

Something to Pray About

September 2013 – Cindy Sears

Be still and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a NKJV

Be Still

Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro when he encountered the LORD's presence in a burning bush on the far side of the wilderness. Moses was engaged in a menial task, wandering about in a lonely, desert area, away from family and friends, before he heard God speak to him. Do you ever set aside time away from family, work, friends, radios, TVs, computers, cell phones, and other distractions and *listen* for God to speak? Or do you quickly read a few verses in the Bible or a section of a devotional booklet, mumble a quick "prayer" and go on about your business as if nothing has happened? And nothing has happened.

If you had really had a conversation with God, some change would have occurred, because no human can encounter God without change occurring. Abraham left the land of his birth, when God spoke to him. Jacob was running from Esau and all alone when he heard God, so he built an altar and made a pact with God to return there and give a tenth of all he earned to the LORD. Various other men and women became leaders of the Israelites when God spoke to them. The disciples left their homes and jobs to follow Jesus. The first Christians made radical changes in their lives and many of them died as martyrs.

So, if we are truly conversing with God will we end up leaving our homes, our country, our jobs? Will we be required to die for Jesus, or to sell all that we have and give it away? Maybe, but for most of us, not likely. Yet, there will be change—change in *our* plans for the day, don't you think? If I really *listen* for God to speak, can I expect to be able to stick with all the plans I have made for the day or the month or the coming year? Even in our everyday encounters with other people, we often have to adjust our plans. Why should it be any different with God? He knows things that we can never fathom:

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV)

He sees the big picture through distance, time, and history. He knows what is best for us and His kingdom's work, better than we know ourselves. After all, God tells us that he has plans for us:

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD, "plans for welfare (peace) and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 HCSB)

When speaking with God, there is always the possibility that He will call you to do something—something that may be scary or life-changing. Are you willing to take the risk? Do you trust God enough to let Him do the talking? He gave His son to be a sacrificial lamb for you. He promises to meet all your *needs*. (See Matthew 6:25-34) He gave you life in the first place. Is there any reason *not* to trust Him? Is there any reason, other than selfishness or rebellion, to turn a deaf ear to Him? "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Mark 4:9)

In the wilderness wanderings, the Israelites complained over and over again, and God always fulfilled their needs. If God is willing to listen to our cries for help and respond, can we not listen for Him to speak and respond, too?

So, be still for a little while, and *listen*. For “God is good, and His mercy endures forever.” †