

Alone with God.
For people who do not have children at home.
Roy & Tricia Bullard

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Main Scriptures:

James 4:8

Luke 1:31

Acts 10:13

Acts 9:3

Exodus 14:16

John 8:47

John 10:27

Our Journey:

Both Tricia and I were introduced to the church and to the gospel of Jesus Christ at a young age. Our families were working-class families, and our parents lived Christian lives, attended church, and lived by the Bible to the best of their ability. Neither of our family lives were perfect, who's is, but our upbringing set us on a life's course of believing in God and the Bible. Tricia's father was a successful businessman in West Texas, and she was introduced to financial and business matters, which led her to a career in banking. She spent 34 years in the banking industry and recently retired as the Executive Vice President of Human Resources for a bank in Dallas. Her many years in human resources in business and banking gave her extraordinary leadership skills and an understanding of people and the world of banking and finance.

Throughout these years of experience, she stayed strong in her faith in God. On a frequent and regular basis, Tricia drew near to God and sought His guidance and wisdom regarding her personal walk with God, her family, the people around her, and business decisions. She learned through those years to be a minister of the gospel in every area of her life. Her alone time with God and drawing near to him helped her be an effective minister to the people around her. Roy's father had been in the army in World War II and fought in the "Battle of the Bulge ."The trauma that was caused by the war took its toll on him in the early days of our family. Our family was very poor at the beginning of my life. My Grandmother, my dad's mother, was a strong believer in God and knew her Bible well. Three of her sons had been in WW II, all at the same time, which strengthened her faith in what God could do. I personally saw with my own eyes

how miracles happened through my Grandmother. She used her faith in God to minister to my dad and his brothers and led them to an understanding and a love for Jesus that transformed their lives and, therefore, transformed mine. My dad became a successful businessman and grew an aviary business from a startup to a very successful business.

Working with my dad for many years taught me a great deal about the Lord and about being a minister in everything you do. My love of aviation started at a very young age, and that fire was fed by my two uncles, who were pilots. College was next, and I ended up getting several degrees over a period of several years. The two degrees that got me into the aviation industry were a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Business. My recent retirement brought to a close the coolest career ever, a 46-year-long career in engineering, most of that in the aviation industry designing jets.

During that career, I used the principles learned from my dad of applying biblical principles to every situation and that you are a minister wherever you are. Many times during that career, assignments were given to me that were impossible to complete. These assignments always drove me to my knees to seek God's help and guidance in these very difficult programs. Thousands of times in my career, I got alone with God and fervently sought his guidance on both personnel and technical issues. God NEVER failed; answers were given and then applied to the problem, and the problem was resolved.

Here is just one example: An engineering computer simulation of the horizontal tail of a new jet that we were designing was found to have a flutter problem. If that flutter were to happen, it would only take seconds for the part to fail, resulting in a crash. My team was given the responsibility to solve the problem. A team of experts from around the world was brought in to find a solution, but none could be found. God had given me technical answers before, and I was praying for Him to give me this one. Once again, the next night, I spent time alone with God, on my knees, asking God for His help. The answer came. God provided specific dimensions for the critical part of the airplane. At work the next day, my team put the new dimensions into the computer simulation. They were pretty sure I had lost my mind. Within the week, they had run the new simulation, which showed no sign of flutter at any speed under any circumstances. That jet is flying today and has been flying for several years with that horizontal tail. God is not just the God of our spiritual lives, but He is the God of everything, including business and technical decisions.

Because of our demanding experiences in business and industry, we learned the value of depending on God in every instance and taking the time to really seek him, which means finding time to get alone with Him. These things now carry over into the phase of our lives where we have more discretionary time, where we can choose to use our time to love the people around us, walk life's journey with them, and do ministry with them. Tricia has a burning desire to see women know God closely, help them discover God's plan for their lives, and share the knowledge and tools that will allow them to step into their divine plan. Roy also has a similar desire to see people, especially men, come to know the love of God and the saving power of Jesus. Of course, the love of aviation carries over into ministry thoughts and actions.

Benefits of alone time with God:

The title of this section seems like an absurd thing to say or think. If you knew you could have some one-on-one time with God, you would jump at the chance, and so would I. Actually, we can.

When we take the time to really press into God, we find He is open to meeting with us and talking to us through His Holy Spirit. In James 4:8, the Bible says: "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." Throughout the Bible, God spoke to his people; some examples are: Mary (mother of Jesus). In Luke 1:31, God told Mary through an Angel: "You will give birth to a son and you will name Him Jesus."

