

March 2022 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

“The Bible, the World's Greatest Story of Love”

For God so loved the World that He gave us the Bible. The Bible is a fascinating book. It has remarkable diversity and remarkable unity. It's books were written by a diverse assortment of unexpected authors. They spoke different languages, came from different cultures, some were well educated, some were not, some were blue collar workers, some successful business owners. But they all had a few important things in common...

Their hearts must have been open and their minds willing to hear God's voice, receive it as true and real, and were determined to share it. God spoke important truths to each one to write down and pass along for the purpose of building His Kingdom of believers *for His purpose of Salvation*. Each one had their faults, shortcomings, and sometimes doubts, struggling with the same things we struggle with. But they were hand picked, called by God and they achieved His purpose in writing what we know as the Bible, God's Holy word....and God's Story of Love...because He loves us.

The Bible is far more than mere words on a page. The Bible is an encounter with God Himself. No book is more critical to your life. It's very essence is the Lord Himself. This is why it is correctly said about the Bible that it is God breathed. The Holy Spirit speaks through the pages of the Bible, communicates during time

of prayer, in your circumstances, through your church and through other Christians.

Someone once suggested we should read our Bibles in an attitude of prayer, and allow the Holy Spirit to make us aware of God's activity in and through our personal life. Something I have learned is important for my personal growth is to write down what I learn, and meditate on it and begin to try and adjust my thoughts, attitudes and behavior based on what God's word tells me about Himself, about life and about the love relationship He wants me to enjoy with Him.

Shouldn't we begin each day thinking about what God said to us yesterday through His word and apply these things to our lives that day...to our work and our relationships. Don't think for a second that God says something to you through His word by accident. God is intentional, orderly and His timing is perfect. When you hear from Him, it's because He knew you needed something and were ready for Him to speak to you.

The Bible is not too difficult for you to understand if you ask the Holy Spirit for help. The Holy Spirit is simply God's all-powerful, all-knowing helper, teacher, comforter, advisor and friend. The most brilliant person can not fully understand the Bible without the help of the Holy Spirit. God desires for you to know Him and to know His truth found in His Word. Every person who reads it can learn from it.

There are a few things that give a person an edge on understanding God's Word.

1. Being born again. John 3:35 Those who are born again and have received the gift of His Spirit have a distinct advantage in understanding the deeper truths of God's Word.

2. Having a heart that desires to learn God's truth gives us a real advantage. It allows the Holy Spirit to guide us because we are thirsting and hungry for the truth we've discovered we can find only in God's word.

3. Having a heart that seeks to obey and serve God. Why would God take the time to speak to someone whom he knows will not listen to Him, will not obey Him, will not serve Him. The Holy Spirit teaches the most to those who desire to use and apply what they learn. And this Book activates LOVE in the hearts of people.

Begin your Bible study with a simple prayer asking the Holy Spirit to provide you what you need for the day, to impress upon your heart what is on God's heart. And yes, God is that personal, that concerned for you, and that direct. Your purpose in reading the Bible is not to create meaning but to discover the meaning of God's words with the Holy Spirit guiding you. Reading and studying God's Word is not an exercise for acquiring information but an opportunity for your life to be transformed. The transformation comes as you have your very own personal encounter with God and observe as you are changed by His presence in your life as your Father and best Friend. Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear. Matt. 13:9 Choose to have ears that desire to hear!"

The Bible...God's plan to show the world that the only way to have eternal life in Paradise is through His Son Jesus, who sacrificed His own life so as a believer in Him, we could have eternal life...Salvation through Jesus makes all who believe in Jesus recipients of a Heavenly Inheritance. It's simply God's love story written by our Creator.

Have you ever wondered what one day of your life would be like without your Bible?

With my deepest love for you,

Pastor Steve