

QUIET TIME GUIDE
FOR Wednesday 6/4/08
FROM JACK MILLWOOD

Greeting:

It is hard to sing a happy song and be unhappy at the same time. Then again it is easy to sing when you are happy. You can tell when someone is in a good mood most of the time. That is especially true if they are a “*shower singer*.” You know, they jump in the shower and the water wakes them up and they start singing with enthusiasm. Not today, right! When I have energy and I am feeling pretty feisty even I sing in the shower though. Well some times it is more like *yelling* than *singing*. At any rate, you can tell if I am in a pretty good mood at that point. A few of you may even be so old that you remember Gene Kelly singing his famous song, “*I’m singing in the rain*.” For everyone else, under the age of 100, he is **dancing in the streets with an umbrella while he is singing and so happy**. He is **singing while it is pouring down raining and dancing in water**. It is a famous video piece from the old movies. Now I ask you who - does that? For real? Not many of us right? So what does this have to do with our quiet time for today? Read Psalm 95 below about *singing to the Lord* and then I will tell you.

Scripture for today:

Psalm 95: 1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. 3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; 7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."

Life Application:

I have told you that these quiet times are just my personal quiet times that I have with the Lord. In so doing I have been pretty transparent with you. I am going to be real transparent today. In an effort to get ahead on my quiet time schedule, I read Psalm 95 last night before I left the office. I read all those verses about “*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song*.” My problem was I did not feel like singing. I did not feel like writing about singing. Yesterday was not a good day in some respects. I guess you could say that it was a rainy day. No, for those of you in our area, it was not physically raining. It was a sun shiny - beautiful day. But for me it was a

hard day. I had a lot of *stuff* to deal with. Most of it was not pleasant stuff to deal with. I am sure you have never had a day like that, right? I m sure I am the only one. I started twice to write the quiet time and just did not have it in me. So I thought I would do it later at night from the house. Well as you can see I did not do it. But I could not get away from the message of Psalm 95. I thought about it all evening. That is when the Lord got me. It does not take any faith at all to sing on sun shiny days! It takes faith to sing the rain. I am reminded that the Bible says that ***“God inhabits the praise of his people.”*** I am reminded by that verse that rainy days are the days I need to ***“sing unto the Lord”*** the most. As I sing - God inhabits my praise. I get closer to God. I have a reason to sing even on rainy days. Regardless of how I feel or how my day is going, ***“the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.”*** God’s control over life, or my own affairs, are not governed by my circumstances. My moods do not effect his reign. He has the whole world ***“in his hands.”*** He ***“formed”*** it all. It all ***“belongs to him.”*** I suddenly realized I did not want to be like those people at Mirabah (*for now it does not matter if you don’t know who they were*) who let life and circumstances give them a ***“harden(d) heart.”*** I did not want to ***“test and try”*** the Lord through my lack of faith even though I, like they had, have seen what God can do. I do not want my ***“heart to go astray.”*** Because of that they were never able to enter God’s ***“rest.”***

Spiritual exercise:

You and I are never going to reach a point of consistency until we learn to sing in the rain. We do not have to wait on the clouds to roll away and the sun to break back through the clouds to sing. What kind of attitude do you have today? What kind of mood are you in today? Is there even supposed to be such a thing as a ***“moody Christian?”*** Doesn’t make sense does it? Don’t let your mood swing like a time piece. Learn to stop and sing in the rain. Is it raining in your life today? Sing! I shared this with my staff today and one of them said that on rainy days she can write better songs. I then remembered that some of the greatest Christian songs were written on rainy days. Take the great old hymn, ***“It is well with my soul,”*** written on a dark rainy day when the author remembered the lose of one he loved so dearly. Often times you learn more about God on rainy days than you do on clear days. That is, if you stop to look and listen. The day is muddied enough without you adding a muddy attitude and a clouded mind to the dreariness of the rain. It can be raining on the outside but the SON can be shining on the inside. You can sing today. Why not start right now? Why not close your eyes and praise God for who he is? Just tell him that the ***“stuff”*** that is bothering you is his problem. Just give it to him and then start praising him for the fact that you know he is in control and he will take care of it. Go ahead, sing in the rain!

Thought for the day.

Today I am singing in the rain!