than all the years behind me. And I've discovered that the devil's far more concerned at wrecking my quiet time than he is at stopping me from talking to people or even preaching or even engaging in Christian work.

For it is tight, strategically enough, that my quiet time in ruins me there. The rest is only a matter of time and it will all collapse. I know missionaries and I've toured some of the mission stations where plenty of work is being done, where the medicines are being dispensed, the school teaching is going on, the Bible readings are being taken, but the mystery is being, listen carefully, is being sabotaged slowly, subtly, but surely by the neglect of his quiet time.

And sooner or later incompatibility will follow. Sooner or later the nervous breakdown will come. Sooner or later spiritual, spiritual decadence and departure, backsliding will come.

Sooner or later the system will collapse under some moral pressure. And it's happened again and again and again. Do you have a quiet time? Do you have a daily quiet time? I want to discuss this morning at a terrific speed, you'll have to take your notes in shorthand, three very simple, very simple principles, but I want to say quite a lot about them.

First of all what I'm going to call the reasons for your daily quiet time. And by that daily quiet time I mean that deliberately planned time when you're alone with God in the light of his word in the atmosphere of prayer to do business with him. I'm now not speaking of study period.

Please mark that. I'm not speaking of sermon preparation. I'm not speaking of study period, nor am I speaking of reading the bible for the knowledge of the word.

That is to say book by book, book by book, seven or eight books a day. No I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about this shut in time with God where you are exposing your soul to his light and your heart to his voice.

And you're going to spend time alone with God frequently to take in the breath from heaven and his word from this holy revelation. I'm talking about the quiet time in that sense. Now the reason for the quiet time.

Well I believe Jesus summed it up for us in his quotation from Deuteronomy chapter eight when he said in Matthew 4, 4, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. It's an interesting phrase that, the word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Many people imagine that having the quiet time is memorizing scripture.

I'm all for memorizing scripture. I'm constantly doing it myself. But that's not having the quiet time.

Using the sword of the Lord isn't carrying the bible in your pocket. And it isn't merely repeating it's parrot pattern. I'm interested to discover Dr. Maxwell that that word means every spoken word of God.

Every spoken word of God. I believe that the quiet time is a living encounter with the living word in the written word. Not just reading, not just reading poetry, not just reading literature, not just reading theology, not just reading biblical truth.

It's meeting Christ livingly through the word. Every spoken word. He must speak to me.

I mustn't leave the place of prayer until I know he has spoken to me. And Jesus said man shall live by it. That's how life is maintained.

Man shall live by every word that is spoken out of the mouth of God. Now stop a moment and just think. There isn't anything that exists today that hasn't come out of the spoken word of God.

The entire universe in it's vast outreaches came into existence by a spoken word. Every blade of grass out there, if you can see it this morning, or every leaf of every tree stands and exists and comes to it by the outgoing of divine energy all the time. There is nothing that exists or comes to it held together but by the outgoing of the word of God.

What is true in the physical realm is equally true in the spiritual realm. My life is maintained and sustained by the outgoing of the word of God to my soul every day. In other words, the word of God is absolutely vital for a number of things.

We'll put down the first one for your spiritual constitution, your growth. If you happen to be newly born in the Christian family then listen. Peter is speaking.

He says you born babes desire to see pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby. And I'm prepared to challenge the reality of the Christian experience of anyone in this audience this morning who says they can go two, one week, two weeks, three weeks, a month and month without reading the word of God to their mother Christian. For just as that tiny little baby that's normal cries out for its mother's milk without being taught to do so because God has given it the nature to desire the milk by which to grow, so every true Christian is given a nature, a spiritual nature, a nature from heaven which cries out for the milk of the word.

And without the milk of the word there'd be utter dissatisfaction and crying of heart. As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby. I, you say, but I'm not a new born babe.

I've been on the way a long time. Very well, there's a verse for you. Strong meat belongs to them that are full grown.

