

# DAILY QUIET TIME GUIDE

**BREVARD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

IMPRINT – LIVING OUT MY IDENTITY

06/4/2017

## HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

The QT Guide is designed to help you MOVE with God through Bible Reading, reflection and prayer. It can be completed in a about 7 mins.

**½ Minutes Preparing Your Heart:** Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, “Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time.

**4 Minutes Listening To God:** Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

**2 1/2 Talking To God (Prayer):** After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer.

## DAY 1

### Welcome To The Neighborhood

***Romans 8:14-17***

Who am I? That seems to be the big question that is buzzing around our minds. In our research conducted among 65,000 urban teenagers in India, the number one issue for 1 out of 3 respondents was about identity.

We seem to enjoy our identity in Ed Hardy T-shirts, the music we listen to, the friends we hang out with, and the instant gratification that comes from comments from our so-called friends on Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat. But, really, who are you?

The Bible says, ‘You are a son of the most high God.’ You are not what people say you are. You are what God says you are--a son and a daughter of the Most High.

In everyday terms, reputation is what people think about you and testimony is what God thinks about you. What God says about you matters! You + GOD = Majority.

The Bible accelerates this truth to in fact call us joint heirs with Christ. This is mind-blowing because it means that whatever Jesus has is ours and all that we have is His. This means that He has taken our weakness and made His strength ours. Our liabilities are His and His abundance is ours, our sickness is His and His wholeness and healing is ours. You just got upgraded!

Now that we have a new identity that comes through Christ, we have greater responsibility as well. It’s a place of great privilege and also a position of incredible authority!

Bill Johnson says, 'Royalty is my identity; service is my assignment; intimacy with God is my source of strength.' The scripture from Romans says it best in 8:14-17: 'For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.'

Adapted From: The DNA Of Your INDENTITY You Version

## DAY 2

### HAS PRETEND BECOME REAL?

#### *John 4:7-28*

'Mommy, I can't fly down the stairs even though I'm wearing my Superman cape! Why, Mommy? What's wrong?', asks my five-year-old son. I, being my usual practical self, fight the urge to roll my eyes back and say DUH! Instead, I patiently remind him that this only happens in the 'pretend' world. He knows it but often needs to be reminded of this stark, not-so-fun reality! Our son absolutely loves pretend play, so much so that at times he struggles to differentiate between pretend and real!

The pretend world is rather nice, isn't it? The real world has too many brutal truths to deal with. No wonder we have one too many superhero stories and thrilling sci-fi movies! We choose to live in a world that is more what we had hoped for it to be, rather than what it is. This can be tricky but it is something we need to remind ourselves about. Again and again.

But the Good News is this: There is HELP to live this life in complete fullness and with joy!

Take a look at the passage of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). The conversation between Jesus and the woman and the events that follow are a paradigm shift into the discussion on identity and liberty. From merely being known as a Samaritan woman with five husbands, her new-found identity lay in being a messenger for the Messiah! In fact, she is so talked about today all over the world for her bold new identity! Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

The undiluted, amazing, eternal truth is this: Our identity lies in the person of Jesus Christ alone. Nothing ever can change that! He dwells and abides in us and calls us to a relationship with Him. '...for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, For we are also His children.' (Acts 17:28)

He is Real! So while the pretend tends to entice us, the Truth IS REAL!

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## DAY 3

### **NO LONGER CAPTIVE!**

#### ***Isaiah 6:1-2***

What do Freedom and Captivity look like in daily life? The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are a direct download about 'freedom.' Yet, cluttered as our lives are by different opinions and ideologies, what does it mean to be 'free'? Add to this the task of keeping up with the expectations of society and maintaining a good repute and a savvy social image, it is very easy to cave in to the demands upon us. The fear of failure and social pressure can lead us into a captivity mindset where we allow circumstances to dictate terms to our hearts and minds.

But everything changes when we realize who we are and WHOSE we are! Our identity is reshaped as we acknowledge the existence and power of God and make room for His leadership. The true freedom in a God-given identity is better experienced when we know that Jesus has set us free. Better still, he anoints us to share this freedom with others!

The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me  
because God anointed me.  
He sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
heal the heartbroken,  
Announce freedom to all captives.

Living in freedom gets simplified when we allow the Holy Spirit to govern us. As the Bible says, 'Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.' Embracing this reality is a paradigm shift in understanding our identity in Christ!

Ask yourself, am I still living in a captivity mindset? Have I allowed myself to experience the freedom of Christ in every area of my life? And am I willing to be led by God to actually start living as His heir?

The answers to these questions unfold when we look at life through the lens of the gospel. It's the good news of the gospel that makes all the difference and paves the way for us to actually experience the freedom of Christ!

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## DAY 4

### **NO LONGER CAPTIVE!**

#### ***Jeremiah 31:3***

What do Freedom and Captivity look like in daily life? The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are a direct download about 'freedom.' Yet, cluttered as our lives are by different opinions and ideologies, what does it mean to be 'free'? Add to this the task of keeping up with the expectations of society and maintaining a good repute and a savvy social image, it is very easy to cave in to the demands upon us. The fear of failure and social pressure can lead us into a captivity mindset where we allow circumstances to dictate terms to our hearts and minds.

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## DAY 5

### **POWERED UP AND READY TO GO!**

#### ***Galatians 3:23-29***

'So who would win between a fight between Superman and Batman?', asked my friend. With a bias towards Superman, my response was self-evident. I noticed his grin as he had ready answers in his arsenal to prove me wrong in this fun debate. Unsurprisingly, our answers didn't match.

We live in a time where superheroes are a dime a dozen. Often these superheroes choose to stay disguised as 'normal' people, but when trouble comes they reveal who they really are.

Our attempts to identify with superheroes reveal our desire to be like them. They are able to save the weak, deliver blows to the enemy, bring about justice, and inspire a generation. They have 'superpowers'!

All of this points to a truth: that each of us is more than we are right now. Or better said, we're more than what we seem to be on the outside. Galatians 3:26 and Genesis 1:27 both point to who God has made us to be and who we are in Christ. Created in the image of God, it's natural that everything in us wants to excel. It is not wrong to be more than what we are because it echoes to the core of our being of whose we are (1 Peter 2:9). And one day who we really are from within will be revealed (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Unlike superheroes presented in the fictional universe, we don't need to have an alternate ego. Instead

our greatest superpower is the story of our lives and what God can do through it. Jesus, the real Superhero, lives inside of us. We are more powerful than we can fathom.

Ask yourself today: Where does my identity lie? Am I living from a position of knowing that identity? If not, you can choose to know that your God-given identity has superpower enough for all that God has in store for you!

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