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Topic #1

In the Old Testament we read that there is “a time to keep silence and a time to speak” (Ecclesiastes 3:7). What is the value of silence and quiet time in a time when we are always “plugged in”?

38 years! That’s how long it took the radio to reach 50 million users. How long did it take Facebook to reach 50 million users... 2 years! And to put that into perspective, it took the Angry Birds Space app just 15 days to reach 50 million users!

People worldwide will send 8.3 trillion text messages in just this year alone. That's almost 23 billion messages per day, or almost 16 million messages per minute. (Portio Research). And people on average send and receive 125 text messages per day.

Unfortunately, reclaiming our connection with God has become increasingly difficult with the new reality of life that the advances in technology have created. The church teaches us, “There is a time to keep silent and a time to speak” (Ecclesiastes 3:7). How can we achieve this silence when our lives are constantly “plugged in?” We have become so “over-plugged” that there is nowhere left for God to plug into and speak to us!

A young monk once asked his elder how he could hear God speaking to him. The elder took a bowl, filled it with water and shook it. He asked the young monk, “What do you see?” The young monk said “nothing,” because the ripples of the water had distorted his image. Once the water stood still, the elder invited the monk again and asked, now what do you see? He replied, “I see myself!” And the Elder said, “For you to hear God my son, you must be still, and see yourself.”

In order to hear God speaking to us, we must be still and see ourselves for who we really are. If we are over-plugged with technology, this means the distractions, or the ripples in the water, draw our attention away from God.

Saint Paul writes to the Thessalonians in Chapter 5 saying, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, ... hold fast to what is good, abstain from every form of evil.”

If we are to “pray without ceasing, and to hold fast to what is good,” we must use technology to keep us plugged into not more technology... but God.

Can you imagine us sending 125 prayers a day to God? Can you imagine if Christians were increasing by 50 million per year?

God, is never “unplugged” from us, He is always online! As a result, it is we who need to be still, and listen for His voice.