

**QUIET TIME GUIDE
FOR Friday 8/11/08
FROM JACK MILLWOOD**

Greeting:

I was able to watch a little bit of the Olympics Sunday. I never cease to be amazed at these world class athletes who have excelled in their sports to such an extent that they are the best in the world. Think about it, as vast as the United States is we just make up one team in the Olympics. Can you imagine being good enough at a sport to be the best there is in the entire population of America, much less the entire world? Tonight I saw those girls performing gymnastics on the high bars. First of all I tried to imagine myself trying that. Don't imagine it too much it might overwhelm you. I can not think of myself hanging from those bars much less flipping myself through the air and grabbing another pole and doing somersaults in the air and landing on my feet solid and stable. Their talent is incredible. The older I get the more I am amazed at how these kids do this. These are very young girls, barely teenagers. When I watch them they all look flawless. As I listened to the commentators, who themselves are experts in this, I can not believe how picky they can be. With the world's best the differences between them are miniscule. So to pick a winner they dissect the smallest flaws in their performance. Minor miscues that the average viewer, you and I, would never notice separates the Gold, Silver and Bronze medalists. I can not fathom the time and energy these kids and their parents spend to reach this level. They really have to WANT to do this. Most of us have had kids who were in soccer, baseball, football, etc. We know the time it takes for just casual play in these leagues. Can you imagine the time and commitment these kids give to reach this level? As I watched them and thought about this I kept thinking about their desire, their "want to." You have to want it bad to pay that kind of price to reach that level of competition. Yet that is true about most things is it not? Desire is such a key. As I read the third section of Psalm 119 I kept thinking about spiritual desire and spiritual hunger. How many of us really have a passionate desire to know God and to grow spiritually? Listen as the Psalmist writes about his own desire to know God's word and decrees.

Scripture for today:

Psalm 119: "17 Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your word. 18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. 19 I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me. 20 My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times. 21 You rebuke the arrogant, who are cursed and who stray from your commands. 22 Remove from me scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes. 23 Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees. 24 Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors."

Life Application:

He even prays for desire. He prayed "***Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.***" I remember not too long ago a member of the church I pastor came to me and said, "*Jack, I hear what you are saying and I know you are right. However, I don't want*

to do right. I don't have the desire." This person asked me to pray for her "want to." That is a good prayer. Some of us need God to work on our desire factor before our obedience factor. We need to pray for God to open our eyes to see what we are missing so that we want it. We need to pray as he did, "***do not hide your commands from me.***" We need to pray for the scales to drop from our eyes so that we can see. Listen to this spiritual hunger. "***My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.***" Can you say that you have ever been to the point where you were consumed with a desire to hear from God and to see God move? The Psalmist said that knowing what God wants is what was on his mind. He said, "...***your servant will meditate on your decrees.***" The thing that made him happy was doing God's will. "***Your statutes are my delight.***"

Spiritual exercise:

Stop and analyze your appetite today. How can you measure your appetite? OK now, think this through. This is not hard. When you skip a meal what happens, you get hungry. You want food. The same is true about your desire for the Lord and his word. If you can skip a day without prayer and Bible study and not feel cheated and hungry your appetite is not good. If you can go a week or so without worship you have lost your appetite. In the New Testament we are told to sincerely desire God's word like a baby desires his mother's milk. If we still have to make ourselves pray, worship or read God's word there is still work to be done. Pray about it. Ask God to give you an appetite. Before you dismiss this quiet time as unimportant consider that a person without an appetite will eventually die. I have seen people in a hospital who because of sickness and fatigue have lost their appetite and just don't eat. They wasted away. Some times they have to be fed intravenously. Ask God to give you a desire to turn the radio off, the CD off, the MP player off, the game off, the TV off for just a little while to get to know him. Some one once said to me that I have all of God that I want. That is a true statement. You have all of God that you want. God will not withhold himself from you. If you will seek him with all your heart you will find him. Like a deer pants for a water brook so our soul should thirst for the Lord.

Thought for the day.

God give me an appetite for you and your word!