

January 2019 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

Happy, Happy, Happy New Year

New Years is the perfect time for us continuing our journey through the 7 Principles of Truth Dr. Henry Blackaby teaches in his book Experiencing God because Number 6 is...are you ready? Sacrifice. Happy New Year. Keep reading. We all need this so we can have the happiest New Year ever. I know. I've read the book. I'm still working on it because it works!

Truth 6 Sacrifice

A Major Adjustment of Your Life Will Be Required

A small church believed God was placing on their hearts a need to start a new church 40 miles away. The small town did not have a church. So they began to pray for God to send someone to move to that community. A young couple responded. Because the husband was attending university, they had very little money.

If they moved to this town, the husband would need to drive 80 miles a day to the university. The pastor of the church behind this new church start told the young couple, "No, I can't let you do that" and gave them several reasons that would not be fair.

This young couple was deeply grateful that God had saved them. The young man looked at the pastor and said, "Please don't deny me the opportunity to sacrifice for my Lord. " That statement crushed the pastor. How could he refuse yet the couple would have to pay a high price because their church had been obedient in starting a new church?

The pastor said, "We had prayed for God to send a lay pastor, so we needed to be open to God answering their prayers in an unexpected way." When the couple responded with a deep sense of commitment and personal sacrifice, the church affirmed their sense of God's call, and God provided for their needs. This is absolute surrender.

God frequently requires major adjustments in areas of your life that you have never considered or been open to in the past. You may have heard someone say something like this: "Don't ever tell God something you don't want to do. That is what He will ask you to do."

God is not looking for ways to make your life difficult. However, He intends to be the Lord of your life. When you identify a place where you refuse to allow His Lordship; that is where He will go to work. He is seeking absolute surrender. God may or may

not require you to do the thing you don't want to do but He will keep working until you are willing for Him to be Lord of your life. Remember, because God loves you, His will is always best! Any adjustment God expects you to make is for your good...always. As you follow Him, the time may come when your life and future may depend on your adjusting quickly to God's directives. You are aligning your life to God. You are altering your view of things to resemble His view. Are you changing your ways to be like His? After you make the adjustments, He will always tell you what to do next to assure your obedience and success. When you follow Him, you will experience Him doing through you something only He can do. You are about to experience God in ways you never dreamed possible. It will take your breath away and fill you with unimaginable joy and peace.

Obedience is costly...Always has been. Always will be. But you will experience God's love in a way like never before.

The bible says, "Without God, you can do nothing. With God, you can do anything."

The methods we use to grow a church will never sustain growth and accomplish God's will. The key is simple. It is our relationship with the Person of God...Jesus Christ. When we want to know how God wants us to reach our city or community, ask Him. Then when He tells us, don't be surprised if you can't find any church that is doing it the same way. Why? God wants you to know Him and His perfect will and plan. If you follow someone else's plan, use their method, or their program, you tend to forget about your dependence on God. You leave the relationship with God and go after a method or a program. That is spiritual adultery.

Without God at work in you, you can do nothing to produce Kingdom fruit. When God purposes to do something, He guarantees it will succeed. He is the One who will accomplish what He intends to do. If you depend on anything other than God, you are asking for failure by God's terms. Depending on only Him....and get ready for great success in your life, your family, your church and yes, the New Year will be amazingly fulfilling.

Think about it!

With the deepest love for my Savior and for you,

Pastor Steve

PS Happy New Year.