

*Be Still and Know
That I Am God*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

As Christians, it is guaranteed that we will face many challenges as we walk with Christ. This is a turbulent era for the human race at large. Changes in governments, natural disasters, age-old conflicts, and debilitating diseases are bringing heartache to so many. Our natural response to such difficulties is to scramble human resources—money, effort, and time—in a frantic search for answers.

This, however, is not God's way. He has said that in quietness and confidence we shall find our strength (Isaiah 30:15). Simply put, the Lord's desire is that we learn to be still and know that He is God in every situation. We can only do this if we come to fully understand who God is and recognize what we are not, as He allows certain things to bring us to the end of ourselves. By receiving the truth contained in this booklet, we will learn how to quiet ourselves before Him and be still, realizing that God knows

every way that we take and that He will bring us to His expected end.

Receive the Word of God very carefully as you read these pages. Practice academic discipline and spiritual concentration with God-consciousness. A soul that is not distracted will receive what God has to give in the maximum glorification of Jesus Christ.

Chapter One

HE GIVES QUIETNESS

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

“There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

“The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

“Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;

he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah” (Psalm 46).

Job 34:29a says, “When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?” If God gives quietness—undisturbed rest, undisturbed faith, and undisturbed refreshment for your situation right now—who can make trouble? Satan can’t. The demons can’t. Neither can the enemies of your soul make trouble for you.

“Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child” (Psalm 131:2). The Psalmist is saying, “I have made myself quiet by being weaned from that which would disturb me.” He is weaned from anything that would bring problems and inward pressures to his life. His soul is a weaned soul because he has discovered divine quietness.

“...Whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil” (Proverbs 1:33).

The tenth verse of Psalm 46 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” What a tremendous

passage! No matter what happens on earth—“Be still.” Be still even in the midst of the earthquakes, the tornadoes, and the devastating things that come through the permission of God to ultimately bring about His perfect will for individuals who make their own choices. The Word of God says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” His plan is perfect—be still.

The Strength of Standing Still

I received a letter recently from a seven-year-old boy. It told me that his mom was out shopping and his dad got a call from the doctor. The boy wasn't where he was supposed to be, and he overheard his dad say, “You mean I have cancer?” The father had not had a physical exam in four years and discovered that at age thirty-seven, cancer had spread throughout his body.

The boy came and told his dad what he had heard. The father just held him and wept. As he was holding the boy, the father wondered how he would tell his wife. After a time, the dad said to the son that the Lord's still, small voice was telling him to “Be still, and know that I am God.” The Lord became their strength.

According to Isaiah 30:7, “[Our] strength is to sit still.” Be still. Stand still, and know that

Someone loves you; remember that Someone died for you at Calvary. And if Jesus Christ did that while you were still a sinner, will He not do much more for you now that you are a child of God? Be still, and study to be quiet.

A young woman wrote to me of how her father died when she was young, and her mother married an alcoholic who screamed, cursed, and beat on the walls. When she grew up, she left home, wounded and hurt. She didn't think she could ever get married, but eventually she did marry a man from her home church.

After being married for two and a half years and having one child, this woman found out that her husband was bisexual. He finally left her to go live with a man.

She ended her letter with these words: "After the wounds, pains, sorrow, and heartache of living with my stepfather and then living in a bad marriage, I could still hear God's still small voice saying, 'Be still, and know that I am God,' because I had gone to church faithfully and I knew God."

Quietness Eases Pain

Medical studies have shown that when a person is quiet, even physical pain is greatly re-

duced. In other words, we can become so quiet and so relaxed that our soul will be undisturbed in the tranquillity of the manifestation of God's presence. Because we are in communion with God, we are able to be still.

After a recent string of tornadoes struck central Florida, a young mother said, "I lost my husband and my son. I still have my daughter because we were not at home when the tornado hit. We lost everything. But I love God. I love Jesus. Somehow, we know there is a reason for what happened. It will be all right, because God is on the Throne."

Be still, and know that He is God. Job 37:14 says so beautifully, "Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God."

Years ago in Maine, we had just built a new church for our assembly of one thousand people. Several of us had gone to the TV station for a live broadcast and then we got word that the church had been set on fire. We gathered there and wept together. Many stayed until three o'clock in the morning. I stayed up that night and just went walking. I saw that the stars were so beautiful, and then I watched the sun come up. At that moment, I sensed God saying to me, "Stand still, and see My wondrous works. Be still, and know

that I am God.”

