



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,



“I am training you in steadiness. Too many things interrupt your awareness of Me. I know that you live in a world of sight and sound, but you must not be a slave to those stimuli. Awareness of Me can continue in all circumstances, no matter what happens. This is the steadiness I desire for you.” *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young.

Have you ever felt that someone wasn't giving you the attention you desired or deserved? Whatever the cause, it feels bad when you want someone's undivided attention and they fail to give it to you. I think God wants our attention, too. He *wants* our attention! He desires our awareness of him, at every moment. And it's not because he's vain or arrogant. It's because he knows we need this.

How do we show God that we are paying attention to Him? *One* way is through prayer. Prayer is a way of “checking in” with our Creator God. We talk to God and God talks to us (which means that we have to actually spend time *listening* to God). A *second* way is by paying attention to the world he made and entrusted to us: the buds on the trees, the grass turning green, the rabbit nibbling on the grass (*just stay away from my tulips!!*), the awesome power of thunderstorms. And a *third* thing we can do is to read his word for us. How can we understand God's nature and characteristics if we don't read his autobiography (or as close to one as we'll get)—the Bible? God is the Living Word, so delving into the scriptures is a way we can pay attention to God.

We need to be intentional about spending time with God, because, sadly, our schedules are filled to overflowing. And if we don't make time for him *first*, there won't be any space left over for him. Even if we start with just five minutes, during which we turn our phone off, close our computer, shut our door, and just “*be still and know*” ... that's a good starting point. I truly believe the peace that at times eludes us will come if we are intentional about connecting with God.

Have a lovely and blessed week!

Pastor Kara