

# Harvest Times

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## PERSONAL DEVOTIONS: I *Have* To? Or I *Get* To?

by Norman Moore



Jesus cares about our friendship with Him! *“Greater love has no one than this, than he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead I have called*

*you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you”* (John 15:13-15) NIV.

Is your personal devotional life characterized by “*shoulds*,” “*oughts*” and “*good enoughs*?” I’m convinced that rather than being negatively motivated by guilt-tripped, performance oriented, legalistic perfectionisms, it is much more spiritually healthy to view our personal devotional life as a natural result of a deep, intimate, transparent and candid relationship with Jesus.

Sometimes when I’m home between revival trips my wife, Vickie, bakes wonderful chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin cookies. She sets the oven temperature at 350 and then sets the timer for 15 minutes.

But she has never set a timer for her conversations with me. We are best friends. And our times of personal communication grow naturally out of our relationship. It’s not something that we have to do; it’s something that we get to do!

In personal visits or phone conversations with my friends I’ve never timed the duration of any obligatory

communication. It’s a natural result of my desire to be with them and talk to them.

That’s the way I view my daily conversations with the Lord. It’s not chummy, disrespectful or irreverent, but intimate and personal.

Does this suggest that we throw away self discipline and setting priorities regarding our time of prayer and Bible study? Does that mean we become lazy, negligent, apathetic and nominal? NO WAY!

It all boils down to this:

- Jesus calls us his friends.
- Friends develop their relationship by voluntary, uncoerced communication.
- It’s unhealthy to be loaded down with “*shoulds*,” “*oughts*” and “*good enoughs*,” proceeding from some legalistic perfectionism.
- The motive and attitude of “*I get to spend time with the Lord and his Word*” contributes to a maturing personal friendship.

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me”* (Rev. 3:20) NIV.

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me”* (John 15:4) NIV.

These verses make it quite clear that the Lord cares about an abiding relationship with us. What’s a healthy perspective of our personal devotions? It’s something that we *get* to do. It’s not a chore to accomplish; it’s a privilege to enjoy!



# Norman Moore Ministries

*Serving in Evangelism Since 1979*

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*"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35, NIV*

## Churches "Gain Ground" from Revival Services

### Rock Island, Illinois

"It is always a privilege to work with Rev. Norman Moore in local revival services. God has gifted him with a distinct ability to communicate truth in a way that is fresh and challenging. Our congregation responded to Norman's preaching with great appreciation as well as good responses at the altar. We all gained ground in our relationship with Christ during the time Norman was here. Norman is always an encouragement to me personally as we fellowship together during the revival campaign, which is an added bonus."

*Rev. Richard Barriger, Pastor  
First Church of the Nazarene  
Rock Island, Illinois*

### Pueblo, Colorado

"Norman's messages at our Men's Breakfast and in the church services were right on target. There was a troubled teen who had been in trouble with the Law. He responded to the invitation after Norman's message, and returned to the Lord. A Native-American couple that had formerly served in ministry, came forward, knelt and made a new commitment to renew their license and restart their ministry."

*Rev. Bob Sims, Pastor  
Belmont Church of the Nazarene  
Pueblo, Colorado*

### Ashland, Kentucky

"We recently had the pleasure of enjoying a wonderful time of spiritual renewal and deepening under the effective ministry of Norman Moore. The services were anointed and the preaching was very timely and pointed toward the needs of our church family. I personally found the time enriching and challenging as I had opportunity to be ministered to by Norman and his wit and wisdom outside the pulpit. He shared valuable insights with our staff as well that furthered

the influence of his ministry while he was here. I would recommend his ministry to anyone interested in seeing God move in the lives of people."

*Dr. Steve W. Ruby, Lead Pastor  
First Church of the Nazarene  
Ashland, Kentucky*

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### MAY

- 3-6 Cross Pointe Church of the Nazarene  
Salisbury, Maryland
- 10-13 Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene  
Council Bluffs, Iowa
- 17 Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene  
Stanton, California
- 30-31 Kailua Church of the Nazarene  
Kailua, Hawaii

### JUNE

- 7 Kaneohe Church of the Nazarene  
Kaneohe, Hawaii
- 14-21 South Carolina District  
Camp Meeting  
Columbia, South Carolina
- 28 First Church of the Nazarene  
Pueblo, Colorado

### JULY

- 7-12 Iowa District Camp Meeting  
West Des Moines, Iowa
- 15-19 North Central Ohio District  
Camp Meeting  
Mount Vernon, Ohio

**NORMAN AND VICKIE: PLEASE SEND ME YOUR HARVEST TIMES NEWSLETTER.**

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