So you can't get out of it. Whether it's the milk or the meat, it's absolutely vital for your spiritual constitution. Oh, that you might pray with Solomon every day, sweetly moored where food can be.

But it's not only vital for spiritual constitution, it's absolutely vital for spiritual cleansing or correction. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, truly perfect unto all good works. It's vital for correction.

Did you notice that correction? Now I hold very firmly the conviction that when I come to the cross as a sinner and I'm cleansed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, that blood speaks for me forever. And as I walk in the light, as he is in the light, that blood continues to speak before and upon the throne for me continually. And cleansing can be made real in my life by virtue of that blood once and forever shed.

But do you notice in your reading of the Old Testament that whereas the priest had the blood applied once on his right ear, on his right thumb, on his right toe, once what he had to do every day was to walk in the light, he had to walk in the light to wash at the laver. And I believe that's reading the Word of God, the washing of the Word at the laver. And do you know what happened to any priest, O Levi, who tried to touch the work of God or offer a sacrifice without washing at the laver? He was smitten with death at once.

Have you ever asked yourself why the work of God which you do and touch seems to be dead and without life? Have you ever asked yourself why it is, why it is life doesn't quicken, doesn't come from heaven with the breath of the Spirit upon your preaching and upon the work of your hands? It may be that you're not washing at the laver. Do you remember how the Lord Jesus said to Peter when Peter said, no, you're not going to wash me, you're not going to wash me very well, said Jesus, if I don't wash you, you have no fellowship with me, you have no part with me whatsoever. He said, well, then wash me present full.

Wasn't that Peter all over? Yes, that's Peter. And Jesus said to him, listen, he that is bathed obeys one different word, not same, not same word as in your authorized version, it's washed each time there. He that is bathed or bathed sayeth not, sayeth not to wash, sayeth not to wash except his feet.

Feet. It's the feet, it's the feet, walking the dusty pilgrim journey that has to be washed every day at the laver of the word. The blood of the feet, I'm clean, I'm clean before I paint my feet.

Why my hands? Well, in the Old Testament it was hands and feet because man was still working for his salvation. Now thank God, now thank God the work is done and it's our feet. It's our feet.

Our daily walk has to be walked by the laver of the word. Let me go a little further. When the Lord Jesus Christ, when the Lord Jesus Christ had given that glorious upper room discourse, you remember how he finished? He said, now ye are clean or purged through the word that I have spoken unto you.

Praise high priestly prayer, he said, Father, sanctify them according to thy truth, thy word is truth. Sanctify them according to thy truth. David cries in Psalm 119, wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? Answer, by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Correction and cleansing every day. Incidentally, that word youth in the psalm there is a tremendous word. We've not had time to break it up.

Dr. Campbell Morgan points out in one of his books that that word youth in that psalm derives from a root which means the mane of a lion. You ask yourself, what on earth has that got to do with me? Remember it's youth. I've been in the bushes of Central Africa.

Thirteen years of my life I've walked the great monocol and forests. I've seen him cut a cross with his mighty majestic mane waving to and fro. I've seen him napped in blood in conflict.

I've seen him standing erect in fury. I've seen him soaring from side to side with his restive restlessness. And I said that's the picture of youth.

All his emotions, sometimes battle, sometimes in conflict, sometimes in fury, sometimes being misunderstood, sometimes not understanding. Wherewithal shall all those creative energies that want expression but don't know how to express themselves, how will they be harnessed? How will they be brought into line with the purpose of God? David says, by taking heed thereto according to thy word. It's vital for spiritual constitution.

It's vital for spiritual cleansing. The quiet time is absolutely vital for spiritual guidance. Yes, or counsel.

Counsel me according to thy word, says the psalm. And again, all scripture is given by inspiration of God. What for? For doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in the right ways of living.

Righteousness. And I believe this is a book not of rules but of great principles. And I believe that no one can read this Bible continuously in the presence of God and in the atmosphere of prayer without being equipped with the great principles of right and wrong that bring decision and decisiveness and purposefulness in all matters of counsel and direction in everyday life.