Peter – Had a dream about forbidden food. In Acts 10: 13, God said, "Get up Peter, slaughter and eat."

Saul (later known as Paul) – Was blinded by a bright light on his way to Damascus. In Acts 9: 3, God spoke to Saul and asked him this question. "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting and oppressing me?"

Moses – God talked to him many times. One of those times was when the children of Israel were leaving their captivity in Egypt. God said to him at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:16, "As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. So that the sons of Israel may go through the sea on dry land."

These are just a few examples of God talking to His people; there are many more.

I am a pilot and love flying. We live in an area with a large amount of air traffic. As soon as I take off and get out of the area of the airport, I dial in the frequency of the air traffic controller in the area and ask him for his help in navigating through the air traffic, especially if I am going north through DFW traffic. That gives me a second pair of eyes, watching for situations I should avoid. Air control is always there and always talking.

In the same way, God is always there and always willing to talk. We must "tune in" to God and listen for His voice. Getting alone with God is a great way to tune in. When we pause to dial into His frequency, get rid of distractions, and just listen, the benefits are incredible. You will find out how much God loves you. You will be encouraged and strengthened in your faith. He will also help you navigate through your life, in good times and in bad. Tricia and I have had times when God gave us direction on the way we should go in life decisions. An example of that is a time when we both felt that God had told us both individually that we were going to buy a piece of property. Soon after that, a good friend told us of a group deal to purchase a lot in southeastern Oklahoma and build a cabin. We prayed about it and felt like God was saying, "Just go the next step." We had been to that area about a month before, so we decided to call a real estate person there. We bought the lot and built a nice cabin, and our family had many great vacations there. When we finally sold the property, it sold very quickly after listing and for more than two times what we had invested. God knew what He was doing and worked that out for our good. In John 8:47, the Bible says: "He who is of God, hears God's voice."

The Bible also says in John 10:27: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me." We are the sheep; when we take the time to be quiet before God and listen for Him to speak to us, we will hear and know His voice. The more often we press into God, the more we will recognize His voice, and the faster we will be able to tune in to what He is saying.

Preparing to get alone with God:

Some preparation is helpful when getting tuned in to hear God's voice. Finding the best place to be alone with God is very important. You may need to make a reservation and make plans and provisions to be in that place.

Get your heart set for this time. I enjoy some good Christian music, and it really speaks to me and gets me to an attitude of worship. Read a few of your favorite and encouraging Bible passages.

But soon, all that must stop, and we need to get quiet before the Lord. Don't spend much time talking, but instead, let God speak to you. Many times, during my quiet times, God has brought Bible verses to mind, and as I read those verses, it was actually God talking to me. The important thing is to get before the Lord, get quiet, eliminate distractions, and listen.

Ways to be alone with God:

One advantage for people who do not have children or no longer have children at home is that it can be easy to get alone with God right there at home. It provides more time to be alone with God without the distraction of raising a family. Tricia calls these "Pajama Days". When she tells me that she is going to have a PJ Day, I know to leave her alone because she is going to get alone with God. Believe it or not, that supersedes time with me. I love the time she takes to just press into God. It is always good. It could be in "your chair" at home or maybe a prayer closet, or on your porch where you can look at the sunrise or the sunset or go to the lake and look out over the water. I have a similar time when I disappear into my man cave and press into God or on the porch or boat dock to look at God's handiwork.

Another great way to get alone with God is to go away by yourself or with someone who knows you plan to get alone for some of the time. The intent is to get alone with God. There are several choices, but the one I like the most is to find a place away from the hustle of everyday life and go there to eliminate the background noise. There is one such place on the white river in Arkansas. It is a beautiful place and plenty of places to go alone. It is a fishing area along the white river, but fishing is optional. I would prefer to get out in the woods along the river and find a nice spot to sit. Tricia would prefer to sit on the porch of the cabin and be alone with God there. Either way, it accomplishes the goal. There are many ways to get alone with God. Find the one that suits you and the place that allows you to get rid of distractions.

Final thoughts:

As a Christian, time alone with God is your time to put away the cares of this world and "tune in" to God. The more you do this, the easier it gets to find the time and the place. It also gets easier to hear God and recognize His voice.

The important thing is to do it. Our challenge and hope for you is to get alone with God!