



FAITHWALKING
making wholeness possible

Making wholeness possible for
individuals, communities, and the world.



Invitation to Silence



*and you will know the truth, and the truth will set
you free. - John 8:32 ESV*

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”.- John 8:31-32 ESV

Drawn to You



*All my devotion is like sinking sand. / I've nothing to cling to but your sweet hand.
I've no clear emotions keeping me safe at night; / Only your presence, like a candle light.*

*After everything I've had. / After everything I've lost.
Lord, I know this much is true, / I'm still drawn to you.*

*I pour out my sorrows just like a precious oil. / I kiss your feet, Lord, with a holy joy.
My tears an offering of my highest praise; / Your eyes say 'welcome.' And I receive Your gaze.*

*'Cause after everything I've had / And after everything I've lost
Lord, I know this much is true / I'm still drawn to you*

*After everything's been said. / After everything love cost.
Lord, I know this much is true / I'm still drawn to you.*

You know I am / Lord, I know this much is true / I'm still drawn to you.



Prayer



Soul-Check in Small Groups

Soul-Check in Small Groups

If your soul had a voice,
what would your soul say your soul needs?

What makes your soul afraid?

What makes you soul hope?



Letting God Shape You: Retreat



From a practical perspective, our times with God are influenced and mediated by:

- **Scripture**
- **Reflection / Meditation**
- **Prayer**

These influencers are continually unfolding. However, they take a special relevance in concrete times and space in which our awareness is focused in the work of God in us (retreat).



“It takes time to develop a life of prayer: set-aside, disciplined, deliberate time. It isn’t accomplished on the run. I know I can’t be busy and pray at the same time. I can be active and pray; but I cannot be busy and pray. I cannot be inwardly rushed, distracted, or dispersed. In order to pray I have to be paying more attention to God than to what people are saying to me, to God than to my clamoring ego. Usually, for that to happen there must be a deliberate withdrawal from the noise of the day, a disciplined detachment from the insatiable self.” - Eugene Peterson



"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil." -Luke 4:1-2 NIV

*"[T]he word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness..."
-Luke 3:2 NIV*

"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her." -Hosea 2:14 NIV



Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. -Daniel 6:10 NVI

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. -Mt 6:6 NVI



Challenges to overcome

- Cultural influences "I don't need it... There is no time... I'll do it when..."
- Financial limitations. An expense or an investment?
- Lack of knowing how to retreat.
- Fear.
- Personality preferences.
- Addiction to connectivity.
- Lack of engagement with the Holy Spirit.



How do we practice retreat?

- Set aside time. Daily, monthly, annually.
- Set aside space.
- Set aside your agenda.
- Slow down. Receive a gift from God.
- Create rhythms.
- Frame your day with Scripture, reflection / meditation, and prayer.
- Rest.



What is helpful?

- Create rhythms to retreat alone and in community (Rule of Life).
- Participate in groups that help you develop and maintain these rhythms.
- Explore silent retreats in nature.
- Use liturgy (prayers, Scripture, rhythms...)
- Rest, rest, rest.



“Our conditioning as members of a consumer society prevents us from abandoning hope that, with sufficient planning, we might yet be able to see and do everything. To move slowly and deliberately through the world, attending to one thing at a time, strikes us as radically subversive, even un-American. We cringe from the idea of relinquishing, in any moment, all but one of the infinite possibilities offered us by our culture. Plagued by a highly diffused attention, we give ourselves to everything lightly. That is our poverty. In saying yes to everything, we attend to nothing. One only can love what one stops to observe. ‘Nothing is more essential to prayer,’ says Evagrius, ‘than attentiveness.’” - Belden C. Lane



Dialogue

Prayer



*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
- Num 6:24-26*