

Quiet Desperation

by: Wilfred Haynes

I am often amazed at the complexity of life—how I strive from one thing to the next, always looking for the thing that is most fulfilling. I once thought if I could just get a certain person to like or love me, I would be fulfilled; or if I can just get into this school or have this background, I will be satisfied. I have even purchased a car I wanted, but it still wasn't the one, seeking fulfillment. I felt good for a minute, but then I was not satisfied. I have even attained a prestigious job and made six figures, which made me feel overjoyed. But I eventually felt empty again. I often think of Thoreau's quote, "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them."

We all have led this life he speaks of. We have all used something to fill the hole that we feel inside of us. I have filled that hole with entertainment at times in my life. We have even gone to the darker side of human life, looking and searching for something that could fill the hole in us. That desperation that is in each and every person never goes away; it is always gnawing at our souls.

You may ask, "what is it?" What is this feeling that is inside of me? Why do I feel like I was meant to be more and do more than just wake up, work to accumulate things, and do things that at the end of the day are not adding to me or the world around me? The feeling is that of a human spirit reaching out to its creator. It is yearning to be united with its maker. It is craving God. We eliminate the desperation in us when we connect our spirit to God, who gave us His enabling power to lead and guide us (John 16:7-15). We have to continue to stay connected to God so that we don't experience the quiet desperation that Thoreau spoke of.

The desperation has happened to Christians and non-Christians. This is why it is important that all come to know the Lord Jesus. We should first know him because he is returning, and secondly because there's a longing in us for him. That reminds us that deep down inside of us, we long to come home. I remember the first time I left home for college and how that first week I was so desperate to come home. I felt that something was missing inside of me—that I was not complete. I thought that making a phone call home or looking at pictures of my family would help, but it did not do the trick. I can recall the first home game my parents

came to. I was so elated. My homesickness was gone. Our spirits are the same way. They are just longing to be with the one who made us.

That is why it is important to have a life with Jesus. He is the doorway to having that quiet desperation filled. He is the one we must go through to be with God. When we make Jesus our Savior, then Lord, we yield, allowing him to influence our lives. We then begin to see that we'll not have the feeling of quiet desperation anymore. Stay with him as you go through the process of being a Christian. If you allow space to get between you and the Lord, that feeling of desperation will creep back up again. Therefore, we have to stay in Jesus.