



~ Secret to Success ~

“Like an apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down in his shade with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.” – Song of Songs 2:3-4

Have you noticed how fast-paced our world seems these days? I remember when I was a little girl, time seemed to take forever. It felt like an eternity for my birthday to come around or any other event I would look forward to. The summers seemed endless and time felt slow and drawn out. I had very little responsibilities or worries and the only concern I had was the moment I faced in front of me.

However, my son at the same age sees life flying by. With the addition of all the electronics and distractions, kids today are enveloped by a time-warp that sends them flying full speed ahead. As adults, we are pulled more directions than ever before. We have cell phones, wi-fi, iPhones and Blackberries. We can be reached anytime and almost any place. We just need to carry the right gadget that gets us contact.

In most homes, the husband and wife both work and the kids are involved with a flurry of activities in school. The juggling of schedules and activities has evolved almost into a science and requires even the most adept at organizing to hang on for dear life in the midst of it all. It's a crazy world we live in and the distractions we face on a daily basis are mind boggling.

This treadmill pace we are on affects our spiritual walk also. In the midst of all this maddening rush, God is saying, *“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”* – Ps. 46:10 Because we are so harried and hurried in our daily tasks, we approach God in the same fashion. We rush into His presence only to rush back out again. We desire a walk with Him, but lack the discipline to steady our hearts and minds to slow down long enough to hear Him and receive Him.

We dash in and dash out still carrying the same burdens we came to God with. We never took the time to leave them with Him and seek counsel for what we need that day. We have no time. This is what limits God's people the most. We will never reach our highest success God has planned for us until we learn the secret of our strength – true communion with God.

Have you ever gone to a park on a sunny afternoon somewhere in nature? Somehow the calm atmosphere of nature slows us down enough so that we begin to notice and appreciate the beauty of our surroundings. We begin to unwind and relax. God wants us to come to Him in the

same way. We must slow ourselves down enough so we can have time to think, time to pray and to wait upon God for renewal of strength and spiritual power.

Like an apple tree surrounded by beautiful nature is God for us. We must come and sit in His shade and rest in Him. When we do, we discover the sweetness of His word as we *“taste and see that the Lord is good.”* He takes us into His banqueting hall and we experience a love that changes us and holds us together. It is a personal contact with Christ that we need most; a personal contact that sits down in companionship with Him instead of simply pausing for a moment. Here is where we receive what we need for our day and ability to stand through what lies ahead. If Satan can engross our minds away from true communion with God that is not rushed, he has succeeded in stealing away the secret of our strength.

How has your time with God been? Are you cultivating an atmosphere that allows you to discern His voice to your heart? Are you “sitting in His shade” or do you rush in as you pass by, stopping just long enough to say a few words before dashing off again? Ask God to show you how you can enter into His presence without rushing, taking the time to think and to pray, learning how to hear His voice and leave refreshed and ready for a new day. It may take realigning your “to do” list and reprioritizing. It won’t be easy, but God’s strength will arm you in this journey as you take the step to truly sit at His feet and receive of His Spirit. Sitting with Him will become your “great delight” and He will fill you with His Spirit as you discover the secret to true success.

Kimberly Mills

Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals

Daily tools of inspiration and hope for the journey home.