

Volume 2, Day 14: Tranquility Facilitates Intimacy

My friend from Australia told a banker one day that he was struggling to hear God's voice, struggling to find if God is real for him. The banker said, "Listen. Why don't you go to the most peaceful place you know where you really feel peace. While you are there, ask God what you want to ask Him. Then wait to hear what He puts in your mind or lets you feel in your soul."

My friend responded, "I have this little pond down at the bottom of my property. I always feel peaceful there." And he went there and it opened his spirit to have the kind of communication with God we're talking about. You may not have a pond on your property or personal garden, but being in a quiet place seems to be a helpful part of opening our heart to detect where and how God wants to reveal Himself to us.

It's really the heart that quiets down enough so that we can hear a different rhythm than just the rhythms of our life, our fears, our anxieties and what we feel driven by in the world we live in. Concerns about what other people think of us and by how successful we are. These distractions hinder cultivating an inner life of listening to the still small voice and of knowing God intimately.

"Take no thought . . ."

"Don't take the pressure of forethought upon yourself. It is not only wrong to worry, it is infidelity, because worrying means that we do not think that God can look after the practical details of our lives, and it is never anything else that worries us. Have you ever noticed what Jesus said would choke the word He puts in? The devil? No! It's the cares of this world. It is the little worries always that keep us from intimacy."