

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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“Incessant Noise”

*“Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!
(Zechariah 2:13)*

*“The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”
(Habakkuk 2:20)*

“Silence” is something that few of us know anything about in these last days. Christians are no different from the rest of the populace when it comes to their addiction to the noise of the world. Webster defines “addiction” as “the persistent compulsive need for something”. We tend to think of “addiction” as being related to a substance or an activity such as alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gambling or even shopping ----- something known to be harmful. When we think about “noise”, we might refer to a certain type of noise as “noise pollution”, and depending on how loud it may be, even considered as harmful; but addictive? Probably not.

Dear reader, our subject today “Incessant Noise” is one of extreme importance. It is a subject that has a subtle, but direct impact on our spiritual well being. “Noise” and its relation to our spiritual health --- good and bad ----- will be the focus of what I share with you in this letter. Please, prayerfully consider what you read here.

Today, man in the western world, is subjected to more of the noise of the world, than ever before in his history. From the rising up and going out, to the coming in and lying down, we are continually bombarded by “noise”, much of which is self-inflicted. We cannot avoid the noise of the world that we encounter naturally as we live our day to day lives, nor should we; but that is not the “noise” that I wish to address in this paper.

The noise that I would draw our attention to today, is that which is self-inflicted and very detrimental to one’s spiritual well being. The noise that I am addressing today is that which drowns out the voice of God and leaves one mentally incapable of deep thought, of being able to seriously consider; it robs the

soul of man, and denies him the gift of revelation ----- it separates him from the “secret place” (Psalm 91), where the Voice of God is heard with clarity. Yes, dear reader, just as an uncontrollable appetite leads to obesity, loss of health and death in the physical man -----incessant noise will lead the spirit of man to a state where he is little more than a programmed, powerless, spiritually shallow android.

Like it or not, we humans are programmed by what we hear and read. To the extent that we are programmed with Truth (Jesus Christ – John 14:6), we are blessed indeed; to the extent that we are programmed with that which is less than Truth, we suffer great loss.

Our Father, through His word has instructed us to “test” all things that we hear, read or see; to “test” them by the Word of Truth (John 1:1).

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

“Test all things, hold fast what is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

How can we test ourselves, spirits, and all things we encounter, except by the Word of God? Certainly we have learned by now the danger of following one’s own heart, or at least we should have. Clearly, all things must be examined by the Light of Father’s Word ----- all things. How shall one receive “revelation” (understanding) of Father’s Word except by the “still small voice” of the Teacher ----- the Holy Spirit?

“When He, the Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you into all truth;” (John 16:13a)

Father tells us that “without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). He also tells us that: “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Our ability to hear depends on our having received the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:9 – 13 & Acts 19: 2-6). Without the Holy Spirit one cannot hear God, the scripture is clear on this matter;

“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” (Romans 8:9b)

Our Father speaks, to His own, by His Spirit through His word. This explains why Jesus said: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Today, most of us are attempting to prove God wrong by ignoring Matthew 4:4; we then wonder why we are so spiritually powerless and experiencing so much trouble within our families, our churches and our nation. Like it or not, believe it or not, hear it or not ----- God’s word governs all of creation and no man nor beast nor any other created thing can escape the governing authority of “IT IS WRITTEN”!

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life”. (Galatians 6:7 & 8)

Feeding on God’s word, His every word from Genesis to Revelation, under the tutorship of the Holy Spirit is critical to one’s well being. However, simply reading God’s word apart from “hearing” His

voice (Matthew 11:15), does not profit one at all. All spiritual growth is dependent upon hearing the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. Never forget:

“No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:11)

Therefore, to hear God, and actually know His will, we must have His Spirit within us, and we must have His word. In addition to His Spirit and His word, I would suggest that we must also have silence if we are to hear His voice.

There is a most interesting account of Elijah’s encounter with God’s voice in 1 Kings 19:11 – 13. There it is written:

“Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire -----a still small voice.”

Dear reader, please do not miss the lesson here; a great and strong wind, an earthquake and fire, along with the deafening noise that accompanies such events ----- went before the Lord’s presence; but it was in the aftermath of silence that ----- the still small voice of God was heard by Elijah. The English translation here, “a still small voice”, in the Hebrew, meant: “a delicate whispering voice”. Interesting!

