

MONDAY: Invitation to Time

Receive this Invitation:

I believe all of us can name a few of our "spiritual heroes." The people who have heavily influenced our walk with Jesus. Those whose strong faith we admire. Perhaps someone whose faith we envy.

How can I be like my mama and daddy when I grow up? When will I reach such high-caliber spiritual maturity like Tammy Reynolds? When will I be as wise as Grace Bailey? *What will it take for me to get there?* **TIME.**

No child can skip childhood and advance straight to adulthood. They must go through the growing and learning process first. Similarly, no Christian can advance in spiritual maturity without going through the growing and learning process.

The process includes studying the Word of God, applying what we learn, speaking to God, and listening to what He has to say. ***In order to effectively and consistently engage in these spiritual disciplines, we must spend time with our Heavenly Father.***

It is often said that the company you keep shapes the person you will become. This is true of spending time with friends and family and also true of our time with God.

Do we make time for God? Or do we find ourselves trying to "fit Him in?"

We live in a world filled with "time occupiers." Work, family, school, sports, social life, etc...

These are all wonderful things, but if we choose to focus all of our energy and time on them without making our time with God a chief priority, we will find it impossible to become spiritually mature.

We have the opportunity daily to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2), to boldly approach the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16), and to have life-giving fellowship with other

believers, God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son (1 John 1:3-4).

It is evident that my "spiritual heroes" take advantage of these daily opportunities to be transformed by the Word of God.

Over the next 40 days, I plan to actively refocus my eyes on Jesus, sacrificing more time for Him so that I, too, am daily transformed and renewed.

Maybe one day, The Lord will use me to impact someone the way that He has used my "spiritual heroes" to impact me.

Lord, make me a vessel!

I invite you to ask yourself the questions I have been asking...

Does your life reflect your time with The Lord? Do your actions reflect Christ? What priorities in your life need to change so that you are able to spend better and more consistent time with Jesus?

May your days be filled with more Jesus!

(Sally Key Bowden)

TUESDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

(James 4:10, NLT)

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts."

(Isaiah 57:15, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

React:

How will you refocus your time today?

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

I bless you, and give thanks to you, O Lord Jesus Christ, for the surpassing holiness of that hidden life, which you for so long a time led in the house of your parents at Nazareth, where you dwelled with them in great poverty, lowliness, and subjection, from the twelfth to the thirtieth year of your age.

O the humility of Christ! O my God, how you confound by it my foolish self-conceit; how, by your bright example, you bid me avoid all outward show, turn aside from men of the world, choose to lead a secluded life, seek to be known to God alone, make the salvation of my soul my chief aim, not put myself forward, even for the sake of edification; but rather strive to lay diligently to heart the Word of Life, until such time as the heavenly call shall come to bring forth fruit!

Help me, sweet Jesus, gracious Master, to understand, by diligent meditation upon it, the character of your hidden life; to dedicate my own inner self to you; ever to love a humble and secluded life, taking no heed of the things of this world; but cherishing rather, as the objects of my love, the things which concern you and my home in heaven; and, in the secret closet of my heart, to treasure up the story of your most holy life and conversation.

(Thomas à Kempis)

WEDNESDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React**Read:**

Read these passages of Scripture.

"For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work. "At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. "At five o'clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?' "They replied, 'Because no one hired us.' "The landowner told them, 'Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.' "That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage. When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, 'Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.' "He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?' "So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."

(Matthew 20:1-16, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

Our Heavenly Father, we pray you to forgive our lack of enthusiasm. We pray you to forgive us for our coldness. We pray you to forgive us for loving you so little and serving you so poorly. O God, help us to reconsecrate ourselves to you and your service. May the Spirit that came upon Gideon and Joshua and Elijah, and that came on the day of Pentecost, come upon us here. O Spirit of the living God, fall upon us here, and may our hearts be all on fire for the Son of God. And may we be willing to lay aside our dignity and position and standing, and go forth into the vineyard and work for you.

O Spirit of God, come upon us and give us power to work for Christ; power to preach the Gospel, power to tell the story of the Cross. We ask it all in the name of your beloved Son. Amen.

(Dwight L. Moody)

React:

How will you refocus your time today?

THURSDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React**Read:**

Read these passages of Scripture.

Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

(John 18:36, NLT)

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

(1 Corinthians 3:16, NLT)

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

Saviour, come and extend your kingdom over all the world, sway your sceptre over all hearts! Make me your temple, and honour me by making me an instrument of good in your hands! Lord, save me from pride and from sloth, my two great enemies; keep me, oh, keep and preserve me! I am an erring sheep. It is in your power that I trust, upon your strength I rely; I am less than nothing, hold me by your own right hand!

(Charles Spurgeon)

React:

How will you refocus your time today?

SATURDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

FRIDAY: Read, Reflect, Respond, and React

Read:

Read these passages of Scripture.

Reflect:

Write your thoughts about this passage.

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

React:

How will you refocus your time today?

Respond:

Pray this prayer.

React:

How will you refocus your time today?