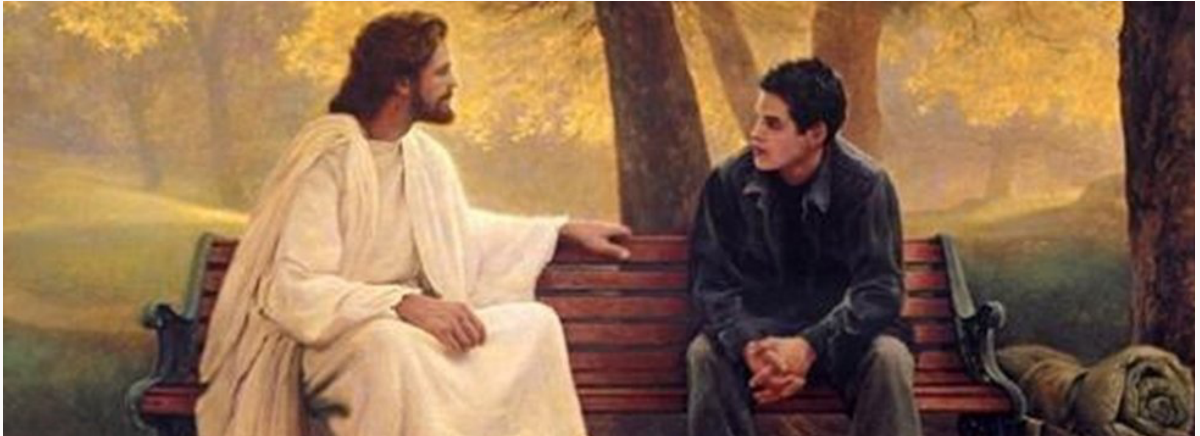


Consistently talking to Yeshua is a starting point on the road to personal transformation



Yeshua: **39**You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me,**40**yet you refuse to come to Me to have life. John 5:39-40

Talking to Yeshua

I recently came across a teaching that described five practical steps to achieving greater personal transformation. I resonated with the path and was encouraged by its clarity and simplicity. I also quickly realized I had bogged down a bit on the first step and wasn't experiencing the degree of transformation that was possible. Here are the five steps:

1. Knowledge (godly & helpful information)
2. Conversation (with God)
3. Illumination (little touches of revelation on our spirit)
4. Inspiration (renewed motivation to live/walk rightly)
5. Transformation

I know from experience that simply obtaining godly information without the living understanding that comes from a divine conversation does not lead to life. I also have observed that the illumination that comes to me involves very small (seemingly insignificant in the moment) touches on my spirit. The accumulation of these touches, however does change us over time. I have

never experienced euphoria in the taking of vitamins and supplements but I believe I have received great benefit from consistently taking vitamins and supplements over many years. The same is true with the illumination that comes from consistent times of devotion and conversation with the LORD.

In John 5:39 Yeshua rebuked some of the Pharisees for failing to see the point of their diligent Scripture study--Yeshua claimed that the whole point of the Scriptures was Him! These Scriptures foundational spoke of Him and because they missed this, they didn't use the Scriptures as a tool to come to Him. Bible study without this relational component will not lead to life or personal transformation. Yeshua makes a backhanded promise here (and further confirmed in other places like John 15:4) that as we come to Him (by using the Scriptures as a tool to talk with Him) over time we will receive life from Him.

Here are some final thoughts on these set apart conversational times with Yeshua.

1. I seldom have more set-apart times with Yeshua than I schedule. Scheduling times with Him does not make these times less important or spiritual. I very rarely have spontaneous set-apart times with Him. So I encourage us not to resort to having a hyperspirituality where we only pray when we feel inspired. There is great benefit in simply planning times to be with Him and then following through.
2. With increased set-apart quantity times with Yeshua will come increased quality in our "on the go" times with Yeshua.
3. I use prayer lists when I am uninspired and don't know what to say. When I feel the anointing of the Spirit to be spontaneous, then I go for it. But, when I don't feel this, I go to a prayer list for help me stay consistent and faithful with this time.
4. God esteems barren prayer times. Stay with it. Don't give up. Often times when I start out uninspired and bored, He will meet me as I set my heart towards Him. He's promised to give us life as we come to Him...whether we initially feel inspired or not.
5. The picture starting out this email above is a little simplistic with Yeshua being physically present on a bench with a petitioner. I wish it were this easy! Obviously we are referring to a conversation with an invisible God Who

promises to reward us (see Matthew 6:5-6 & Hebrews 11:6) as we seek Him. Some day our faith will be sight. In that day it will be much easier to pray. But right now we have an opportunity to honor Him by setting a prioritized focus on Him in a way that is unique to this present time frame...and this takes faith.

6. Accountability of praying with others can help as well. Feel free to jump in on one of the zoom prayer calls during the week for greater encouragement and accountability in talking to God together. We usually just take a chapter from the Bible and use it for conversation as we talk to Him together.

In closing, I feel encouraged to refocus and reprioritize my conversational times with Yeshua in this season and hope that you do too.