Though the Holy Spirit uses the word of God and although the Christian testimony of the church and of history and although the experienced counsel of believers in my own day are all helpful, finally, it's the word of God which is our guidebook. Our guidebook. It's absolutely vital for spiritual conflict.

Now here we're touching a great subject. We could spend the whole time on this, spiritual conflict. My dear young friends, you can't win the battle against the devil without this living word.

When the devil is discovered to us in Ephesians chapter 6, in all his ugliness, you notice what Paul says, having discussed the defensive armor, he now talks about the two offensive weapons. One is all prayer, but the other is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And you know in the Greek, that word, the word of God there, is exactly the same as Matthew 4, for the spoken word of God.

How many Christians have said, have you got your sword? And they put up the Bible. The Bible there is absolutely nothing unless it becomes personal living experience in terms of battle with the enemy. Let me just give you a little bit of sanctified speculation and imagination.

I trust I'm not going beyond, but I have the feeling that when the Lord Jesus, after being baptized in Jordan, was carried by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested and tempted of the devil, he was reading the book of Deuteronomy. Because I believe part one is a beautiful picture of my Savior upon his law, that he meditates day and night. He never missed his quiet time.

He opened his mind here morning by morning. And he literally lived in that book. Because it was the great battle book of the children of Israel.

It was the book of joy. It was the book of deliverance. It was the book of victory.

He knew, he knew what he might be in need of. And the devil attacks him along the line of the body, and out comes the sword of the Spirit from the living experience of Deuteronomy. And he quotes, it is written, the devil attacks him along the line of the soul, out comes the Spirit again.

It is written, the word of the Spirit. The devil attacks him along the line of the Spirit, out again comes that sword of the Spirit from personal experience. It is written.

And the devil leaves him for a sinner. John the Apostle writes to his converts, and he says, I write unto you young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abided in you, and ye have overcome the evil one. And I want to tell you from personal experience, quoting text doesn't drive the devil away.

It's when I face the devil in the light of the word which has become living to me, and Revelation chapter 12 becomes true. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and what? The word of their testimony. The word made live in me, in terms of personal experience.

That's the false trust that lays the devil bare. It's absolutely vital for conflict. And let's go further.

If that is not reason enough for the quiet time, and I could add many more, I want to add one last one as time is going and I've got other things I want to say. I believe the quiet time is absolutely vital for spiritual communion. These people who tell me that they can go out into the countryside and look up into the sky and see the trees and the birds and have communion with God have my sympathy because nothing, nothing awes me more and draws out a sense of worship than to be in the countryside.

I remember the first time I ever went to Switzerland, looking out of the window, having arrived at the dead of night, I hadn't seen the hills, I hadn't seen the snow, and I hadn't seen that glorious country of Switzerland, and I looked out of the window, my wife was with me, we were celebrating our tenth anniversary, and one look at that glorious panoramic scenic beauty made me drop on my knees and weep like a child. This isn't that I'm not aesthetically affected in that way, but my dear friend, I want to add very quickly, deep, spiritual, intimate communion is only in the book. And beware of the Oxford group people and the moral rearmament people who tell you to sit still and wait blank until something comes into your mind, then write it down and go and do it.

It's a lot of satanic lies. Spiritual communion is in the word. And I believe the Lord Jesus meant this when he looked into the face of a sordid, shameful, sinful woman at the well-sited at Sychar and said, the Father speaketh such, such as you are, such as you are, you woman of Samaria, to worship him.

The Lord Jesus didn't want a drink of water from the well. You know that as well as I do. Nor did he want the disciple sandwiches.

Jesus was looking beyond water to the mouth and the teeth and worship of a redeemed soul, and he was waiting for that glorious moment when that woman would see the truth and stoop and drink and live, and Jesus said, I want to drink from your mouth. Give me a drink, but she didn't understand. And then Jesus said, the Father speaketh such to worship him, for they that worship him must worship him in faith and in truth.

