

Psalm 62:5

My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.

“Rush is the death of all devotionals” Pastor Jim Cymbala.

How often do we treat our devotional time with the Lord like we are driving through McDonalds, getting an Egg McMuffin, hashbrowns and an orange juice (or coffee) so we can gulp it all down because we don't take the time to enjoy a good breakfast (time with the Lord) in the morning?

Has your devotional time in the morning seem blah and empty, and almost to the point of *“why do I even do this anymore, I'm not getting anything out of it.”* Part of the problem is that there are times that we have rushed and turned our devotional time with the Lord into a habit, and not a joyful and intimate time with the Lord. So we end up making excuses as to why we can't, or don't want to have those devotional times with the Lord anymore.

I know I have said this before to those who don't like to read through the bible because they think they are just checking off a box each day.

“I would rather read His word each day, and check off a box, rather than not read His word at all.”

So my question to you is, are you having any time in God's word, or have you even read through the bible at least once, even though you have been a Christian for, how many years now? Also, if you go into it with the attitude that I am just checking off a box, then it's more of a heart issue rather than a checking off a box issue.

I know for me personally, I have a reading schedule that I do every morning, and I never think of it as I am checking off a box each morning, but rather the attitude of, I get to spend One on one time with the Lord, and He has never scolded me for checking off a box, because that's not what I am doing. There are also many times I will check off more than one box, because it's just a guide to help me read through the bible, not a routine or even a goal that I have.

So, what if we had our time with the Lord, be it in the morning, afternoon, or evening, and did what today's verse says we should be doing?

† ***“My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.”***

You see, when we rush things instead of *“waiting silently for God alone,”* we are only thinking of ourselves and not the Lord, and the reason we rush things during our devotional time with the Lord, is that we have made other things more important than our time with Him. We sit there and

worry about our jobs, the bills, our family, I need to get the oil changed on my car, what am I going to make for dinner tonight...

But what if we went before the Lord each day, with an Open Heart and an Open Bible, how different would our time be with the Lord, and how often would we hear from Him? (***For my expectation is from Him.***)

You may be thinking, “*I do sit there with an open bible*” but still nothing. Well the reason may be that you are only doing half of it. You have the open bible, but your heart is not open to receive from the Lord because you have it full of things of this world.

We love to sing the song:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful Face
And this things of earth with grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.*

What if we took our eyes off the things of this world and put them fully on Jesus during our devotional time just like we sing about? Or think about it this way. Don't we get angry when we are talking to someone, and they are looking at their phone instead of paying attention to us? How often do we do that with our time with the Lord by rushing that time with Him? Maybe not looking at our phone (or maybe we are) but allowing our busy day ahead to be a distraction, so we are not fully focused on the Lord.

Or maybe we do pick up our phones during our time with the Lord, allowing a text message to interrupt our time with the Lord. because we have “more important things to do” (Yes you can say ouch here) so we end up with an attitude of “let me get this over with so I can go do the things I need to get done.” (Yes, you can say a double ouch here)

We also wonder why there are times that we can't hear the Lord speaking to us?

I have noise canceling earbuds that I wear so that I can enjoy the music or teaching without any outside distractions. What if we asked the Lord to put noise canceling headphones over our hearts so that we can enjoy our time with Him in His word and in prayer. Blocking out the things of this world as they grow strangely dim, in the light of His Glorious Word and His Wonderous Grace! AMEN!

† **Isaiah 29:13** *Therefore the LORD said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.*

† **Mark 4:18-19** *Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

- † **1 Corinthians 7:31 (NLT2)** *Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away.*

- † **1 John 2:15 (NLT2)** *Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.*