

Do Not Disturb

I am sometimes amazed at some of the records that people will endeavour to set. I read an article a while back that told of a Swiss man, named Jean Vernetti, who is listed in the book *Guinness World Records 2004* for setting the world record for collecting the most "Do Not Disturb" signs.

Jean Vernetti has travelled to 131 countries and has managed to collect 2,915 "Do Not Disturb" signs in a variety of languages. His dream is to collect a "Do Not Disturb" sign from every country in the world.

It wasn't until I read that article, that I realised that the "Do Not Disturb" sign is a universal sign. That seems to be the attitude of many people today – "Don't disturb me, I am too busy with my own agenda, my own life, my own plans." It seems to me a great shame that some people go through life with an invisible sign, "Do not disturb me please. Keep away from me".

I have met a few like that, and no matter what I did I couldn't make any approach to them. They wanted to be left alone. And yet I know they will be the poorer for having this attitude. Is it something from their past that stops them from moving forward? Many of us, if we were honest, prefer an undisturbed life. We want our plans to succeed, our families to grow, our businesses to profit, and our health to stay strong.

If we were to get our way, nothing bad would ever come our way. No one or nothing would ever cause us heartache or disappointment. Wouldn't that be a great life? Nothing to complain about – no one to annoy us or get on our nerves. Just me and I – minding my own business and leaving everyone else to get on with their lives.

But that is an unrealistic expectation, isn't it? All of us experience some disturbances now and then – disappointments and difficulties will come, and we should be ready for them. I want to say *there are times when we need to be disturbed out of our complacency*. That applies to me as well. How easy to just drift along in life doing what we want when we want. Problem is we will miss out on so much more that God wants for us.

Does God need to shake you up a bit? I think it's a fascinating question. It is really attached to the idea of our own *comfort zone*. Am I prepared to move out of there? This is what God can do – push you into something new, out of your comfort zone. There comes a time when we have to move, for our own good.

I met up with a friend who told me he moved house after 50 years. And wished he had done it sooner. It is amazing the feeling of confidence you get when you take a step forward out of your familiar zone. Of course it's not always that simple. Yes, God does and can come after our comfort zones to get through to us. If you're experiencing transition or life change, ask God to speak to you and give Him your undivided attention.

If you feel He is trying to push you out of the box you've stuck yourself in, don't push back. Instead, let yourself open up to these new experiences. These life changes might be a big part

of His plan for you. As a committed Christian, Jesus will help you discover the divine plan for your life. Change is never easy, but it is often worth moving, and God will help you get moving.

This is why we try to ignore Him, because change is the last thing we want to do. One thing for sure, the reward of obedience is far better than staying where you're at. It's important to remember that listening to God begins with a genuine desire to hear from Him. God has spoken to us through those who were inspired to write the words of Scripture.

Do you feel the Lord leading you in a certain direction? It might seem that He told you to start your own business or write a book. You'll soon start noticing more and more a trend or pattern of occurrences pushing you in that direction. This might be what God has planned for your life. If you aren't sure, simply ask Him! He will continue to provide you the clues.

Another way God brings us guidance is through other people. The Lord will use family, close friends and even total strangers to speak a word into your life that will pierce an area God is trying to deal with. Sometimes, a random person you meet will mention something that you desperately needed to hear or know, that you wouldn't have otherwise heard had you not come across their path.

God can use these people to bring you the gospel and give you solid advice. These people want the best for you, and God will choose people that you trust to really deliver important messages. Rely on your friends during the dark times. If you are feeling divinely guided by someone, God might be trying to get your attention.

God wants to have a relationship with all of us. He wants to be the number one person we come to when we run into problems, when we are scared, or need someone to talk to. God gives us the tools we need to reach out to Him and create that dialog. However, sometimes we choose to turn to other options. We forget that God is there for us, feel He doesn't have time for us, or any number of excuses.

In these moments we are turned away from God, He is trying to get our attention. God wants to help us, ease our pain, and be a resource. God may speak to us softly during prayer, or scream from the rooftops trying to get us to notice Him. There are many ways God reaches out to us that we sometimes ignore or brush off completely.

Is God calling out to you and trying to get your attention?

Open yourself up to God's leading. Stop wearing the "Do not Disturb" sign. Stop shutting other people out of your life.