



The Secret Place Before the Battlefield: Getting Alone with God in Troubled Times | KIB 555

Kingdom Intelligence Briefing



Introduction

A Biblical Teaching on Spiritual Separation, Divine Guidance, Discernment, and Renewed Strength

When the world grows increasingly troubled, confusing, and spiritually deceptive, the believer's first response should not be to

seek more information from the world, but to withdraw into God's presence, take root in His Word, and seek His direction.

Throughout Scripture, we see that some of the most important encounters between God and His servants happened when they withdrew from the noise, pressures, and conflicts around them.

Getting alone with God is not an escape from our Kingdom responsibilities. It is often how God prepares us to fulfill them.

Isaiah 30:15–17 (ESV)

15 For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, **16** and you said, “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away; and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. **17** A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

This verse establishes a powerful principle: God offered His people strength through repentance, rest, quietness, and trust, but they preferred their own solutions.

That same spiritual danger confronts believers today.

1. The Biblical Principle of Withdrawing to Seek God

Key Scriptures: Psalm 46:10; Psalm 62:5–8; Isaiah 30:15; Luke 5:15–16

The biblical concept of getting alone with God involves more than physical solitude. It means intentionally removing distractions so our hearts, minds, and spiritual attention can be directed toward Him.

Three essential principles emerge from Scripture.

A. Stillness allows us to recognize God's sovereignty.

Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

The Hebrew expression translated “be still” comes from רָפָה (raphah), which can convey letting go, ceasing, or relaxing one's grip.

In Psalm 46:1–11, the nations rage, kingdoms totter, and God demonstrates His authority over the earth.

The command is not merely an invitation to personal relaxation. It calls us to stop striving and recognize that God remains sovereign over every crisis.

Teaching Principle: We cannot properly respond to the chaos around us until we have renewed our confidence in the sovereignty of God.

B. Quietness restores our spiritual perspective.

Psalm 62:5–7 (ESV)

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

David instructs his own soul to wait upon God.

This demonstrates that spiritual stillness does not always happen automatically. Sometimes the believer must intentionally direct his thoughts, emotions, and expectations back toward the Lord.

C. Even Jesus regularly withdrew to pray.

Luke 5:15–16 describes a time when crowds were growing, and the demands on Jesus' ministry were intensifying.

Yet Luke records that Jesus regularly withdrew into desolate places to pray.

The Greek verb ὑποχωρέω (hypochōreō) conveys withdrawing or retiring from a location. Luke's description emphasizes a recurring practice.

Jesus did not allow the demands of ministry to eliminate His times of prayer.

If the sinless Son of God intentionally withdrew to pray, how much more should His followers cultivate this discipline?

2. Elijah: Getting Alone with God When Everything Becomes Overwhelming

Primary Text: 1 Kings 19:1–18

Elijah's experience offers one of Scripture's most compelling examples of God's dealings with a servant who felt overwhelmed.

In 1 Kings 18:20–40, Elijah experienced a tremendous spiritual victory on Mount Carmel.

However, immediately afterward, Jezebel threatened his life (1 Kings 19:1–2).

Elijah fled into the wilderness.

A. Spiritual victories do not exempt us from emotional exhaustion.

In 1 Kings 19:4, Elijah became so overwhelmed that he asked God to take his life.

Notice that Elijah's despair followed one of the greatest victories of his prophetic ministry.

Spiritual exhaustion can distort our perspective even when we have witnessed God's power.

B. God addressed Elijah's physical needs before correcting his perspective.

In 1 Kings 19:5–8, God provided Elijah with sleep, food, and water.

This is an important lesson for spiritual leaders.

Sometimes the most spiritual thing an exhausted servant of God can do is rest before attempting to process another crisis.

C. God brought Elijah to Horeb for a renewed encounter.

In 1 Kings 19:9–13, Elijah encountered a powerful wind, an earthquake, and fire.

Yet the text emphasizes that the LORD was not in any of those manifestations.