“Stand in awe and sin not, commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still” (Psalm 4:4). I remember the many nights of praying for my first wife as she lay dying from cancer. I would ask, “Why, God? Please work.” He would answer me, “Stand in awe. Don’t sin in your soul. Commune in your own heart with Me and stand still. Everything will be all right. Be still. Be still, and know that I am God.” God has a beautiful way of teaching us how to be still, how to be quiet.

Chapter Two

LOVE IS GREATER
THAN TROUBLE

“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places; when it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place. Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters.” (Isaiah 32:17-20a).

In the third chapter of the book of Ruth, Naomi told Ruth, “Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall” (Ruth 3:18). In other words, sit still until the matter is dealt with.

It’s beautiful to read through the Word of God and understand that God is saying, “My love for you is greater than your trouble. My provision for you is greater than your problems. My purpose for you is greater than your

heartache." Psalm 62:8 tells us to, "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us."

"He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still" (Psalm 107:29). God will calm the worst storms of your life; and the waves—the outside forces that come against you—shall be still.

It is precious to understand that the Lord allows the sun and the rain to come upon the just and the unjust. But to His own people, God says, "I will give you resting places, sweet habitations. Be still."

Finding Rivers of Peace

I spoke to a pastor who recently lost his church. Apparently there was a battle among some of the deacons. There was no immorality involved. Someone suggested that he call me. When I heard his voice on the phone, he sounded so troubled.

"People have attacked my wife, they've attacked me, and I don't know why," he said. "We had a growing church of three-hundred people. Over one hundred and fifty people had been added in two years. But now at least a hundred have left. They've voted me out and I don't

know why.”

Here is what God had to say to him: “Be still. Just be still—it will work together for good. Be still and know that I am God. Stand still, and watch Me fight your battles. I want you to learn that when you’re quiet, when you’re resting, and when you cease from your labors (Hebrews 4:10), rivers of peace will flood your soul; fellowship with God will flood your heart. The Word will be a treasure in your earthen vessel. Walk by faith, not by sight. Do not look at the circumstances. Stand still and know that I am God.”

Purged and Made Clean

A man came to me and said, “I am a Christian, but I fell into sin and started using drugs. I got AIDS from using an infected needle. I am tired and weary from it. I hate what I did and I am repenting. I felt that your church was a place where I could come to be loved and forgiven.”

I prayed, “God, what do I give this man?”

The Lord answered, “Give him this, ‘I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross,’ (Isaiah 1:25). I will take away his sin.”

I also told him, “From this point on, God’s

hand will be on you. Ask God to give you a *rhema*—a specific word for you from the Bible. As you work out what God works within you through reverence, just be still. Be still, and know that God is God.”

God so desires for us to learn to study to be quiet and to be still. Are your children going through things? Perhaps one or two of them are going through periods of rebellion and you don't understand why, even though you love them dearly. Maybe they are in deep, deep trouble.

Be still.

Have you failed? You are miserable over it because you really do love God deeply.

Be still, and know that He is God.

No matter what happens, the Word of God tells us to *be still*.

Chapter Three

HEARING HIS STILL, SMALL VOICE

Elijah enjoyed a tremendous victory, calling down fire from heaven for the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). Then he heard the news about Jezebel, a murderous woman with an evil heart who vowed that she would kill Elijah.

When Elijah heard the news, he ran a day's journey—about forty miles—into the wilderness. Weary from his journey, Elijah became very depressed, and lying down under a juniper tree, he fell asleep. God sent an angel to wake him up. The angel had baked a cake on hot coals. That was *real* angel's food cake—a meal that sustained Elijah for forty days and nights on his journey to Horeb, the mount of God. Finally, Elijah came to a cave and lodged there.

God asked him, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9). Eight hundred prophets of

Baal had been destroyed through a thirty second prayer by this great prophet. The power of God had come down and fire consumed the sacrifice, even though it had been soaked with four barrels of water (see 1 Kings 18:31-40).

Then, God told Elijah to stand upon the mount before the Lord. A great wind came, breaking rocks into pieces, but God wasn't in the wind. Then there was an earthquake, but God wasn't in the earthquake. Next came a great fire, but God was not in the fire. After the fire came a still, small voice—and *God was in the voice*. Eventually, the Lord told Elijah that he wasn't alone, that there were seven thousand in Israel who had refused to bow to Baal (1 Kings 19:18).

