

SHOOT THE GUN

December 2014 to our Prayer Team

Many times about 80% of what we learn in school is not very useful. It can be true for Bible Schools and Seminaries too. Our discipleship course aim is to cover the 20% useful stuff. We won't be going into discussions about the history of the Bible and how it was written. If a man wants to buy a gun to go hunting, he does not need to know how and where it was made. He does not need to take a course called:

The History of Gun Making by Peter Poorshot

All he needs is a little training on its proper use and then he needs to practice using the gun. If he runs into a wild bear, he does not need to tell the bear that he has done lots of training and practice. No! Just shoot the gun! Too many of us Christians talk about the Word and debate it ad nauseum. The devil doesn't mind. No! Use the weapon! Shoot the gun! Ignore the "wisdom" of Dr. Dolittle, Professor Bighead or Pastor D. Zaster.

I grew up in church and learned the Bible stories and many facts. What was often missing was the practical principles behind those facts. I was 28 years old before I ever heard a message about - The Battle for the Mind (it was at a 3 day Jesus festival on a farm field in Mercer, Pa.) That truth alone could have saved me from so many mistakes in my earlier walk. The subject of spiritual warfare was non-existent in most churches until Frank Peretti wrote his book called This Present Darkness over 25 years ago.

When I was in my late 20's I began to have a voracious or ravenous appetite for God's Word. We had no Internet resources to access. However, I found a few free different lending libraries across the country that had thousands of messages. I borrowed 10-12 per month and took lots of notes. It took 2-3 hours to take notes on an hour message. I was hungry. Malcolm Smith had a 12 tape series on The Lord's Prayer. The last tape was just on the word - Amen! He traced its roots back to a passage in the O.T. where it meant, God Faithful King.

My point in all of this. We can learn and grow as much as we really want to. God gave me an extra hunger for the Word because He knew I was going to be a teacher of His Word. Your calling may be different. I see that same hunger in Ryan because he is also a teacher in the making. All of you however, will be teaching others in some way and in fact are doing so already in some form. I have several books to be written. Out of those will come shorter versions to be placed in course form which are more easily digested by the ordinary believer. One step at a time and it will be just fine for all of you. I will be praying Philippians 1:9-10 over each of you the next several weeks. Perhaps you will join me :) I care about all of you. You are in my heart. I can see God has good things planned for each one of you. Do you believe it? God does. I know you pray for me. I feel empowered these days in many ways. God's creativity is flowing. Thank you for your part in all of this (and Jesus thanks you too!)

God Faithful King,
John

