



## ...ON GETTING CLOSER TO GOD

This Valentine month, I know at least half of our readers are wishing or thinking of someone to fall more in love with. It was exactly those kind of sentiments that started me on a journey to getting closer with God some 15 years ago. Up until that point, the only lover I'd been passionate about was my husband Vern. To this day, he loves nothing better than quantity time from the girl he's promised to cherish and protect. You can imagine my surprise when I sense there is someone else in my life who wants that kind of devotion.

A series of events had led to the crisis of conclusion that I was very good at being busy for God, but quite bereft of *being with God*. There was always something to do next that had the appearance of godliness, but it seemed there was never enough time to just be with God. Upon that unsettling conviction, I resolved to give it a try for 30 days. Isn't that what it takes to develop a habit I reasoned? A holy habit; just a test run of 30 days of one hour daily, unhurried quiet time with my Bible, journal and prayer.

So what happened to my trial run at a holy habit? It hooked me into the love of God. I had no idea up until that point what I had been missing, and quite simply, I

finally fell in love. It was delightful, and it still is. There's a clutter of books, candles, pens, a prayer shawl, worship CDs, coffee mugs, but mostly, there's my Bible. And even after these years of disciplining myself to a holy habit, the devil never tires of tempting me to let things lapse or get lazy, luring me with dishes or laundry that should be done instead of the peace and solitude of my rocking chair time with Jesus.

The book of Haggai has a word picture that speaks to me about being vigilant about building a daily temple in my heart for Jesus. There the Bible says, "*Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.... You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?*" declares the Lord Almighty. *'Because of My house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house'*" (Haggai 1:5-9 NIV).

There's nothing we can build in our busy lives that will out satisfy the holy habit of creating a heart of love for God. As the team at Nike says, "It's time to just do it." 🐾