



This article is provided by Scott Gillum, a Senior Trainer with the Great Commandment Network

For followers of Jesus, suffering is a sacred space. We certainly may not have chosen the sacred experience for ourselves, but God has chosen this place for us. What we do in this sacred space determines the transformational impact in our lives. We can manipulate things in an effort to get out, or we can lean into what God is saying to us.

Those hard of hearing, must move closer to hear and understand what is being said. Similarly, in our relationship with Jesus, as we draw near, God will speak specifically about His intent in this sacred space.

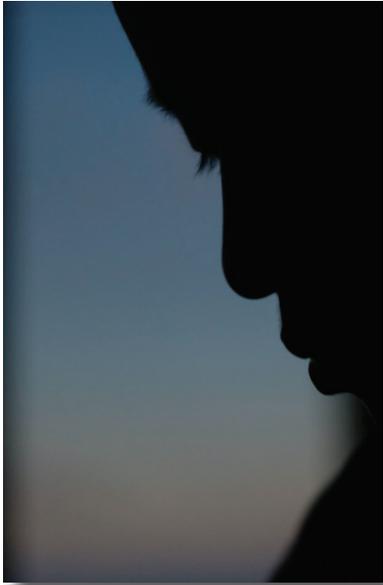
The question today is: "Will we lean in to hear or manipulate matters to make ourselves comfortable?"

"And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel" (Exodus 25:22 NKJV).

"And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]" (Philippians 3:10 AMP).

What will you do with the sacred space you have been given?





Encounter Jesus

Take a moment to pray a prayer of yielding to the Father.

- Consider your present life circumstances.
- Think about your relationships.
- Think about critical decisions to be made.
- Consider unanswered questions, pain, and struggles.

With these in mind, compose your own prayer of commitment to yield, and then offer it to God. Use the examples below for help:

Father, before I hear your voice concerning...

- *My calling as...*
 - *A husband/wife to...*
 - *A parent to...*
 - *A friend/co-worker to...*
 - *A mentor to...*
- *The decision regarding...*
 - *Family*
 - *Work*
 - *Friends*
- *How I should handle...*
 - *Conflict*
 - *Helping someone...*
 - *Life...*
- *How I should trust You with...*
 - *My health or the health of someone I care about?*
 - *Future...etc.*



Scott Gillum has served in full-time ministry for 35 years, specializing in youth leadership, evangelism, and missions. After serving as pastor of four churches, Scott moved into state leadership with his denominational movement in California, Kentucky, Texas, and now Florida. His passion is to equip pastors to equip leaders.

...I yield to You all that I am, and all that the future holds. By faith, I commit to live out all that You reveal. I ask for Christ to be formed in me as I yield to You. Lord, Your child is listening.





Engage Community

Proverbs 3:32 reveals that the Lord *“takes the upright into His confidence.”*

Can you remember a time when you have sensed that the Lord has taken you into His confidence? It may have been while reading the Scriptures, praying, talking with another believer, singing praise, or possibly listening quietly. Can you remember a moment when you have experienced (almost tangibly) the love of God—His revelation?

Pause and reflect:

I remember having a personal encounter with God when _____
He drew me close to Him...

- He gave me specific direction about...
- He provided a warning about...
- He revealed Himself as...
- He confronted me concerning...
- He affirmed me concerning...
- He reassured me concerning...

Now I celebrate and give thanks for His revealing love.

