

**QUIET TIME GUIDE
FOR Thursday 5/16/08
FROM JACK MILLWOOD**

Greeting:

They say repetition is a key to learning. I guess God wants to keep repeating this “*sing thing*” to me. If you read my quiet time guide yesterday you may remember that I talked about learning to “*sing in the rain.*” I must admit that it has stuck with me all day. Even last night I was talking to people who were having difficulties and I told them that I was praying that God would help them learn to sing in the rain. One lady said to me that her problem was that she did not WANT to sing in the rain. You know what? I know exactly how she feels. Some times the first step is to pray and ask God to help you to WANT to sing in the rain. God some times has to work on our desires first. That is a real struggle. At any rate, if you missed yesterday’s quiet time go back and read it, because here we are again in the next psalm, Psalm 96, and again it says “*sing.*” I am beginning to think God wants me to get the message. Why not? Repetition is a key. An even bigger key to spiritual growth is consistency. Here is what I mean. Yesterday I learned to sing in the rain. So yesterday I sang in the rain. But today is today, not yesterday. It does not take long for it to start a fresh new shower does it? Some lessons have to continually be repeated to be learned. Singing yesterday does me no good today. I have to learn to trust God every day. I have to learn to praise him on a consistent basis as new struggles come up. So lets read Psalm 96 and while we are at it he will have some fresh new insights for us.

Scripture for today:

Psalm 96: *Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. 4 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. 9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. 10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. 11 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; 12 let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; 3 they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.*

Life Application:

He says “***Sing to the LORD a new song...***” A “***new song?***” I could not help but think of my preacher friend who this last weekend told me about a call he got from a semi retired preacher in his church. The retired Pastor called to complain that in their service on Sunday they had sung three songs. He did not know one single song. He wanted to hear the old songs. He did not know why they were singing these new songs. My wise preacher friend asked him a question. He asked, “*How would you feel if I got up to preach every single Sunday and only said the same thing every week? What if I read from the same passage and never added any new or fresh insights into what I was saying?*” He went on to say “*We need to have a walk with God that is so fresh that we want to learn new ways to praise him. If a new song helps us find a new way to praise him we should welcome the opportunity. We should not be afraid to learn. I have a feeling that this is more about familiarity and an unwillingness to learn that it is anything else.*” Now don’t get me wrong. I was raised on the “good ole songs” and I love them too. However, we do need to learn a new song. It is funny in that many of the “new songs” are old words from the Psalms themselves put to fresh music. As a matter of fact, Psalm 96 we are reading today, is a song sung in many churches today. Some times I make up my own songs. I just sing and thank God for what he is doing in my life. I am grateful that there are still people out there who have a talent to write songs that are still writing fresh songs to praise God with. What if no one wrote new songs? What if there were no fresh words to learn? Today sing to the lord a new song. Find a new song and learn it. Sing it to the Lord as you drive or as you work. Last night after church I went to a restaurant with our teenagers. They had karaoke. I was amazed that these kids could sit at their tables and sign song after song with out needing one single word to be able to do it. How many songs of praise to the Lord have we learned? Can we ride around or sit around and sing to the Lord? How many Christian songs are on your ipod? Singing a song to the Lord is a way of worship and keeping godly thoughts in our minds. It is a way to “***praise his name,***” and to “***Declare his glory.***” I like all kinds of music and have come to learn that there really is no such thing as Christina music, only Christina lyrics and non Christian lyrics. However, how careful are we to make sure we listen to, and sing along with, Christian lyrics? Sing, “***Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name.***” We sing this song in our church from this Psalm, “***Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad..***” See that is a new song right out of Psalms.

Spiritual exercise:

All of this makes me remember what the old preacher said one time, “*Garbage in; garbage out.*” What he meant by that is pretty obvious. We are a product of what we put in ourselves. Think today about how much time you spend putting Christian thoughts and principles in your mind and how much time the world has to stuff you full of its philosophy. Spend a little time today learning a “***new song***” that will help you focus on him and his truths.

Thought for the day.

Sing a new song!