

SNACK FOOD FOR THE SOUL

DEVOTIONALS THAT ENHANCE YOUR
THOUGHT LIFE. INSPIRED BY THE BOOK,
THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE.

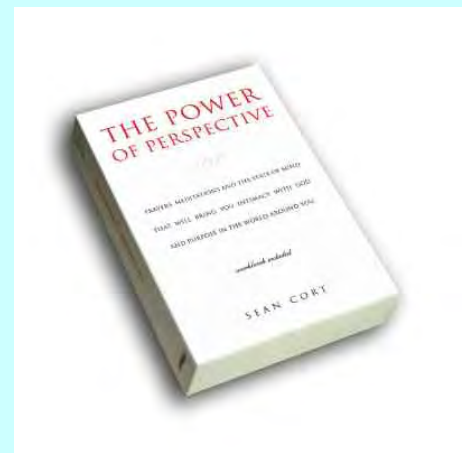
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WEEK OF 1/24/2011

Feast on this...

IN THE NICK OF TIME

Here's an idiom we've all used or heard at some point or another in our journey. Its origin has been traced back to around the 1580's in or around England. The word nick was applied to establish a demarcation for the sake of precision. By making a nick on a piece of wood, the craftsman would know exactly where to cut or add something. The word nick would also be used to mark a precise time at which something critical should take place.



There became so many uses for the word nick that "of time" was eventually attached to the word to create the idiom, *A Nick of Time*.

I can think back to the many times that *In the Nick of Time* applied to my life. Each instance is as vivid as though it happened last week. There was the time I was pushed into a swimming pool when I was seven years old while vacationing with my mom and step-dad. I couldn't swim and a man and his wife saw the panic on my face and jumped in and pulled me to safety *In the Nick of Time*.

There was another time as a small boy that my mother and I were walking in Manhattan on a snowy winter's night and as we stepped off a curb to cross the street a speeding taxi cab came around the corner. My mother had on a heavy hooded winter coat and couldn't see or hear it coming and I stopped and pulled her back as hard as I could *In the Nick of Time* as the car sped by. He didn't even see us. I could easily recall at least two dozen other such stories involving me and situations I've witnessed, and in every case I couldn't even imagine what the outcome would be if it were not for *In the Nick of Time*.

I've come to believe that *in the nick of time* occurs when one controlling force concedes to another. Take for instance someone's pet puppy that runs out in the middle of the street unaware of the danger of cars. An unsuspecting driver sees something run across the street and *In the Nick of Time* slams on the brakes. Now that puppy will live another day in the loving arms of their owner. Caution took over from negligence of the puppy's owner, thus sparing the life of the puppy.

How about you? Can you recall any *in the nick of time* situations in your life? Maybe the time when something precious or potentially messy was rolling off a counter or a desk and you caught in just before it fell to the floor and broke and made a complete mess. Maybe your nick of time moment occurred when you bit your lip as your emotions were about to rush through the gate of your mouth on their way to cause a bad situation to become worse.

In the Nick of Time your maturity, reasoning or simply the Holy Spirit saw the end result way down in time and back tracked through eternity to your present state of mind and tripped the circuit breaker on your tongue. You suddenly found yourself with nothing to say. Whew! *Just In The Nick of Time*.

Some may say that the nick of time is plain dumb luck and others may say that the nick of time is purely Divine Providence. Take for instance the last time you felt as though that you were at the end of your rope emotionally, spiritually, physically or financially and barely holding on. It was so bad you thought to yourself, "Now I see why some people commit suicide." Just as you hang your head in total defeat something causes someone or a deep inner feeling to snap you back from the brink of losing your mind. It may not be enough to make you leap to the mountain top, but it's enough to bring you from your face to your knees.

Perhaps you felt the strength to then lift your head to see another day. I don't know how and I don't know why, but Jesus always knows just how much we can really take. Sometimes we may have to actually lose consciousness in order to give Him that last bit of oil from our soul. By this I mean; the only judge of the true cost of olive oil is the olive. Sometimes Jesus wants to totally get the last bit of personal value out of us, and the only way to do so is to squeeze us beyond our conscionable limit. By doing this, we just about lose the consciousness that keeps us in control and at the very moment when we are completely emptied out; the master gets His glory as He steps in, *In the Nick of Time*.

So if you or someone you know is on their face and about to cry their last drip of oil; encourage them by saying that in the Garden of Gethsemane which means oil press in Assyrian; Jesus prayed there the night before His crucifixion and wept to His Father in Heaven and asked that His impending suffering would pass. At the moment He uttered Nevertheless, *In the Nick of Time*, His Divinity stepped in and changed His nature before His humanity could change His mind. Our pain and trials can never exceed an inexhaustible God. Because of Calvary our valley experience culminates at the next mountain top.

OUR WEEKLY LIFE ENHANCEMENT CLASSES ARE HELD ON THURSDAY EVENING FROM 7 TO 8:15 AT THE CELEBRATION OF PRAISE CHURCH OF GOD, 3700 SOUTH HIGHWAY 27. CLERMONT, FL. 34711.

THIS WEEK'S MULTI-SERIES TOPIC WILL BE: "**THE POWER OF WORSHIP**"

OUR SBACK FOOD TEAM OF PRAYER WARRIORS ARE ALWAYS WILLING AND ABLE TO HONOR YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS BY SIMPLY REPLYING TO THIS EMAIL.

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE AS LONG AS THE HOLY SPIRIT IS HERE TO INSTRUCT OTHERS TO INTERCEDE ON YOUR BEHALF CONCERNING YOUR HURTS AND YOUR NEEDS.

HAVE AN INDESCRIBABLY BLESSED WEEK!

SEAN