

# ‘Quiet Time’ is Unbiblical

If you’re a bible-believing Christian, I wonder if you know that the ‘quiet time’ routine you are following was only started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century by the Christian and Missionary Alliance movement and was popularised by Billy Graham.<sup>1</sup> True, scripture understanding and prayer are important Christian tools, but to formalize it so that it produces mounds of guilt<sup>2</sup> for not doing it is not a freedom contained in the Gospel of the Kingdom.

In fact, quiet times with bible study and prayer are NOT what our Lord really wants. He wants intimacy. He desires oneness, not religious observances of prayer times, etc.

Here is the experience of John Wimber associate, Brent Rue, outlining how our Beloved taught him what he really wanted. My experience matches his, so I fully endorse what he said.<sup>3</sup>

*“I lived with the Pastor, and I remember he got on this early rising kick. His name was Ken and we lived in the same house. Both of us were broke and somebody donated the house for us to live in at that time. But it was in Beverly Hills – the house wasn’t all that great, but it was in a ritzy area. And that’s where the ministry started.*

*And so he got on this early rising kick, but he was a great boss and he didn’t make me do it. He’d just get up in the middle of the night and rattle around the house and make noise, but I was determined: I was staying in bed. That wasn’t going to get me up. I had too busy a day. I was studying, I had teaching to do. I didn’t have time to pray. That’s how much I knew in those days. So he was doing it. Anyways, I would do some praying but not a whole lot.*

*I was having a great time for a couple of years and finally we went out and started our own church. No sooner had we gotten to Lancaster, where I am today, and the Lord spoke to me one day and said, “Brent, if you don’t pray, I won’t move.” And I said, “God, is that you? I’ve never heard you talk like that before.” And he said “Yeah, it’s me. When Ken was your boss, he prayed. You were alright. But now, the buck stops with you. And if you don’t pray, I won’t move.” That scared me people. I figured he meant it. So I figured out that I was going to pray. But I didn’t know how to pray. I really didn’t.*

*So I got those books. Have you ever read books on how to pray? Don’t. They messed me up, man. I read all the stuff... and then I read the testimonies. That life could kill me. I read about those guys who were spending four, five, six hours a day before breakfast? Have you read those books? I was never so condemned in all my life! You know, Wesley talked about how he usually spent three hours a day in prayer unless he was going to have an extra busy day and then he’d spend four hours a day in prayer. I didn’t even want to know that guy. And so I read all those books, felt thoroughly condemned and decided to do it.*

*So I embarked upon my spiritual pilgrimage of learning how to pray. The first thing I did was get up early, because you’ve got to get up early; I read that. You know, to pray. So I got up really early in the morning, and Lancaster gets very, very cold in the winter time. The wind blows, and we didn’t have any insulation in our house. We had this little tiny two story home with a heater downstairs, and all the heat went upstairs. You were sweating upstairs and you needed a coat downstairs. It was that bad. Then I’m quite the handyman, and I tried to fix something and flooded the whole house. So we had to tear the carpet up, and we just had concrete floors like this and, I’m not kidding you, I think I probably could have ice skated on that floor, it was so cold in there.*

*So I’m trying to pray and I’m saying, “Lord, this is not going to work. I’m into prayer but I’m no masochist. I’m not into self-mutilation. I can’t do this. I just can’t do it.”*

*And right then the Lord opened up a little office for us. We got our first office, and I went there to pray.*

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1 – Gregory Johnson (2007) “Morning Watch to Quiet Time: The Historical and Theological Development of Private Prayer in Anglo-Protestant Devotionalism, 1870-1950” Pub: Saint Louis University

2 – Frank Viola (15-3-2018) “Rethinking ‘Quiet Time’” [frankviola.org/2018/03/15/rethinking-quiet-time](http://frankviola.org/2018/03/15/rethinking-quiet-time)

3 – Listen to his talk here: [davidfisher.info/audio/letting\\_god\\_love\\_you.mp3](http://davidfisher.info/audio/letting_god_love_you.mp3)

*And after reading the books, I figured that this is the way to pray – I made prayer lists. Have you ever done those? Where you pray for Harold and that his grandmother would be saved, and for Mary to get the job that she's been asking for, and Johnny to get his tooth pulled – all the little things that people ask you to pray for and that you feel obliged to pray for as a pastor.*

*Honestly, I hated that. I'm reading these lists before the Lord and I just couldn't take it. Finally, I said, "God, I can't do it. This is boring me to tears." And God said, "Me too. Will you quit?"*

