

Never Enough Time from Girlfriends in God

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Today's Truth

"In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28 NIV)

Friend to Friend

"I just never have enough time to spend with the Lord," Amanda cried. "I work forty plus hours a week, commute ninety minutes both ways, oversee elderly parents' affairs, and take care of my five-year-old son. I'm either on the road, at my desk or taking care of someone else's needs. And on top of that, I never feel like I'm doing any of it well. What does God want from me in the middle of all this madness? How can I carve out time for Him? I feel like I'm constantly failing Him!"

Amanda is not alone. I've been right there with her. Haven't you?

We live in a physical realm and our new, born-again spirits will never be completely satisfied here on earth. There will always be tension between the two. Living in union with the Spirit of God is counterintuitive to the ways of this world. What causes that tension and prevents us from experiencing unbroken union with Christ? I believe it is the tendency to compartmentalize life into two hemispheres: the secular and the sacred.

Everyday secular activities vie for our attention, while our times of worship and communion are relegated to Sunday morning worship, early morning quiet times, and mid-week Bible studies (if we can fit them in). We spend the majority of our days operating in secular, day-to-day activities and feeling guilty for the lack of time spent in sacred communion with God.

And for most of us, a struggle to find the balance between the secular and the sacred wages war in our hearts. We live in the secular and yet long to be in the sacred. The constant flip-flopping between the two is exhausting, and inevitably we see one as the winner and one as the loser. We see ourselves as failures struggling to get out of Romans 7 and longing to live in Romans 8. We wobble on a spiritual tightrope, fearing the slightest misstep will toss us into the canyon of God's disapproval.

Thankfully, there is a way to wave the white flag of surrender and end the battle's constant conflict. We can experience true union with Christ when we erase the dividing line and meld the two hemispheres.

What would that look like? Let's go back to Amanda.

What if Amanda communed with God *while* she commuted to work?

While she worked at her job?

While she took care of her family?

Do you see how that would help alleviate the false guilt that adds to her feelings of insufficiency? The physical or secular realm involves cooking, cleaning, ironing, shopping, vacuuming, laundering smelly clothes, washing dirty faces, and wiping messy bottoms. It involves being a wife, a mother, an employee, an employer, a friend, a student, and a host of other roles and responsibilities that merge on any given day. What could be sacred about all that? Everything.

The spiritual or sacred realm includes praying, reading the Bible, going to church, memorizing Scripture, serving the poor and meditating on meaningful messages. The spiritual aspects of our lives include worship and practicing spiritual disciplines.

I want to suggest that God never intended for the lines separating the secular and the sacred to exist in the first place. Acts 17:28 says, *In Him we live and move and have our being*. Then the sacred also includes cooking, cleaning, ironing shopping, vacuuming, laundering smelly clothes, washing dirty faces, and wiping messy bottoms. When you erase the lines between the secular and the sacred, your entire life can become an act of worship.

That doesn't mean that we don't pull away and spend quiet time with God, but it does mean that our communion with God doesn't stop there.

Let's Pray Dear Lord, forgive me for compartmentalizing my faith. I want all of my life, all of it, to be an act of worship. No more lines. One wholly holy life.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

Now It's Your Turn

In the temple of the Bible, a veil hung in front of the Holy of Holies to separate the high priests from the presence of God. Read Mark 15:38. What happened to the curtain in the temple when Jesus die, and who did it?

Aren't you glad Jesus made a way for you to enter into constant communion and union with God?

Because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, how can you enter God's presence with confidence. Read Hebrews 4:14-16

Today, as you do your errands, go to work, clean your house, cook your dinner...invite God along. Talk to Him. Acknowledge His presence.