

**QUIET TIME GUIDE**  
**FOR Tuesday 8/19/08**  
**FROM JACK MILLWOOD**

**Greeting:**

I use to have a guy who worked for me that I could not teach him anything. The reason? He already knew everything! Do you know anybody like that? Before you start calling out that persons name- stop and think for a minute to make sure it is not you. Most little kids go through a stage like that. You are trying to teach them how to play with a new toy but you can't because they think they already know how to. I remember trying to teach my little grandson how to ride a tricycle. I wanted him to put his feet on the peddles and work the peddles so that he could ride freely. However, he did not want to do that. He just wanted to put his feet on the ground and push himself. The truth is that he could go that way. He just could not go far or fast because as the peddles turned they kept hitting him in the leg. The tricycle was not made to work with his feet on the ground. The man or woman who designed the tricycle did so with the assumption that the rider would have his feet ON the peddles. For a long time my grandson never got the full enjoyment out of his little tricycle because he was unwilling to learn a new way to ride it. He kept saying, "I do it myself!" Unfortunately some of us never grow out of that stage of "I do it myself." That happens to a lot of us who grow up being independent and strong willed. We are convinced we know how to do everything and we are not about to let someone else tell us how to do something. Our own poor self image comes into play here. If someone else is standing there telling me how to do something then I am admitting that I do not know how to do it myself and some of us are just not secure enough to admit that we do not know how. At the same time some of us are at the point in our lives where we do not want to learn how to do something that is new to us. We are very comfortable with doing things our way whether they are the best way to do them or not. If I do something long enough a certain way then it becomes "my way." Then I do not want to change "my way" for "your way." We get resistant to change. In business this happens and is one of the cheif reasons for a lack of increased efficiencies in our work place. A new technology comes along or a new system comes along and we are either intimidated by the newness of the updated procedure or we are simply stubborn and do not want to change. Thus we get behind and work harder and produce less. Often times the employee who works the hardest is not the best employee. He may be working harder because he is not working smarter. He may be unwilling to change to find new and more efficient ways of doing something. This becomes even more serious when it involves our walk with God. Some of us have gotten comfortable in living a certain way, thinking a certain way or reacting a certain way and we are not open to changing those patterns. A person who is unwilling to change or to learn is a person who ceases to grow. The writer of Psalms 119 in the section called "He" for the Hebrew letter that sounds like our letter "H" is praying for a teachable spirit.

**Scripture for today:**

***Psalm 119: 33 Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. 34 Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart. 35 Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. 36 Turn my heart***

*toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. 37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. 39 Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. 40 How I long for your precepts! Preserve my life in your righteousness.*

**Life Application:**

He begins his prayer by saying “*Teach me, O LORD...*” How often do you pray for a teachable spirit? Are you willing to learn? Perhaps the way you have been living is comfortable but destructive. Perhaps the way you have been responding to situations is not constructive but destructive. Are you willing to learn? The Psalmist had a desire to know and to do what was right. He said that if the Lord would teach him then he would “*follow your (his) decrees; then I will keep them to the end.*” For you, is it a matter of learning them or doing them? He said he found “*delight*” in knowing the “*path*” God wanted for him. For him growth was a matter of doing away with “*selfish gain.*” He did not want to “*follow worthless things.*”

**Spiritual exercise:**

Let me give you some examples to think about regarding our willingness to change. In your marriage are you willing to change the way you respond to your wife or husband? Are you willing to ask an outside person to listen to both of you and see if there are certain actions that you or your spouse are taking that makes your relationship strained. Are you so entrenched in doing it the way you have always done it that you are unwilling to consider changing? Do you have to demand that the other person make all the changes and adjustments to you? When you reach the point where you have it all together to the point that you no longer need to learn and change then it is time for the Lord to take you on the Heaven to be with the other only perfect person in the universe.

When it comes to parenting can an “old dog learn new tricks?” Raising kids can be the most difficult experience of life. Our kids can challenge us in every area of our lives. As a parent I am always seeking and asking God for wisdom on how to respond to my kids and their needs?

On your job are you open to learning new ideas and new approaches. There are few places in life where we can flesh out our faith more than in our jobs. We spend as much time working as we do anything else. Our co workers see us in the crucible of life. Our faith is under examination. If we have a closed mind... If we do not have a teachable spirit... If we do not have a willingness to adapt and to find new ways to work and new ways to work with people then what are we showing people?

Here is a spiritual exercise for you this week. Look at the WAY you are doing things in an area of stress in your life. Can you be open to new ways to doing things? Are you willing to ask for advice? Are you willing to be taught? Are we willing to be taught by people that we know without being threatened by our own admission that someone else may have a better idea than we do? I have found in my life that it is liberating not to have to have all the answers and to open myself up to learn new things from people. Examine the Scriptures to see if God has some new insights into some old habits.

**Thought for the day.**

Can I find a better way to do the right thing?