Afterward came what the ESV describes as “the sound of a low whisper” (1 Kings 19:12).

The Hebrew expression קול דממה דקה (qol demamah daqqah) is difficult to reproduce precisely in English. It has been rendered as a gentle whisper, a still small voice, or even a sound of thin silence.

The point is not that God always speaks quietly. Rather, Elijah needed to attend to God's self-disclosure instead of assuming divine direction would always come through dramatic manifestations.

D. God corrected Elijah's distorted understanding.

Elijah believed that he alone remained faithful (1 Kings 19:10, 14).

However, God revealed that He had preserved seven thousand in Israel who had not bowed to Baal (1 Kings 19:18).

Elijah's understanding of the situation was incomplete.

E. God gave Elijah new assignments.

In 1 Kings 19:15–17, God instructed Elijah concerning Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha.

Elijah did not remain in the cave. He emerged with renewed direction.

Kingdom Application: Getting alone with God is not simply about finding relief from our troubles. It is about allowing God to correct our perspective, restore our strength, and clarify our Kingdom assignments.

3. David: Seeking God Before Responding to a Crisis

Primary Text: 1 Samuel 30:1–8

David's experience at Ziklag provides a powerful model for believers facing confusion, loss, betrayal, and overwhelming circumstances.

When David and his men returned to Ziklag, they discovered that the Amalekites had attacked the city, burned it, and taken their families captive.

The situation was catastrophic.

David's own men were so distressed that they considered stoning him (1 Samuel 30:6).

However, the passage reveals a critical turning point.

A. David strengthened himself in the Lord.

1 Samuel 30:6 (ESV)

“But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.”

The Hebrew verb **חָזַק** (chazaq) means to strengthen, become firm, or take courage.

David did not deny the reality of the crisis.

He did not surrender to the emotions of those around him.

Instead, he deliberately turned toward his covenant relationship with God.

B. David sought divine direction before acting.

In 1 Samuel 30:7–8, David called for the ephod and inquired of the LORD.

He asked whether he should pursue the raiding party and whether he would overtake them.

God directed him to pursue.

Notice the sequence:

Crisis and Confusion

Strengthening Himself in God

Seeking Divine Direction

Receiving Instruction

Obedient Action

Recovery and Restoration

Based on 1 Samuel 30:1–20

David's victory began before he ever pursued the Amalekites. It began when he turned to God rather than letting the crisis govern his decisions.

Teaching Principle: The urgency of a crisis must never replace the necessity of seeking God.

4. Jesus: Solitude Before Major Kingdom Decisions

Key Scriptures: Mark 1:35–39; Luke 6:12–13; Matthew 14:22–23; Luke 22:39–46

Jesus' life shows that solitude and prayer were foundational to His earthly ministry.

Consider four significant examples.

Scripture	Circumstance	Spiritual lesson
Mark 1:35–39	Following an intense period of ministry	Prayer before determining the next ministry movement
Luke 6:12–13	Before selecting the twelve apostles	Prayer before major leadership decisions
Matthew 14:22–23	After feeding the multitude	Withdrawal despite ministry success and public demands
Luke 22:39–46	Facing His approaching crucifixion	Submission to the Father's will during overwhelming distress

One of the most important examples is found in Gethsemane.

Jesus faced the suffering of the cross that was approaching.

His prayer in Luke 22:42 (ESV) included:

“Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

This reveals a critical distinction.

The ultimate purpose of getting alone with God is not to persuade Him to approve our desires. It is to submit our desires to His will.

Many believers’ approach prayer seeking confirmation of decisions they have already made.

Biblical prayer requires the willingness to surrender those decisions to God.

5. Habakkuk: Taking Our Confusion Before God

Primary Text: Habakkuk 1:1–2:4

Habakkuk lived during a period of increasing wickedness, injustice, violence, and national instability.

He struggled to understand why God appeared to tolerate the wickedness surrounding him.

