

# GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY NEWS BRIEF

July 2020

## OH NO!

When things are not going well with a team on the field of play or on a court, a concerned coach will raise his or her arms, form a “T” with both hands and yell:

## TIME OUT!

At this point, the team gathers around the coach and when the squad has given the coach their full attention he quickly outlines some of the problems that are causing their poor play. Then, the coach shares some ways to correct their errors, reviews the importance of following the game plan and briefly encourages them by reminding the team of how well they performed in the past. Then the coach offers the team some further encouragement and sends them back onto the field or court with a renewed sense that they can do it!

In the midst of our troubled and chaotic world, it is important that we take time out and listen to the greatest coach you will ever know. This incredible coach begins by giving us this important advice:

**“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD; I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH.”  
(PSALM 46:10 NIV)**



For those of us who are true followers of the Lord know that the real solution to the ills of this world is all wrapped up in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Each morning, as the lone caregiver for my wife, Sue, who is suffering from the effects of two bouts with cancer and memory loss, we have breakfast together and then I read from 3 devotional books along with some scripture that I have been studying. This is followed by a season of prayer.

During the reading of one of the devotionals written by Dr. Charles Stanley, this matter of being still and listening to God was being discussed. The devotional was entitled, “Silence in Meditation”. Dr. Stanley’s challenge follows:

"When you pray, do you do all of the talking? To have God speak to your heart is an awesome experience - one you may miss if you monopolize the conversation and never pause to listen. But, when you remain quiet, the Lord will transform you, changing how you think and conforming you to do His ways. How does He do so? He may remind you of an important passage of scripture, reveal a biblical truth for you to apply, expose unconfessed sin, or bring someone to mind that needs your ministry. In other words, He will direct your path. (Proverbs 3:5-6).

This is why it is so important for you to sit before Him in silence and allow Him to pour Himself into you, He will reveal His will and bring peace to your inner being.

Friend, sitting before God allows Him to speak to your heart clearly, positively, and unmistakably -- showing you what to do. You will know that the Lord has truly spoken to you -- and that's the definition of life at its very best."

In our modern world locked in the prison of stress and the demands for instant everything, you are possibly thinking: "But I don't have time for this quiet stuff nor spending time in God's word. Life is just too busy... and that is just the way it is."

About the same time that I read Dr. Stanley's devotional to Sue I also was reading to her some thoughts being shared by Max Lucado in his devotional book entitled "Grace for the Moment." The title of Lucado's devotional for that particular day was, "Your Whispering Thoughts." Lucado's take on this subject follows and hopefully will ignite an idea or two as to how you might somehow find a way to redeem the time you simply don't seem to have.

"Imagine considering every moment as a potential time of communication with God. By the time your life is over, you will have spent six months at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, a year and a half looking for lost stuff (double that number in my case), and a whopping five years standing in various lines.

Why don't you give these moments to God? By giving God your whispering thoughts, the common becomes uncommon. Simple phrases such as "Thank you, Father", "Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord", "You are my resting place, Jesus" can turn a commute into a pilgrimage. You needn't leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts. Just Like Jesus.

*At this point it is my prayer that you will put on your creative thinking caps in order to discover ways to be still and know that He is truly God. In one way it is hard for me to imagine that our Creator would even want to speak to us... let alone put up with us when we simply can't find the time to listen to Him. If a close friend called and wanted to talk with me would I respond and tell that dear friend, "Sorry, I am too busy. I don't have time for you"? OF COURSE NOT.*



## WE MUST ALL WRESTLE WITH THE BUSYNESS THING.

The demands and needs keep marching into our lives with few or no breaks. Before long, exhaustion sets in and one begins to feel like a zombie and we are forced to conclude there is no way that we can do one more thing. Rest is usually the cure for our run-down batteries and so this need suddenly moves up on our must do list, and becomes a priority. And guess what? Coming alongside Mr. Rest and perhaps uninvited, a new best friend arrives: Mr. Be Still and Know That I am God. At this point our tired body just might be ready to be quiet and listen to the greatest coach one could ever have. The amazing thing is that this Incredible Coach has the answers to this puzzling game that we call life. His timing might not always be instant, but His timing is always perfect.



And so, in the midst of a world wandering in the fog of uncertainty, I want to encourage each of you to search for that elusive quiet time that will allow you to meet personally with the Lord who promised to “never leave or forsake you” and who also encourages each of His children to “Cast all of your burdens on Him for He cares for you.” However, don’t forget, His incredible love overshadows everything and no matter how dark the tunnel of your life gets or how deep you may sink in the muck of this world, He is ready and willing to help you.

So hang in there, dear friends, may the Lord be with you and guide your every step as you walk through the minefield of our lost and needy world. Also may I humbly ask you to please take time to pray for GSSM’s staff and students as they continue their training that is preparing them to penetrate the darkness of this world with the light and hope that only Jesus can provide. Billy Graham said that the Lord did not call us to a playground; He called us to a battleground. So stand firm, put on your whole armor (Ephesians 6) and be prepared to use the one weapon in your arsenal that can never be destroyed and which will never fail. It’s called love. God’s love. Check out 1 Corinthians 13 for the powerful elements that can penetrate even the most hardened hearts.

**CLOTHE YOURSELF, THEREFORE, WITH THE WORDS FROM PROVERBS 3:5-6...**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.”*

Blessings,  
**RUSS CARR**

Coming soon!

A series entitled "Reflections" that will include true stories on stepping out in faith when it doesn't make sense, miracles that brought shouts of praise and an incredible joy to many and acts of courage by some modern day heroes that just might bring tears to your eyes and thanksgiving pounding in your heart.

Some of the stories will come from the book I (Russ) have written entitled, The Coach Who Lost it All in Order to Win it All. This collection of events that ultimately led me to establish a pair of ministries will soon go to the publisher. There is a good chance that my wife and I won't be around to sign some of the books as we turned 87 recently. My eldest daughter, Jill, will do her best to see the process through and spearhead this project. Several good friends and other family members also stand ready to assist.



*Thank you Lord! And Lord, please bless our dear friends who you have touched and are making all of this possible.*

In closing I want to thank each of you for your prayers and financial support for GSSM. Your help is making a difference in literally hundreds of lives and I stand in awe as I observe our graduates moving into places to minister but I never knew even existed. It leaves me breathless as I fall to my knees and simply praise the Lord as name after name is being added to the Lambs Book of Life.

**P.S. THE SERIES ENTITLED "REFLECTIONS" WILL BE IN ADDITION TO GSSM'S MONTHLY NEWS BRIEFS AND WILL COME ALONG WITH OUR REGULAR MAILING AS A SUPPLEMENT FOR THE LIFE OF THE SERIES. I PRAY YOU'LL BE BLESSED BY THESE UNIQUE STORIES THAT WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY GOD'S LOVE, GRACE, MERCY AND PROVISION.**