

THE WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE OF SOLITUDE

Solitude is not in the vocabulary of most Christians but it is the most wonderful privilege God's children have this side of heaven. Please note the following the highlights about solitude:

I. **Scriptures on Solitude:** Psalm 24:7; Psalm 4:4; Psalm 46:10; Psalm 91:1; Psalm 16:11; Habakkuk 2:20; Mark 1:35; Revelation 8:1.

II. **The difference in Solitude and Loneliness.**

1. **Loneliness** is when one feels disconnected, detached, forgotten, even forsaken and hopeless.
2. **Solitude** is to be attached and attentive to God in order to listen, to learn, to love Him and to share in His awesome Presence.

III. **The History of Solitude:**

1. **Moses** – God put Moses on the backside of the Desert for 40 years. Until God suddenly spoke to him from a burning bush and called him to a humanly impossible task.
2. **David** – He lived in turmoil fleeing from Saul but at times sought solitude with God – Psalm 4:4; 27:4 and 46:10 are autobiographical.
3. **Paul** – Immediately after his conversion he disappeared into Arabia for many years at which time apparently the Holy Spirit gave him half of the New Testament to write (Galatians 1:17).
4. **Jesus** – spent 40 days in solitude in the wilderness. Please note Mark 1:35.
5. **Saints of the ages** – did their greatest work in solitude. John Bunyan wrote Pilgrim's Progress in solitude. Saint Jerome translated the Vulgate in a cave.

IV. **The Purpose of Solitude:**

1. **Fellowship with the Living God.** God created man in His own likeness so He could fellowship with him – Genesis 1:26. Psalm 8:5 says that we are made a little lower than God. Psalm 19:1 says the heavens declare the glory of God and Romans 1 says that we can see the majesty of God in nature, however, no tree or animal can have fellowship with God except

man. Amazing as it may seem we can add nothing to God, but He still seeks fellowship with us. Only two things He seeks:

- a. The lost – Luke 19:10
- b. The saved to worship – John 4:24.

2. **Preparation.** When we are in solitude with God we are prepared for today because God knows anything we will face in any day. Solitude prepares us to meet anything. Solitude will prepare us to meet any tribulation, trial, suffering in the future.

3. **Deep Revelation of Truth** in the tomorrows.

V. **The Power of Solitude:**

1. Cures our anxiety.
2. Saves us from burnout
3. Cures our stress
4. Helps our physical health
5. Lessons ulcers, cancer and heart attacks.
6. Prepares us for service

VI. **Bible Study and Prayer are not exactly Solitude.**

1. In solitude you listen to God and learn
2. In Bible Study you may be so involved in thinking about the passage and taking notes that you cease to focus on God. Prayer alone is not solitude, but Bible Study and prayer may very well precede solitude.