And that word truth can carry the thought of reality and integrity and sincerity. We all know that, but I believe it has more than that. It's according to truth.

We worship God according to truth. And I believe with all my heart that the Bible in the final analysis is a love letter from God to me. And I've had many a love letter from my wife in which there's been rebuke or instruction or a thirsting remark.

I needed it. And there are many things that thirst, many things that exhort, many things that command and demand in this book, but most of it is God's self-disclosure of a heart of love to me. And he waits to meet with me.

Did you know this, my beloved friend, that God has a Christly place, as we say in England, a Christly place with you every day? I wonder how often you disappoint his heart by never keeping the appointment. There was a time when my quiet time was a duty and a demand. That's all gone now.

That's all gone now. The incentive for having my quiet time is just a sheer delight. And if I've got to go through storm and fire and telephone calls and all the manner of things and even the misunderstanding of my best friends and even of my family, I must lock myself away to keep my Christ with God.

He wants to meet with me. The God of the universe, the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal God of the universe wants to meet with me. He wants to drink from my life of legions and devotions.

He wants to turn into deeper discipleship. He wants me to worship him. Could there be a greater incentive than that to meet with him? It's absolutely vital for spiritual communion.

Can you tell me that you're ever going to miss your quiet time again? But now just for a change, and as fast as I can go, let me just suggest what I'm going to call some requirements for the quiet time. Here I'll pass along very quickly because I know most of this is elementary. But let's start fundamentally.

First thing you need is a Bible. And a good Bible. A Bible you can read.

You discourage yourself from having your quiet time by having something so tiny that you can't read. May I suggest, and this is not being dogmatic, I'm just suggesting, that you never put annotations in your quiet time Bible. By all means cover your study Bible with all the annotations you like, but not in your quiet time Bible.

So that as you come through the page, it's absolutely fresh. And there are no notes that are going to start your mind operating along lines that you've studied before. You may have, like my dear friend Ivor Powell, pigeon-holed minds.

And the moment one thought is suggested, his whole mind travels along prepared lines. He was telling me that yesterday. And I share that largely with him.

One tiny little note in the edge of my Bible will give me a whole line of proof that I've studied before. Keep your page clean for your quiet time. Secondly, so that you won't miss anything, have a notebook.

While you don't put any marks on your Bible, keep your notebook. A quiet time notebook. I have a whole shelf of them, and I would sell most of my commentary rather than lose my quiet time notebook.

Where there's a will, there's a way. The Lord Jesus hadn't a place to lay his head. But he never missed his quiet time.

Mark 135, he rising up a great while before it was day, went out into a solitary place and there prayed. That was his want. He never missed it.

And if the green sod was his praying mat, and if the forested of the mountains his womb, and the canopy of heaven his quietness. Well, he had his quiet time. Now an expectant spirit.

You know, an expectant spirit is part of three ingredients. Spirit, soul, and body. Let's start with body first of all.

That's where discipline is needed. Paul says, I keep my body under. I tumble it.

Like a bully. Like a pugilist. Like a boxer.

I tumble my body. Lest having preached to others, I myself be a dachshund. Listen.

You've got to discipline your diet. You've got to discipline your sleep. You've got to discipline your exercise if you're going to have a daily quiet time of any sense.

Don't come to me and say, Mr. Oldford, I cannot. I cannot pray. Because when I kneel, my mind absolutely wanders all over the place.

And I happen to know that you didn't go to bed until two o'clock or three o'clock the previous night. You've got to learn to discipline social contact. You've got to discipline your time.

You've got to sleep if your mind's going to be alive and you're going to be tight to meet with your God. And then there is the matter of the moral issue. First of all, the physical.

Then there's the moral issue. And the moral issue needs a question. Listen carefully here.

Yes, of cleansing and forgiveness. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. If I look with approval on anything in my life which is out of adjustment to the will of God, the heavens will be as brass.