God deals with circumstances and situations of adversity in quietness, not in condemnation. He speaks with a still, small voice through the Holy Spirit.

Beside Still Waters

“He leadeth me beside the still waters” (Psalm 23:2). David wrote Psalm 23 as he was hiding in the Judean Hills on a beautiful starlit night. It looked as though Absalom, David's son, was going to successfully defeat him and take over the throne and the kingdom. Despite the con-

spiracy Absalom had caused, David loved his son and wished he hadn't made the mistake of keeping him out of the palace for two years. But that night under the stars, David thought, "God is leading me beside still waters."

Perhaps David thought, "I'm not going to be depressed. I'm not going to be anxious. I'm not going to be discontented. I'm not going to give in to a driving spirit to know what's going on. He leads me beside still waters. It is a wonderful place of quietness, confidence, and assurance. I have undisturbed peace, and I will be still and quiet because I know God."

The greatest thing we can do is to let Jesus Christ fill up our souls with quietness and with the peace that passes understanding. Only as we understand this premise will it be possible for us to rest in Him, cease from our own labors, trust in His Word, fellowship with His Spirit, and begin to really believe Him, free at last from distractions.

Chapter Four

LIVING IN THE RESTING PLACE

“...Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you” (Numbers 9:8).

“Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers” (1 Samuel 12:7).

When we come to church, we have to be still before God so that the speaker can receive something from the Lord for the congregation. God does this, in Psalm 108:6, so that His “beloved may be delivered.” He delivers the ones He loves.

Be quiet and let your silence reveal your faith. Let your trust reveal your belief in God. Let your heart ponder and meditate upon the awesomeness of God Almighty. Even as the waves of adversity are roaring and so many things are going on around you, *be still*.

In Matthew 8:23-27, Jesus is asleep in a boat with His disciples. A storm caused by demons is brewing and the waves begin to batter the boat. He is still sleeping as they cry out to Him, "Save us, lest we perish!" Jesus stands up and says to the storm, "Peace, be still." The wind ceases and there is a great calm (Mark 4:39).

This is the lesson: Even in the worst possible storm, Jesus could be quiet; He could be still. Therefore, we can be still. In Mark 4:35, Jesus had said to His disciples, "Let us pass over unto the other side." In essence He was saying, "We are going to the other side, no matter what kind of storm the demons produce. It won't matter how bad the waves are or how much water is coming into the boat."

Why was Jesus able to rise, speak to the storm, and produce a great calm? Because He was still. His humanity was sleeping, confident that His Father would get them to the other side.

God will always get us to the other side. He will always do what He has promised to do. Look to Jesus Christ and receive His calmness, His undisturbed peace and rest. Put away pre-occupation with situations and circumstances. Forsake the details, needs, and wants of life and come to God. Hear God say, "Be still. Just be

still, and know that I am God.”

His Yoke Is Easy

“My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace” (Jeremiah 50:6).

I received a letter from a pastor who is now in a nursing home and listens to our radio program. He wrote, “It hurts to be here in this nursing home with no family. I preached for thirty-five years, but here I am alone, suffering with a deteriorating condition.”

I wrote back, “You are a precious man of God, but you have forgotten your resting place.” Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Don’t forget your resting place when the storms come and when the waves toss you to and fro. Jesus Christ will calm the storm. If you hear negative news, be still. Don’t be distressed. Don’t think negatively toward the promises of

God. No matter what you may encounter, be still and find that quiet resting place. Enjoy the security of your sure dwelling place in Christ.

God's plan is not for defeat, but for abundant life. Even if you have lost everything, He will lead you by the still waters.

CONCLUSION

“Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding” (Proverbs 14:33a). “Wisdom” here implies quietness and peace. Wisdom rests in the heart of those who implement and apply the Word with understanding. It doesn’t take much to disturb some Christians. When bad news comes, they are unable to say “He leads me beside still waters,” because wisdom only works in the heart when categorical doctrine is appropriated with understanding.

Study to be quiet; learn God’s truth so thoroughly that it becomes an immediate response to any difficulty. Learn to resist the devil and he will flee. This is a promise from the Lord.

Above all else, be still, and know that He is God. Let quietness and confidence be your strength as you stand. God will fight for you and then He will say, “Go forward.” Learn to stand still, and He will fight for you so that you can move on in the perfect plan He has for you.