

A TIME FOR BEING IN TOUCH

December 12

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Early on in my life while attending a 2-room school in Darnley, PEI, the teacher would take our attendance for the day. When our name was called, we responded with "present" and then the teacher would give us a star to place beside our name on the bulletin board. This indicated that we were "present" in class that day.

Please read John 15:1-11

"So you must remain in life-union with me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine." (The Passion Translation - TPT) v. 4

During the Advent season, we await the return of Jesus. So, how do you and I prepare for His ultimate return?

First: We must remain in "life-union" with Jesus as He remains in us otherwise, our life will be fruitless if we choose not to live our life intimately joined to His. We accomplish this by having an intimate relationship with Him each and every day. Begin each day with Him in prayer, mediation and reading His word.

Secondly: Choose to be present (in touch) with Him. He guides your steps. Many times throughout the day, you make decisions that don't always line up with His will for you that day. His desire for you is to turn over your plans to Him and allow Him to walk with you and guide your path. This means you are letting go of "self" and committing yourself to trusting in His ways for your life and allowing Him to be the source of everything. He then enables you to see things from His perspective.

Thirdly: Choose to write in your gratitude journal each night before going to bed, everything that you are grateful for that day...the good and the bad. Develop a heart of gratitude.

Are you "BE-ing" in touch with His presence each and every day? You can be joyful in the midst of brokenness by staying connected to Him. May you always stay connected to the true vine not only during this Advent season but every day as you await His return.

Begin each day with this Prayer by John Stott (an English Anglican priest and theologian):

*Good morning heavenly Father,
good morning Lord Jesus,
good morning Holy Spirit.*

*Heavenly Father, I worship you as the creator and sustainer of the universe.
Lord Jesus, I worship you, Savior and Lord of the world.
Holy Spirit, I worship you, sanctifier of the people of God.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

*Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more.
Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.
Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me. Amen.*