

Does God Take The Summer Off?

Summer is approaching. For college students school is already out. In just one more week the school bells at our secondary schools will ring and students will rush to waiting cars and busses, taking them home to the joyful time of summer vacation. For many there are visions of sleeping in, days at the beach or mountains and vacation trips, swimming at the pool and summer camp to capture our imagination. These great activities provide a welcomed break so that life doesn't become too routine and "ho-hum."

What about our faith? Do we schedule it to take the summer off, too? Do we check out of church in early June vowing to return once school starts again in the fall? Do we put God on the shelf for three months, and yet expect his blessings all 365 days of the year? Do the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" cause us to place a lower priority on our faith?

I realize it is difficult to be on vacation away from home and find a church to worship on Sunday morning. But, how many weeks of vacation do we get? In reality, very few of us get to be on vacation for three months of the summer. Enjoy your travels but when you are at home, don't take the entire summer off from worship.

Here's a suggestion. Just like people often go into a summer reading mode, try starting a summer reading program of the Bible or other inspirational devotional books. Use the slower pace of life during the summer to grow your faith – just in a different way. Seek ways to step up your faith as you operate in a summer mode.

Thankfully, God does not take the summer off. He continues to bless us with family, friends, health, a job, food on the table, and in countless other ways – all year long. God created the beauty of the beach or mountains that we so much enjoy in the summer. A relationship with God is a two-way street. Don't let it slip into a one-way deal, enjoying the beauty of God's creation while ignoring the creator.

God will understand you taking a well-deserved vacation. He told you to "rest" on the Sabbath, as He knows you need a change of pace in order to recharge your batteries. Exodus 20:8-10 says, *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God."* God didn't tell you to ignore worshipping Him for months at a time, but instead, find ways of worshipping him as you take a break from the busyness of your daily life. Maintain God as a priority in your life, not just when it is convenient.

Question: How do you handle maintaining your relationship with God during the summer? What can you do to be more intentional in your faith during these times?

Prayer: Lord. It is easy to get swept up in vacation mode during good weather. We pray we can find new routines during the summer so that we don't forget you while we enjoy the blessings of good weather and scenic beauty. Amen.