Then God revealed that He would use the Babylonians as an instrument of judgment.

This revelation created an even greater theological dilemma for Habakkuk.

How could a holy God use a nation more wicked than Judah to bring judgment upon His covenant people?

Habakkuk's response is especially instructive.

Habakkuk 2:1 (ESV)

“I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.”

A. Habakkuk brought his theological confusion to God.

He did not pretend that he understood everything.

He did not abandon his faith because he lacked answers.

He positioned himself to receive correction and understanding.

B. Habakkuk deliberately adopted a posture of watchfulness.

The watchpost imagery suggests attentiveness, expectancy, and disciplined observation.

It does not require that believers construct a literal watchtower or adopt a particular physical position.

The spiritual principle is the intentional determination to seek God's perspective.

C. God's response required faithfulness and patience.

Habakkuk 2:3–4 teaches that we must wait for God's appointed purposes and that the righteous shall live by faith.

God did not answer every question in the way Habakkuk might have preferred.

Instead, He called the prophet to trust His justice and timing.

Teaching Principle: When we cannot understand what God is doing, we must remain faithful to what God has already revealed.

6. Daniel: Seeking God When the Enemy Creates a Crisis

Primary Texts: Daniel 2:1–23; Daniel 6:1–23; Daniel 9:1–23

Daniel's life shows the importance of maintaining established prayer habits before a crisis occurs.

A. Daniel sought God when human wisdom failed.

In Daniel 2:1–13, Nebuchadnezzar demanded that the wise men reveal his dream and interpret it.

Their inability placed Daniel and his companions under a death sentence.

Daniel responded by seeking mercy from God concerning the mystery (Daniel 2:17–18).

God subsequently revealed the mystery to Daniel in a night vision (Daniel 2:19).

Daniel responded with worship and thanksgiving.

B. Daniel maintained his prayer life despite governmental opposition.

In Daniel 6:10, Daniel continued praying three times daily even after a decree had been issued against such prayer.

He did not begin his relationship with God only when trouble appeared. It was already established.

C. Daniel combined Scripture study with prayer and repentance.

In Daniel 9:1–3, Daniel studied Jeremiah's prophecy concerning Jerusalem's desolations and then turned to God in prayer, fasting, confession, and supplication.

This provides a particularly important pattern for prophetic ministry.

Daniel did not separate prophetic understanding from prayerful submission to God's Word.

Kingdom Application: A believer who develops a disciplined prayer life during ordinary times will be better prepared to stand faithfully during extraordinary times.

7. Getting Alone with God Protects Us from Deception and Confusion

Key Scriptures: James 1:5–8; Romans 12:1–2; John 10:27; 1 John 4:1–6; Hebrews 5:14

One of the greatest dangers during troubled times is allowing fear, speculation, conflicting information, and persuasive personalities to replace biblical discernment.

Scripture warns that deception will intensify and that believers must remain spiritually alert.

Matthew 24:4 (ESV)

“See that no one leads you astray.”

Time alone with God can give us an opportunity to evaluate the influences shaping our understanding.

However, we must establish an essential theological safeguard.

Never elevate personal impressions above the written Word of God.

A. God's Word is the standard of truth.

John 17:17 (ESV)

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

Our time alone with God should involve serious engagement with Scripture, not merely waiting for a subjective spiritual experience.

B. We must test spiritual influences.

First John 4:1 commands all believers to test the spirits.

Not every spiritual experience, impression, prophecy, or supernatural manifestation originates from God.

The believer must evaluate spiritual claims against the revelation God has provided in Scripture.

C. Discernment develops through spiritual maturity.

Hebrews 5:14 connects mature discernment with faculties trained through constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Discernment is not simply the ability to recognize something unusual.

It is the cultivated ability to distinguish truth from error and righteousness from wickedness.

D. God provides wisdom to those who ask.

James 1:5 encourages believers who lack wisdom to ask God.

This does not guarantee that God will answer every problem immediately or through supernatural revelation.

