

## **The God of Shalom...Peace.**

Do you have a quiet spot where you can withdraw from the world around you? A place where the only sound you hear is your heart beating and the rush of wind coming out of your lungs.

A place where the sound of silence is deafening; a place not where you go to meet with God; but a place where God is always waiting patiently to greet you with open arms.

Jesus described this personal place as a prayer closet. A small place where we can be alone with God...a place of prayer. It is a chosen place where the image bearer of God goes to meet with the one whose image we are called to reflect to the world around us.

Unfortunately I come to this place, this special bitter sweet place very little. As I reflect on my days it seems of all the things that I am; what I am not is a man of prayer.

The reason for this is that through my years I have prayed mainly in desperation. The prayers have almost always been "Me-Centric"...about my needs and wants. The answers to my prayers rarely seemed to come quickly. More often than not the painful situations continued on for a long time.

I always wanted answers now not later. I waited for a cool cup of water from the hand of God. Instead the desert heat dried out my tongue until it cleaved to the roof of my mouth and my words stopped as the deafening sound of silence continued.

I have learned something from the Silence of God. My attitude has been reshaped to understand the words of the Psalmist..."This Too Shall Pass". Now rather than pray for what I want to happen in any given situation; I give it over to God and ask for His strength to bear the burden till it passes.

In so doing I have learned the best way to wait on Him is to Worship and Praise HIM for who He is. This lifts the clouds of anxiety and the SON shines again into my soul. Our prayer life when tied to our worship feeds our faith. Then when the answer comes the invisible God becomes real to me in a greater way.

The relentless waves of bitterness that wear me down always leave me as I turn my eyes towards His Throne. I know that our ultimate end is a new beginning in a new land into which we who believe in Jesus will enter a world we cannot even begin to envision or imagine.

No longer will we live in a country governed by Democracy. Instead we will live in a new united universe governed by a Sovereign King who makes everything new just for you. A place where the King will personally escort you to the personal space He has created for you. Have you met this Visible King who calls your name? The King who stepped out of eternity and walked upon the Earth that He created among the people He created?

You, as a Believer know that God left a seed of life in your heart that need's watering. It is a kernel of Truth that will only grow if you nurture it within you by reading His Word. You can hear the voice of God today, but only through the written words He has spoken to you recorded in His Book. He only speaks there, within the context of His Words. His truth about each of us is buried deep within us. It is like a dream that is so real, yet recedes back into the mists of your inner mind when you awake.

This Visible God came to Earth 2,000 years ago to save you from Himself (His Holy Wrath towards sinners). This Visible God came to proclaim His Invisible Kingdom. A growing Kingdom that resides within the hearts of His called out ones. His Ecclesia...His Born Again True Church of Believers who have put their Faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

Every one of us would admit that life is hard and its challenges can be a severe burden. Yet, The Lord is there all around you waiting for you to ask HIM to share your burden and make it light. He never sleeps. He watches over you every moment of you life. There is no place you can hide from Him, for even the darkness is light to Him.

You are a Believer and you bear His image. Let your soul ignite your voice as you join with nature singing His praises while waiting for His Second Coming.

He is the God who made you in eternity past. He is the God who was broken for you on the Cross. He is the God who cries tears over you. He is the God who patiently waits to be wanted by you.

He whispers your name and says, My Child, I will never leave you, nor forsake you. Come take my hand. Let us walk together on this journey called life all the way home to HEAVEN.

Yes, true peace is resting within the protection of someone greater than you. Go find your quiet place, call on HIS name, He will hear you. Then wait quietly...it will be worth it. He will answer you...and when you receive your answer... be still...and know that HE is **YOUR** God.

ernie