

Supporting Christian Unity in the Alfred Community



Time Out! Okay?

I have many happy memories as a child playing hide & go seek or even better ~ my personal favorite ~ "release" (a modified hiding game where you could be captured by an opponent with still hope of being released by a teammate). I with my brothers and some other neighborhood kids would pick teams then set about ducking under bushes, making ourselves small and invisible behind some piece of a neighbors landscape that would seem too unlikely a hiding place for our opponents to give it a second glance. Even climbing a tree ~ an easy way to hide from my older brother ☺. Oh, the adventure of it all! The thrill of the chase! Especially if old Mr. So And So caught you in his yard!

You could always tell when one of us was near capture because they would cry out, "Time out! Okay?" and then state why they needed the pursuit to be paused with excuses ranging from "Shoe came untied" to "My mom's calling me" . What a riot!

Life isn't as forgiving as the old neighborhood though... is it? When we're scurrying about and get into a jam we can't just fall down breathless and scream, "Time out okay?" and expect the world to stop and hear good cause why we need to break up the game for a while.

No, friends, the world goes on about its business even when we're weary and want to take a time out. In fact, by the world's standards, we are supposed to continue like the energizer bunny incarnate.

Guess what? I have a message for you. God doesn't want us to run through life helter-skelter. To be honest, I am certain that our own expectations for our lives are far more unrealistic than God's expectations of us. He knows our limitations and He has provided a well-needed respite for us at our precise moment of need.

Let me encourage you to set aside your agenda from time to time and take a "Time Out!" Okay?

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth. ~ Psalm 86:15

May you seek rest in Him!