*And so right then and there God and I made a pact and said we'd never do that one again. And both of us agreed that it was great to get rid of it. So I did. And the problem was, I didn't know what to do to replace it. I really didn't. So I'd get up real early in the morning and I would go to the office and I'd sit in this comfortable chair behind my desk and I would sleep. So I figured out after a couple of days that that probably wasn't prayer either, and I needed to do something, so I started drinking coffee. I'd get up and I'd go by the coffee shop and I'd get me a couple of tall cups of coffee and I'd drink that and get wired, and then I'd go and sit in my chair and I'd just sit there. I didn't know what to do with myself if I didn't have a prayer list.*

*What I ended up doing was to go and get my stereo system and bring it to the office. There were no other houses around the office, just businesses, and so I'd put on my favorite Christian music and just crank it up real loud. I'd leave the lights off in the room, just the street lights would be shining in, and I'd put my feet up on the desk and I would drink coffee.*

*Do you know what? I started having a wonderful time. I wasn't praying, at least not in a devotional sense. I don't know what I was doing, but I was praying in tongues quite a bit, because I just felt like doing it. I was so moved by that music. These musicians, these music ministers, were absolutely pulling me into the throne room of God. They were ministering to God, and I was getting so touched. In those days in our Vineyard we had about fifteen or twenty of the top Christian musicians in the country, in our first little one when I was assistant Pastor. It was incredible. I had known those people and I had gotten a lot of their albums and stuff.*

*And oh, I was so ministered to. And I would just sometimes pray in tongues. I didn't want to sing – I didn't want to mess up what they were doing. But sometimes I would just pray in tongues and a really powerful song would come on, and I'd slip out of my chair and I would just fall prostrate on the floor. And when that song was over and the next one wasn't so good, I get up and sit back in my chair and have some more coffee. Then another song would come on and really minister to me, and I'd slip out of my chair and get down on my knees. Then after about sixty seconds my knees would start to hurt, so I'd get back in my chair, put my feet up and relax. I'd do that for an hour and a half, two hours every morning.*

*And I tell you what, I loved it. Now, I really didn't think I was having prayer and devotions for a little while. I really didn't think I was doing that. But all of a sudden our church began to explode. I couldn't get over it. I still can't get over it. People being saved and healed, and things were just going crazy! It was as if somebody was praying.*

*I'm not kidding. It was downright embarrassing. I was just like, "God, I didn't know you were going to do that. I would have prayed for that if I'd have thought you were going to do that." I was feeling guilty like I should have been doing something. All I was doing was having fun every morning. I mean, I was having fun every morning. Drinking coffee, listening to records and getting touched. It was changing my life.*

*And then, one day God visited me and spoke to me. It was one of the clearest times I've ever heard God in my life. It wasn't audible but it was about as close as you can get, and he said, "Brent, if you will continue to do this, I will withhold no good thing from you."*

*What was I doing? Drinking coffee, listening to records? Not really. Because by the time God said that to me, I was already on to what was happening. I had invited him for dinner. Just like those two guys on the Emmaus road, I had invited God to my little world every morning, and God was so pleased that he lifted the veil and he blew the doors off our church. He transformed everything. And he said, "Keep it up. You're on to something here. Just keep it up. Just keep inviting me over to breakfast every morning like this, and you haven't seen nothin' yet."*

*You know what, people? I'm still at that place. I haven't seen nothin' yet. We use double negatives in Lancaster.*

*God showed up at my office. And I thought I was supposed to minister to him, but I was getting so much out of him ministering to me. And he said, "You got it. Now, you've got it. You have been receiving my love. You have been letting me touch you. You have been letting me minister to you. I have become your delight. You keep that up and you're going to enjoy this life."*

*People, that has become a way of life for me now. A way of life. I don't get up early so much any more and drink coffee and listen to records. I do that sometimes. But now I mostly take walks in the desert, me and Buckwheat my dog. We take walks in the early mornings, or at sunrises or sunsets or whatever, and we enjoy the presence of God. He touches my life in so many ways. I have made a lifestyle of intimacy.*

*And I'm here to tell you today it's the greatest thing in the world. I mean, this is wonderful. It's so incredible for me to be able to be with you guys and see God do things here – I can't tell you. But you know what? It still doesn't hold a candle to me and Jesus just hanging out together. I don't have to look forward to twelve or fifteen months from now when I get to come back here, if we get to come back here, and then mark the days on my calendar and say, "Boy, I can't wait." I don't have to wait for that, because tomorrow morning Jesus and I will spend some time. This morning I got up and took a walk with Jesus."<sup>4</sup>*

Need I say any more?

## **[Why not read the whole article for yourself]**

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4 – Brent Rue (circa. 1990s) "Letting God Love You" ([davidfisher.info/talks/letting\\_god\\_love\\_you.html](http://davidfisher.info/talks/letting_god_love_you.html))