And if you have an unforgiving spirit to any brother or sister, leave your gift of prayer at the altar. And go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift. And then there's a spiritual issue, factor.

And it's the matter of obedience. Obedience. That little verse in John 7, 17, He that willeth to do shall know.

I am persuaded after years of study and experience that the revelation of God to my soul and the blessing of God to me in terms of the Bible is dependent upon obedience. As I obey, God reveals. As I obey, God reveals.

When I teach to obey, God teaches to reveal. I may get second-hand stuff from the pulpit and second-hand stuff from books, but God will not teach to me so long as I disobey. Like received, bringeth life.

Like rejected, bringeth life. And revelation and obedience are like two railway lines. And I move in the purpose of God as I obey and He reveals.

I obey and He reveals. I obey and He reveals. That's why I like to have a quiet time notebook.

Because invariably when I get down on my knees and test my heart as to why I can't get anything out of this chapter. I can't get anything out of this chapter. It seems a lost chapter to me.

Invariably I turn back to what God said to me yesterday and on a mission of obedience I haven't gone through with it. And God says, right, I hold it up. I'll hold it up for 40 years.

I'll hold up revealing my faith to you for 30 years. Until you obey. Now you put those three things together and you've got an expectant spirit.

And in conclusion, some of the regulations of a quiet time. And I'm going to give you, in sentence form, seven movements in this matter of quiet time. The first one I'm calling waiting.

When you come, now remember this, you've got your Bible, you've got your notebook, you've got your prayer list, you've got your place, you've got your time, you've got your method of your quiet time, you have an expectant spirit. You're convinced, you're convinced that you must have a quiet time because it's only for communion with God. Now you're in the place of quietness and you're going to have your quiet time.

What's the first thing? Here it is, waiting. Waiting. Be still and know that I am God.

Let me quote Samuel Chadwick again, hurry is the death of prayer. Don't rush into God's presence. Be still.

And I've learned something, Dr. Nashville, from dear old George Buller about it. George Buller learned after years of being a mature Christian that he couldn't pray. He wondered why he couldn't pray.

And in that little pamphlet from one of his books called Soul Nourishment, it's explained he discovered that why he couldn't pray was because he was trying to speak to God before God had spoken to him. So I never attempt to pray. I just say a little prayer like open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Waiting. Then next movement, reading. Come to the book.

Come to the book. And when I say come to the book, I mean come to it reverently, I mean come to it systematically, I mean come to it intelligently. Please don't use your book like a promise box.

Don't let it fall open anywhere and say here. That's irreverent. That's disrespectful.

Use your Bible rightly. If you're using a system like Scripture Union or some other systematic devotional reading, fine. My own system is as simple as ABC.

I read from Genesis to Revelation. And when I finish at Revelation, I go back to Genesis. I never read more than a chapter or half a chapter for my quiet time.

Plenty of reading for study, but only a chapter for my quiet time. Read it through three times, more if necessary. One, generally.

Two, specifically. Three, personally. Personally.

Personalize the whole thing. We're moving to the third point. Waiting, reading, meditating.

Meditating, pondering. Ask yourself questions like this. Is there any promise for me to claim? Is there any experience for me to enjoy? Is there any sin for me to shun? Is there any command for me to obey? Is there any new thought about God, about the Lord Jesus, about the Holy Spirit? Is there some thought about the devil? What is God saying to me? What is the message for my heart at this hour? And don't leave it until something has emerged.

And if something doesn't emerge, challenge your heart concerning what God said to you yesterday. Reading. Meditating.

Now then, recording. The psychologist says, there's no such thing as an impression without an expression. In fact, an impression without an expression brings depression.

And this is where my quiet time notebook comes out. And I have a very small notebook. I never use more than a page, lest it should develop into writing something, or terminizing, or going beyond the devotional aspect.

I always use the personal pronoun, and I suggest it to you. Put the date if you like. Put the chapter.

