



## Crazy Busy

*Making a Place for God's Presence*

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## Scripture

*O LORD, remember **David** and all the hardships he endured. (Psalm 132:1 NIV)*

*He swore an **oath** to the LORD and made a **vow** to the Mighty One of Jacob: "I will not enter my house or go to my bed — I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, till I find a **place for the LORD**, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." (Psalm 132:2-5 NIV)*

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## Scripture

*We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar: (Psalm 132:6 NIV)*

*"Let us go to his **dwelling place**; let us worship at his footstool — arise, O LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the **ark** of your might. (Psalm 132:7-8 NIV)*

*May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy." (Psalm 132:9 NIV)*

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## Scripture

*For the sake of David your servant, do not reject your **anointed one**. (Psalm 132:10 NIV)*

*The LORD swore an **oath** to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your **throne** — if your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever." (Psalm 132:11-12 NIV)*

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# Scripture

*For the LORD has chosen **Zion**, he has desired it for his dwelling: “This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it — I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food. (Psalm 132:13–15 NIV)*

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# Introduction

Earlier this year, Alexandra S. Levine, a Multimedia Journalist in New York City, wrote of being forced to go **phone-less** while viewing a corruption trial.

The courthouse had required observers to check their electronics before entering the building.



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# Introduction

Levine writes, “The **experience** was at once inconvenient and enjoyable, disorienting and liberating.”

She also said after a day with no texting, email or internet, it occurred to her that the **courtroom** “might be one of the few spots left in the city where New Yorkers could fully disconnect.”



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# Introduction

The experience led Levine to explore what other **venues** in the city required one to temporarily cut the cyber pipeline to the rest of the world.

But even in a place as large and varied as **New York City**, it mostly came down to courtrooms, federal buildings, jails, some museums, a few restaurants and various performance sites.



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# Introduction

Generally, the **museums** and **restaurants** simply ask visitors to shut off their electronic gadgets.

However, in some **concerts** they now require audience members to place their cell phones in provided pouches that include a **lock technology** that prevents people from using the devices.



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# Introduction

They can keep their phones with them, but the **pouches** make it impossible to snap pictures, shoot videos or send text messages during the performance.

Their only option — gasp! — is to simply view the show.

(The pouches are unlocked by a disk mechanism as attendees leave the hall.)



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# Introduction

Such **restrictions** are necessary because so many of us have become **compulsive users** of our communication devices.

We could, of course, simply shut off our **electronics** from time to time and create our own **disconnected zones**, but how many of us actually do it?

The fact is, unless we're in one of the officially restricted locations, if we want to **unhook** from the larger world, we have to take the **steps** ourselves to make it happen.

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# Psalm 132

All of this brings us to Psalm 132, where King David says, *“I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, till I find a **place** for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.”* (Psalm 132:4–5 NIV)

In other words, David is making a **vow** to God that his number one **priority** is to make a place for God's presence, so that worship and prayers can be offered up in God's name.



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# Crazy Busy

Another **journalist** observed that so many people speak of how busy they are, some even saying they are “**crazy busy.**”

Yet when you come down to it, **busyness** is not something imposed on them, but the result of things they have taken on voluntarily.

And why have they become “**crazy busy?**”

Because of their own ambition, drive, or anxieties.

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# Crazy Busy

This description may or may not fit you, but think of it in the light of the words of David.

*“I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find **a place** for the Lord.”*

The point taken here is that just as we benefit from sometimes unplugging from the digital world, we also can gain something helpful by **intentionally making room** in our daily lives for the Lord.

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# Making Room

“**Making room**” in our lives for the Lord can imply that we’ve reduced our **attention to God** to a half hour or so, but what about the other **23.5 hours?**

We miss the point if we have **devotions** and then walk away with the idea that we’ve done our duty to God and can now get on with other things.

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# Making Room

Deliberate, intentional, scheduled **devotional time** is a **good thing**.

But **making room** for the Lord is more than scheduling 15 minutes with God in the morning before sitting down to a breakfast.

Making room for the Lord suggests a **temperament** or **attitude** that **listens for God** and to God throughout the day.

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# Making Room

There's a 17th-century devotional classic titled **The Practice of the Presence of God**, written by a lay monk named Nicholas Herman but known in the monastery as **Brother Lawrence**.

He was assigned to work in the monastery's kitchen, and while there, he decided to try to pay attention to **God's presence** even while going about his duties



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# Making Room

As he developed the ability to do this, he found

“that **time of labor** does not with me differ from the time of prayer,”

“and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, **I enjoy God in as great tranquility** as if I were upon my knees . . .”



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# Finding a Place

When we maintain an **attitude** of worship, we are making a **place for the Lord**.

When we maintain an **attitude** of thanksgiving and praise, we are making a **place for the Lord**.

When we maintain an **attitude** of prayer, we are making a **place for the Lord**.

When we maintain an **attitude** of delighting ourselves in the Lord, we are making a **place for God's presence**.

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# Finding a Place

So then, . . .

How do you think we'll **feel** in our spirit, if we maintain an **attitude of worship, praise and thanksgiving, and prayer** in our lives?

Do you think we will be **burdened** with worry, lost sleep, or stressed out, if we **delight ourselves in our Lord**?

If the answer to these question suggests we like David should be **going out of our way** to maintain **God's presence** in our lives, shouldn't we do so?

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# Finding a Place

Here is what we should always tell ourselves . . .

The **benefits** out-weigh the cost.

**Good habits** are initially built by steps of **self-discipline**.

You can't get rid of **bad habits**/attitudes unless you **replace** them with **good habits**/attitudes.

Maintaining a **God centered attitude** will set you apart for noble purposes and help greatly in God answering your prayers.

Faith counts!

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# Finding a Place

In fact, when we **live a life of love**, God lives in us and us in him. [See 1st John 4:16]

In other words, as we go about our day, showing kindness, respect, concern, care, consideration, compassion, sympathy, and charitableness, something **special** happens.

We become a **dwelling place for God**.

Not only this, but we grow spiritually, develop the mind of Christ, and gain a great assurance of faith.

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# God's Dwelling Place

In the early Church, *there was **Stephen**, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people*. (Acts 6:8 NIV)

However, he was **stoned to death** and became the first **Christian martyr** for saying the following:

*"[T]he Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be?" (Acts 7:48-49 NIV)*

Stephen was martyred because he implied that **God's presence** no longer reside in a building (temple), but now in the church and among those who follow Christ.

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# Conclusion

If David was eager to make **a place for the Lord's presence**, so should we.

In fact, we can foster the **Lord's presence** even in our **busy lives** by simply **maintaining an attitude** of worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God in everything we do and say.

If we can resist the urge to dwell on the negative and instead **dwell on the positive** and God's ability to work through in all situations and circumstances, we might find ourselves full of **God's Spirit**.

And if we are **full of God's Spirit**, how much more will we be prepared for every good work and be a witness to the glory of God.

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# Conclusion

Therefore as we go through our **busy days**, let us as the Scripture says, **make melody in our hearts**, with *psalms, hymns and spiritual songs*. (Ephesians 5:19 NIV)

Let us, ***Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord***, always *giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*. (Ephesians 5:19–20 NIV)

Again, if we can do this, we will be filled with **God's Holy Spirit**—even with a **busy schedule** and especially during the Christmas holidays.

Therefore, Let us always **maintain an attitude** of worship because **God inhabits the praises of His people**. AMEN