“A delicate whispering voice” ----- Webster defines “whisper” as “speaking very low or under the breath”. The word “still”, according to Webster meant: “making no sound or silent”. Whatever one’s interpretation of these scriptures, one thing is abundantly clear; God’s voice through the Holy Spirit, will not share the airwaves with the noise of the world, nor with the noise of religion. Therein lies one of our greatest problems in these latter days ----- so much noise, and so little silence.

Hearing the voice of God requires the discipline of silence, the discipline of solitude, the discipline of meditating on God’s word (Psalm 119:15 – Psalm 1: 1- 3). Without these disciplines, no man needs to expect to hear the “still small voice” of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! There is a price to be paid by the one who desires to hear the voice of God and that price is silence.

As I mentioned previously, we cannot avoid the noise of the world that we encounter naturally, nor should we. However, self-inflicted noise is an entirely different matter. By self-inflicted, I mean the noise that one controls themselves. As an example, when I arise in the early morning before sunrise, I decide whether or not to break the silence of my home by turning on the TV, radio, stereo, etc. When I get in my car alone, I choose to travel either in the solitude of silence, or surrounded by the sounds of the radio, CD player, or tape player. When I return home at the end of the day, I choose, to a great extent, my environment as it relates to the noise of the world, or the solitude of silence.

Before I go further, let me assure you that it is perfectly healthy for one to enjoy times of music, the gathering of news or being entertained through the various electronic means that we have at our disposal. However, just as an occasional glass of wine may be pleasant to the taste and beneficial to the body, a quart of the same wine consumed on a daily basis, is not only harmful, but deadly. Just as too much wine numbs the body and impairs one’s ability to think ----- so too, “incessant noise”

numbs the soul of man, renders him spiritually deaf and unable to “think”, as the offspring of God (Acts 17:28):

“For in Him we live and move and have our being -----, for we are also His offspring.”

Today, we in the Western World seem to have become addicted to the “incessant” (without interruption) noise of the world. By choice, our “secret place” (Psalm 91:1) is continually violated by the TV, the stereo, the palm pilot, the computer, the walkman, the radio, the I Pod, the I phone, video games, etc. Our addiction to noise moves with us from the home to the car, and even to the practice of our religion -----to the church. I cannot personally remember a church service where silence was a welcome participant. There were times when we attempted to observe a season of silence, but 30 to 60 seconds was about the limit before a piano, organ or keyboard would sound off, or someone would be compelled to speak. I suppose when you fill a room with noise addicts, you should expect noise.

The still small voice of God is heard less and less by the mass of professing Christians as they have chosen the noise of their world to replace the silence of the secret place where God is (see Matthew 6:6). When the “many” choose noise rather than silence, and also choose to neglect, or worse, to reject the word of God in favor of their pastor, their own heart, their church or their favorite teacher, they are committing a slow form of spiritual suicide. At best, you end up with a malformed, powerless creature who does not know the difference between religion and spiritual reality. I believe many Spiritual rebirths are aborted due to the lack of the Spiritual nourishment of God’s word, and the incessant noise of the world, including the many words of well intentioned men. Dear reader, if you are in fact one of the “few” who are truly born-again, you will relate to our Father’s word; as it is written:

“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because -----all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass weathers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” (1 Peter 1:23 - 25)

“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25b – 27)

When man receives the undefiled word of God, as a little child (Mark 10:15) in an atmosphere of silence, he soon finds the door to the secret place open and himself in the very shadow of His holiness. It is there where the “still small voice” is heard.

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1)

Dear reader, I pray that you may have read something here that will cause you to pause and honestly evaluate your personal environment, as it relates to noise and silence. May God grant you the grace not only to hear what the Spirit would say to you, but also the grace to walk out what you hear. Talk is cheap indeed, but walking it out will guarantee you persecution (John 15:20), separation (2 Corinthians 6:17), and at times a sense of being abandoned by your religious friends, and even family members

(Matthew 10:34 – 39). However, I can personally testify to you that if you are willing to forsake all (Luke 14:33) what you will receive is better than gold, yea better than much fine gold!

“Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear and your soul shall live;” (Isaiah 55:3)

I leave you, until I am allowed to write again. In the meantime, feed on Father’s word, offer Him a sacrifice of silence and enjoy His still small voice.

Your brother,

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Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)