And whether it's a phrase, or whether it's a verse, or whether the sense of the passage, or what it is, write down on one page, or half a page, what the Lord has said to you. And say it all in the personal pronoun. Lord Jesus, this morning thou hast said this to me.

And write it down. Do you know the sort of person you've met? You say, I say, brother, did you have a quiet time this morning? Oh, yes, oh, yes. Where did you eat? Ah, let me see now.

Um... Oh, um... Old Testament. Old Testament. Oh, no, wasn't it? It was New Testament.

That's right. New Testament. New Testament.

What book? What book? Ah, let me see. Was it the Gospels or Epistles? Ah, Gospels. That's right.

Now, which one was it? You know? That's playing with God. Playing with God. Bishop Taylor Smith always used to challenge people when he was at conferences.

If you had any sense at the breakfast table, you'd ask him straight away, Bishop, what did you have in your quiet time? That took the rest of the breakfast time. But let me say something to you, and let me say it positively. I don't believe anybody has ever had a quiet time who cannot record in a few sentences at least what God has said.

Record it. Now then, my friends, turn it to prayer. Now we come to pray.

Now we come to pray. And I'm going to, for simplicity and brevity, for my time is up, divide the praying into two words. Adoration.

Asking. Adoration. Asking.

I beg your pardon. Adoration. Adjustment.

Asking. Create. Adoration.

Adjustment. Asking. The first thing is an act of adoration.

As you bring your whole being to God, as you worship him, you just tell him what the word is meant, even if it hurts your heart, even if it's caused things to be revealed within you. Then move from that to adjustment. And listen, my friends, you have asked the question many times, why did I pray the same old prayer, the same old prayer, the same old prayer? I could have it recorded and put it on a record and jump into bed and save the time, because it's exactly the same as last time.

I'll tell you why, my friend, because you'll never have this kind of quiet time. My prayers never are the same since God taught me this. For as I take up my quiet time notebook and read what God has said and then I pray that back to God, until I see my will is adjusted to God's will and his will adjusted to my will, in the light of what he's said to me, prayers are always different.

Always different. And then move from adjustment to asking and bring your prayer list into operation and begin to pray for others. Waiting.

Reading. Meditating. Recording.

Praying. Two more and we're done. Sharing.

What happened to the Israelites when they gathered manna that they couldn't use? They bred worms and stank. And what happens to the Christian who merely gathers information for the sake of self-assertion? Knowledge tosses up, says Paul, but love edifies. My friend, take to yourself that which God has given you and then share it.

He that saveth his life shall lose it, said the Lord Jesus. He that loses his life shall save it. That's the principle in quiet time.

Share it with some other Christian. Put a gospel strand on it and share it with the unconverted. Put in a letter.

Talk about it to your wife. And as you share what God has given you, you'll find that you live with a risk. It's double the blessing, Jesus.

The last word is obeying. Now you told the Lord on your knees just now in your quiet time that you were going to obey, that you were going to go right through that. Ah, that's in theory.

But in this issue will turn up, a situation will emerge today, tomorrow, next week, or next month, where God puts you to the test to translate into action, to galvanize into action what he said to you on your quiet time morning. Now then, what about it? What about it? Be firm in to obey. For if you don't, God will drive you back to what you said.

And nothing more will be revealed until you go through with him on obedience. My last word to you is this. Last night I spoke about discipleship.

The life of disciples. And implicit in that message was a call to totalitarian surrender to the sovereignty of Jesus Christ. I want to make this statement and sit down.

Listen to me very carefully. The barometer of you, your life, your spiritual life, the barometer of your spiritual life and the measure of your surrender and the evidence of true discipleship in your life is whether

or not you go right through with every point I talked about here this morning. You can say it differently and you can use different methods, but in principle, to my mind, this is it.

Holiness isn't taking a spiritual aspirin at a spree conference until the next year. Holiness is this rugged discipline of going through with God like I've been talking about today. And doing it not because it's a duty or a demand, but a single delight.

God bless you.

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