

Newsletter July 2022

From Heaven's Heart

“God Teaches Us so we will Become Good Teachers”

From Acts Chapter 10...the story of Cornelius

I often hear many of you talk about how important Sunday School was to you growing up and still is. You always remember certain teachers whom you identify as faithful, loving, caring...you still remember things you learned as a child and later as a maturing person of faith...a Christian.

No doubt, we can learn a great deal from reading our bibles or daily devotionals. They are so important. But what about the things we learn from our adult teachers and from other class members? To be able to ask questions and have someone explain things we hunger to understand is so important. Sometimes we learn from others' life experiences. In Sunday school, we pray together. We hear our teachers pray. When names are lifted up for prayer we are reminded to send a card, make a call, and take a meal. So many good things grow out of a Sunday school class experience.

We all need good teachers to help us mature as Christians, to establish a solid foundation of sound beliefs and principles we will use as we walk through life as adults. Without it, we risk finding ourselves blowing with the winds of life and sometimes being blown off course. From personal experience, I can claim that Sunday school helps.

God uses good teachers to teach but God also requires that we too become good teachers. Teachers of our children, grandchildren and even friends and neighbors. There's a story in the bible about a man named Cornelius. He was a captain in the Roman army in charge of about 100 men watching over the seaport of Caesarea, Judia. As the story goes, Cornelius was not a Jew but he knew about the one true God the Jew's worshiped. Cornelius worshiped the God of Israel. Their God was His God and he prayed to Him every day. The bible also tells us that Cornelius taught His family and servants to do the same. The bible says, “He was kind and helpful to the poor.” Someone, somewhere, somehow was a good teacher and Cornelius was now a good teacher. And he was teaching others to become good teachers. This is only possible when we have a heart seeking God.

Because of this Roman captain's heart for God, God was teaching Cornelius and Cornelius was becoming a teacher of his family, his servants and all those who saw his kindness.

You and I have a very important personal responsibility to be teachable so we will become teachers of our children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. If we do not carry on as teachers, what promise do we have that our own children and their children, our co-workers, customers, patients will become all God desires for each one to become? More likely than not, like much of the world today, their lives will get blown away in the storms of life and suffer damage.

When God knows we are teachable, faithful, trying to be kind to others and becoming faithful teachers, He will do some mighty things, supernatural things using us because we are willing to be used. I would encourage you to read more of this story about Cornelius, the angel God sent and how the world was opened up to receive the good news of the gospel because Cornelius chose God and committed his life to serving and teaching.

On Pentecost, Peter spoke to Cornelius and his family, God sent His Holy Spirit to them and everyone was amazed. They were baptized and became members of the church...and the church continued to grow because non-Jews, like Cornelius, were becoming teachers of God's word.

Are we teaching our children well? Are we bringing them up in His church where they can learn in Sunday school? Are we teaching them to pray as they hear us pray? The future of your family, their futures, our communities, the world depends on all of us becoming good teachers...beginning at home.

With my love and devotion for you and for the health & salvation of your families,

Pastor Steve