Rather, it assures believers that they can confidently seek God's wisdom while remaining faithful to His Word.

Teaching Principle: The purpose of getting alone with God is not to develop an independent source of revelation that competes with Scripture. It is to become more deeply established in God's truth and more responsive to the Holy Spirit.

8. The Danger of Making Decisions While Spiritually Agitated

Key Scriptures: Proverbs 3:5–7; Proverbs 19:2; Isaiah 28:16; James 1:19–20; Philippians 4:6–9

Fear and confusion can create a sense of urgency that pushes believers into premature decisions.

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes patience, wisdom, self-control, and trust in God.

Proverbs 19:2 warns against acting hastily without knowledge.

James 1:19–20 instructs believers to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

Philippians 4:6–9 provides a particularly valuable pattern.

Paul directs believers to replace anxiety-driven responses with prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, and disciplined attention to what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable.

This passage does not promise that every external circumstance will immediately change.

It promises that God's peace will guard believers' hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

An important distinction exists between divine peace and the absence of conflict. We may still face opposition, uncertainty, and danger while experiencing confidence in God's faithfulness.

Practical Application: Before responding to a troubling report, making a major decision, entering a conflict, or accepting a prophetic claim, take time to pray, examine Scripture, evaluate the facts, and seek wise counsel where appropriate.

9. Biblical Solitude Must Produce Obedience, Not Withdrawal from Responsibility

Key Scriptures: Exodus 33:7–17; Joshua 1:1–9; Mark 1:35–39; James 1:22–25

There is a danger in treating spiritual solitude as an end in itself.

God does not call His people to abandon their responsibilities, families, ministries, or Kingdom assignments merely because the world has become difficult.

Moses provides an important example.

In Exodus 33:7–11, Moses met with the LORD at the tent of meeting.

In Exodus 33:12–17, Moses sought assurance concerning God's presence as Israel prepared to continue its journey.

Moses understood that Israel's success depended on God's presence. Yet that encounter did not permanently separate God from Israel. It was preparation to lead God's people.

Likewise, Jesus withdrew to pray in Mark 1:35, but afterward continued His preaching ministry in Mark 1:38–39. Biblical solitude is preparation for biblical obedience.

A genuine encounter with God should produce greater faithfulness, humility, holiness, love, courage, and obedience—not spiritual pride or detachment from others.

10. Seven Practical Disciplines for Getting Alone with God

These disciplines provide a practical framework for believers navigating seasons of confusion and spiritual pressure.

1. Remove unnecessary distractions.

Establish a regular place and time for prayer and Scripture reading. Reduce the influence of news, social media, and competing voices during that time.

Matthew 6:6; Mark 1:35

2. Begin with God's written Word.

Allow Scripture to establish your understanding of God's character, promises, commands, and purposes.

Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

3. Examine your heart before God.

Confess known sin, release bitterness, and surrender personal ambitions that may interfere with obedience.

Psalm 139:23–24; 1 John 1:9

4. Present your concerns through prayer.

Bring fears, confusion, responsibilities, and difficult decisions before the Lord.

Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Peter 5:6–7

5. Practice patient attentiveness.

Allow time for reflection upon Scripture and prayerful consideration. Avoid forcing an answer or assuming every thought is divine direction.

Psalm 62:5–8; Habakkuk 2:1–4

6. Test what you believe you are receiving.

Evaluate impressions, proposed actions, and counsel through Scripture, godly wisdom, and the character of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:19–22; 1 John 4:1

7. Return to your assignment in obedience.

Put into practice what Scripture requires, even if not every question has been answered yet.

James 1:22–25; Colossians 3:17

11. The Connection Between Getting Alone with God and Spiritual Warfare

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 6:10–18; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5; James 4:7–10; 1 Peter 5:6–9

This subject has a particularly important application to spiritual warfare.

The enemy seeks to exploit fear, confusion, temptation, discouragement, and deception.

