

I have been married to my beautiful wife, Marlinia Kersey Rhodes, for eleven years. We have discovered many interesting things about one another since that wonderful day in August in the year 2000. Some of the interesting things she has learned about me are: I enjoy a nice big glass of chocolate milk with a, get ready for it, a big o' dill pickle. I know many are not fond of the combination, but it's my concoction and I love it! Now Marlinia is not without her quirks and it is not my intention to "bash" my wife in this article. Let me make this statement clear; I LOVE MY WIFE. Now with that said, I can make the following statement: My good wife, without a doubt has the uncanny ability to allow small noises at night to keep her awake for hours on end. Now that's not "the quirk" I wish to make you aware of or the point of this article. What you have read thus far is only the tip of the iceberg. Along with her ability to allow these "noises" to keep her awake, she also wakes me up at various hours of the night to do the investigative work in finding the source of the noise itself.

Case in point: Saturday September 10, 2011 in the wee hours of the morning—3:15AM to be exact—while visiting my parents home in Mt. Pleasant—my wife of eleven years wakes me up and asked, "Are you asleep?" I have learned in the past eleven years this actually means, "Wake up because I'm awake." I gave the expected response, "well, I am now...HONEY!" She said, "Can you hear that?" I responded by listening in silence and then uttering these words, "I only hear a cricket." "EXACTLY!" she exclaimed. "It's kept me awake for hours; can you do something about it?" Readers, have you ever looked for a cricket? My question before I begin is really; did you ever find that cricket? I went to the utility room and retrieved my weapon of choice—the broom. I listened for the cricket and began sweeping the broom behind the grandfather clock—the chirping ceased--job done, now back to bed. CHIRP, CHIRP, CHIRP goes my little cricket friend—Job not done. To make a long story short, I moved the wing back chair, the grandfather clock, the couch, I ditched the broom for a more direct "cricket killing device" a screwdriver, I contemplated removing baseboards, I went outside in my pj's and attacked a bush in front of the window with broom in hopes of scaring the little monster away, only to hear more of his incessant CHIRPING. Man that noise is annoying! I used my cell phone, which has a ring tone that sounds like a cricket chirping to scare it away and I think I only made it happier thinking he had a friend close by. Finally around 4:15AM, an hour after the cricket m el e began—HE WAS STILL CHIRPING AWAY AND I WAS VERY OUTDONE WITH THE CRICKET AND MY GOOD WIFE WHO AT THIS TIME WAS BACK SNOOZING ON THE AIR MATTRESS. After sending her back to another room to sleep, I finally prayed to God. I prayed that the cricket would follow Marlinia into the bedroom and chirp in there so I could get some sleep. By 6:30, the chirping ceased and I finally went back to sleep, but we never found that cricket.

Many times in our spiritual lives we look in the wrong direction and we search for God in places where we will not find Him. We live our lives searching and moving things around and we never find what we are looking for. Hebrews 13:8-9, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them." We search in vain for those things the world offers in hopes of fulfilling our lives. We search the man made doctrines of men hoping to find a glimpse of God and a brief moment of clarity, only to not find it there. We will only find God through His Son (John 14:6) and in His Word. I pray that we all search for God by being better bible students and better disciples of Christ. Let us search for God in places where we know for sure and without a doubt—He is there. James 4:7-9, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom."