

WISE WORDS are like DEEP WATERS; wisdom flows from the wise like a...

Bubbling Brook

Ministries

Proverbs 18:4

RIPPLES

BIBLES GIFTED	538
BOOKS GIFTED	541
DISCIPLING VISITS	859

If in fact you have [really] heard Him and have been taught by Him, just as truth is in Jesus [revealed in His life and personified in Him], that, regarding your previous way of life, you put off your old self [completely discard your former nature], which is being corrupted through deceitful desires, and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude], and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], created in God's image, [godlike] in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation]. Ephesians 4:21-24

BUBBLES

"I just wanted you to know I thank God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for working through everyone involved to bring this wonderful Bible to me. All the translators, volunteers, editors, printers, publishers, transporters, your wonderful Ministry and everyone doing God's work—I pray God will shine on all your lives and the lives of all you pray for. I pray God will shower all the blessings of Abraham and all His unfailing love, mercy and grace on every one of you. Only God knows what the seed you have all planted will produce."



Progressive Growth

The Lord is the Good Shepherd, and His sheep hear His voice. If you haven't heard His voice, then you do not belong to Him.

The unsaved person goes his own way, following his own will. Sometimes, though, a person who claims to have accepted Christ continues in the old sin-nature, either not knowing the complete picture of the redemptive work of the cross or out of disobedience. That person cannot hear the voice of God amidst a life lived in sin. So, what will change him to the new nature? Listening to God and obeying Him! Being sensitive to His voice positions a person for advancement in spiritual growth.

The stages of progressive spiritual growth begin after salvation. At your adoption into the family of God, your life as a Believer has only just begun – understanding who you are without Him, learning what He has done for you, and choosing to accept Him as your Savior primes a person's heart for the Lord to mold the clay of the mind, will and emotions into an effective vessel for use by the Master Craftsman's hand. What follows salvation should be an active, intentional, intimate pursuit of relationship with Him to receive the fullness of His blessing, complete the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) in service and acts of love, and a life-long press toward spiritual maturity.

We are to put off the old man and put on the new, as if we are changing our clothes (which indeed we are – removing the old, filthy rags of a life tainted with the ruin of sin, and replacing them with the spotless, pure white robes of Christ's righteousness that He freely gives to us). This is not done through self-effort or in striving to imitate Christ's conduct. While His life was an example to all Believers, He is the one who already completed the work. He is the one who went through the

doorway of death in our place to rescue and redeem us. So, it's finished! However, it requires action on our part in acceptance and intentional pursuit. We are to put off the old, rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and put on the new. Though it's true that we are never rid of the old nature – it is part of us and because of our human, sinful state, it will not be fully eradicated until we are made new upon reaching the shores of the sweet by and by (Heaven) – we must not allow it to control our lives. If our new nature is the result of the regeneration of our souls by the Holy Spirit, and it is, then we have been declared righteous and we are in Christ, seated in the heavenlies. Our lives should be lived in tandem with that position.

I am writing to you, little children (believers, dear ones), because your sins have been forgiven for His name's sake [you have been pardoned and released from spiritual debt through His name because you have confessed His name, believing in Him as Savior]. I am writing to you, fathers [those believers who are spiritually mature], because you know Him who has existed from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men [those believers who are growing in spiritual maturity], because you have been victorious and have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children [those who are new believers, those spiritually immature], because you have come to know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has existed from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and vigorous, and the word of God remains [always] in you, and you have been victorious over the evil one [by accepting Jesus as Savior]. 1 John 2:12-13

Here, we see three stages of spiritual maturity: little children,

young men, and mature fathers, with a reiteration of the childhood stage.

- * The little child realizes that his sins are forgiven, and he knows the Father.
- * The young man has faith, realizes his sins are forgiven, and is endeavoring to overcome the wicked. How? By the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). It is our submission to the Word, not just being able to quote it, that defeats the temptations of the enemy. We can quote scripture all day, but it is submission to and obedience of the Father that enables us to overcome. Voluntary submission demonstrates maturity.
- * The mature ones, or fathers, know their sins are forgiven and have understanding of their Father. These are they who are submitted to the Word and have a passionate focus in life: to truly, deeply know Him. As we continue to walk closely with Jesus, as we submit to the Word and will of the Father, we mature, and living in right relationship with God becomes easier. You know that you are reaching a state of spiritual fatherhood (maturity) because there is reproduction – others begin to sense the Lord at work in you, and they become inspired to follow in your footsteps as you follow Him (1 Corinthians 1:1).

Progressive growth is a choice, and it is available for you at any moment in your new life. It is our prayer that you, with joy, choose to pursue the love-filled relationship that awaits, and that you steadily mature according to the promises in the Word, by His grace. ☺

What is Love?

Love...was manifested through birth of a baby, life of a Son, death of a Lamb, all given by our Heavenly Father for you and for me. *For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life* (John 3:16). The expression of the most significant gift ever given in the history of time. In the giving of Jesus Christ, gifts we never completely unwrap were bestowed on us, because His love is so deep and wide that we cannot, and will never in this life, comprehend. Each time we pull back a layer of the wrapping of His grace and mercy, we find progressively more beautiful and priceless facets of His love.

His love...was and is and will forever be! Never ceasing, infinite, and complete. Capable, fulfilling and boundless. Unconditional, selfless, sacrificial, pure. *For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, nor will My covenant of peace be shaken,*" says the Lord who has compassion on you (Isaiah 54:10). Jesus' life is the example by which we are to live. Our existence is to imitate Him, a generous sacrifice for the rescue of His children.

His love...is healing, forgiveness, and freedom. Continuous. It is always being lavished upon us, even in the moments when we don't take the time to see and appreciate it. We need to seek it as our source, receive it as completely as possible, and then share it. He came for us, gave all of Himself for us, and His amazing

love should ignite in us a desire to do the same for others.

His love...will cover all hurt and pain. You are never alone when you have Him, you can never be separated from Him. You carry His power, the very power that the Father employed when He raised Jesus from the grave. Through this power you possess all spiritual blessings, not to keep to yourself, but to share, to give back to Him in your worship and adoration, and to radiate outward so that He might be known in all the corners of the world. *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us]. For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 8:37-39).

In your loving of Him, you will be covered by the blanket of the Comforter, illuminated by the Light, and secured with a defense of unmerited and undeserved favor.

As we recognize the love among and between us this month, rather than allow society and culture to affect your lens, affix the lens of Jesus onto your eyes. Practice seeing through His eyes, a view filled with so much love that the action became that of sacrifice – One life for all. ☺

Beloved, let us [unselfishly] love and seek the best for one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves [others] is born of God and knows God [through personal experience]. The one who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love. [He is the originator of love, and it is an enduring attribute of His nature.] By this the love of God was displayed in us, in that God has sent His [One and] only begotten Son [the One who is truly unique, the only One of His kind] into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [that is, the atoning sacrifice, and the satisfying offering] for our sins [fulfilling God's requirement for justice against sin and placating His wrath]. Beloved, if God so loved us [in this incredible way], we also ought to love one another. | John 4:9-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR PHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED: (888) 580-7701

We are now blessing Beloveds in 4 states and 20 locations, including 2 new additions in the last thirty days:

- Yellowstone Co. Detention Center (Billings, MT)
- Sweetwater Co. Detention Center (Rock Springs, WY)

Anniversary Drawing: To celebrate our fourth year in ministry, on 3/14/22 we will be drawing two names from those currently on our monthly mailing list. One lady and one gentleman will be blessed with a new Bible to keep or share!

It is always an honor to receive your artwork—send in your pieces with permission to use, and it may be published in an upcoming newsletter!

Please note:

- We ship 2x/month, on or about the 15th and last day.
- Devotionals can only be sent to prisons and State-run treatment facilities—if you are transferred to one, please write us to request yours!

GIVING

Glorify God with all your wealth, honoring him with your firstfruits, with every increase that comes to you. Proverbs 3:9


All giving is wrapped in love!

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And above all these
put on *Love*
which binds everything together in
perfect harmony.
Colossians 3:14 ESV