Believers must therefore resist the temptation to respond to spiritual pressure merely through emotional reactions or human strategies.

James 4:7 (ESV)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Notice the order. Submission to God precedes the command to resist the devil.

James continues by instructing believers to draw near to God, cleanse their hands, purify their hearts, mourn over sin, and humble themselves before the Lord (James 4:8–10).

The context connects resistance to the devil with repentance, humility, and covenant faithfulness.

This provides an important corrective to forms of spiritual warfare that emphasize confrontation with demonic powers while neglecting holiness and submission to God.

Paul likewise commands believers to stand in the strength of the Lord and put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18).

The armor includes truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer.

Therefore, getting alone with God can strengthen our spiritual warfare by helping us return to these biblical foundations.

Central Warfare Principle: We do not become effective in spiritual warfare by becoming increasingly preoccupied with the enemy. We become effective by becoming increasingly established in Christ, grounded in truth, submitted to God, and obedient to His Word.

12. A Prophetic Application for the Last Days

Key Scriptures: Matthew 24:4–13; Luke 21:25–36; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; 2 Timothy 4:3–5

Jesus warned that the period before His return would bring deception, wars, disturbances, persecution, and growing lawlessness.

He also warned that many would grow cold in love (Matthew 24:12).

These conditions pose a serious challenge for God's people.

When deception multiplies, believers must become more established in truth.

When fear increases, believers must become more established in faith.

When lawlessness increases, believers must become more committed to holiness.

When false teaching becomes popular, believers must become more firmly rooted in sound doctrine.

When society becomes increasingly unstable, believers must depend more on God's unchanging character.

Luke 21:34–36 specifically warns against letting the heart grow heavy and calls believers to stay awake and pray.

This suggests that prayerful watchfulness is not optional for believers seeking to remain faithful in difficult times.

However, biblical watchfulness must not become constant speculation or fearful obsession with current events.

Its purpose is faithful readiness before Christ.

13. A Powerful Contrast: The World's Response Versus the Biblical Response

When trouble comes	Common human response	Biblical response
Confusion increases	Search for more competing opinions	Seek wisdom from God — James 1:5
Fear increases	React emotionally	Pray and trust — Philippians 4:6–7
Deception increases	Follow persuasive personalities	Test all things — 1 Thessalonians 5:21

Opposition increases	Retaliate impulsively	Remain steadfast — 1 Peter 3:14–17
Direction becomes unclear	Make hurried decisions	Trust God and seek wisdom — Proverbs 3:5–7
Spiritual exhaustion develops	Continue without rest	Withdraw for prayer and renewal — Mark 6:31
Spiritual warfare intensifies	Become preoccupied with the enemy	Submit to God and stand firm — James 4:7

14. The Secret Place Before the Battlefield

One of Scripture's most powerful patterns is that God prepares His servants privately before sending them into public assignments.

Moses encountered God before confronting Pharaoh (Exodus 3:1–12).

David strengthened himself in God before pursuing the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30:6–8).

Elijah encountered God at Horeb before receiving renewed prophetic assignments (1 Kings 19:9–18).

Daniel sought God when the wisdom of Babylon proved insufficient (Daniel 2:17–23).

Jesus prayed before major ministry decisions and before facing the cross (Luke 6:12–13; Luke 22:39–46).

These examples reveal a consistent principle:

Private communion with God prepares believers for public faithfulness.

The secret place is not a hiding place from Kingdom responsibility. It is a place to surrender our fears, renew our minds through Scripture, seek wisdom, and prepare to obey.

Psalm 91:1 (ESV) declares:

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.”

The language of dwelling emphasizes an abiding relationship with God rather than an occasional visit during emergencies.

Psalm 91 should not be treated as a guarantee that faithful believers will never suffer or face persecution. Its central message is that God Himself is the refuge of those who trust Him.

The greatest preparation for troubled times is not merely knowing what is happening in the world.

It is knowing the Lord, trusting His Word, and remaining faithful to His covenant.