

# There is always time for prayer

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

I have to preface this article by saying that I am not necessarily a literalist when it comes to Scripture. The first tenet of my religion is “As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.” But I had a wonderful experience this weekend in which the literal interpretation of a Bible verse played a significant part.

A girlfriend and I went to an intensive weekend conference together. We are each active in our respective churches. However, she was unfamiliar with the amount of quiet prayer time I engage in during an average day.

There was precious little spare time given the agenda of the weekend. I needed to use the early morning hours for prayer and study but she would be asleep.

I’d been praying about this before we went. Should I talk to her about it? What would I say? After much prayer, all that was certain was that God knew the need for quiet communion with Him and He would arrange it. I had no idea what that mean, but trusted our heavenly Father to work it out.

Friday night we went to bed after 11 pm and a full day of activity. At 4 am I found myself totally awake and feeling ready for the next day. Instantly the thought occurred to me that there was a light in the large walk-in closet off the bathroom. I realized I could literally go into the closet and pray without awakening my friend. This I did and it worked. Both mornings I was wide awake quite early without an alarm, went into the closet, and did the Bible study necessary for the day without disturbing my roommate.

When Jesus’ disciples asked him about prayer, he began his instructions by saying, “when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and they Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:6)

To me the closet had always indicated quieting the noise of the world and human will in order to hear thoughts from God. But in this case, I literally went into a closet to pray.

Wherever we are, whatever the circumstances, when our desire is to commune with God, He will fulfill that desire. We can expect God to provide us with moments for quiet prayer, and we can be receptive to them.

During college, I remember talking to my Dad because I had no time for Bible study and prayer. I was upset about it since I felt I needed God's guidance in order to do well in school. I was also feeling guilty because I wanted to be obedient to the first commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3) It seemed that schoolwork and classes had taken over my life and that grades were becoming almost like a god to me. I thought my Dad would chastise me for not putting God first and tell me that I could make time for whatever was really important. But he didn't.

Instead he asked me what I thought Jesus did as he was walking from village to village. Dan answered my silence with, "He was praying!" He then encouraged me to pray as I was walking to my various classes. It took 20 minutes to walk to each class. Suddenly there was more than an hour a day available for prayer and listening to God's angel messages. Dad explained that there would be time later for quiet Bible study, not to worry about it.

What a revelation! All the guilt and anxiety disappeared. I began praying every spare moment, walking to class, getting ready in the morning, walking to dinner. The semester turned around for the better. The rest of my college semesters had sufficient time for Bible study. But more importantly, I've never again felt that I could be placed in a position where there was no time or opportunity to pray and turn to God for guidance or help.

Whether in a closet in a hotel room, walking to a destination, or driving a car to work, God is providing us with opportunities to pray and listen for His guidance and inspiration.

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