

Marinate In God's Love-Letter

When I came to Christ as an adult, those around me in my country church modeled a high value of the Word. From the very first, time in the Bible became a spiritual strength to change me from the inside out. However, don't feel like you need to be where your pastor or your favorite internet speaker are in your grasp of Scripture. Begin where you are now, without guilt or shame, condemnation or regret. The death of Jesus on the cross paid for *all* our sins, along with the accompaniments of guilt and shame. Where you now are is the only place from which change can ever occur.

In this season, how much engagement in God's Word do you feel you need?

How are you doing meeting this desire?

Are you blown away with God's plan for you? Or feeling overwhelmed?

Read Proverbs 2:1-5. Is this the kind of passion for God's Word that you are developing? What consistent effort are you willing to put out to pursue God's Word in a family-type group to discover wisdom and know God?

My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom; Incline your heart to understanding. For if you cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And discover the knowledge of God (Proverbs 2:1-5).

We have a lifetime to explore the depth of what Jesus gifted us at that point in time when our hearts joined together. Continually pursue. Take "*ant steps*" in the right direction. *Partner* with the Spirit and keep making incremental progress on your journey. Trust. Chillax in Him!

Begin with a minimum, then grow it over the years. As I've dialogued with others, here's what I now believe is the minimum that's crucial to grow, not just for me, but for all. Think through this with your Resident Teacher, the Spirit of God. Make these your own because we *all* see and know in part (1 Corinthians 13:9-12).

1. *Do the "two-step" with the text you are reading, Ask "What?" and "Now what?" What does the text say and now what can I do about it.*
2. *A strong desire to cultivate awareness of God's presence as a moment-by-moment priority. All thoughts are inner conversations in our head. Invite Jesus into the other half of all our inner conversations.*
3. *Sufficient time in God's Word to feed our hearts in this season so we see life more as Jesus does. I may need more time than some, and less than others. I'm the gatekeeper of my heart. I decide for me (in cooperation with the Spirit). Yet take care not to let self-indulgence cause spiritual malnutrition. The reason I gathered and posted **Mining God's Word** is to make available a relatively simple, yet tiered, approach to ingest God's Word with a bias towards *doing*. Perhaps peruse this page next.*
4. *Quick obedience to partner with God's heart in His daily God-Assignments. Your assignments are not mine, and mine are not yours. Discern. Stay alert to the footsteps of the Father in your life.*
5. *Keep short accounts when we fall short, both with God and with others. Walking in reconciliation without **un**forgiveness develops a clear eye to receive insight. With no*

guilt! No shame. No condemnation. Embrace the transforming power of *forgiveness*, both *from* God and *to* others who have sinned against us.

What? & so what?

Cultivating God's presence.

Sufficient time in God's Word.

Quick obedience.

Keep short accounts.

Enjoy relationship with God above all else. This is my primary reason to study God's Word since all else flows from this relationship. Grow by *faith*, apart from what we can do on our own, even before we know what faith is. True faith is not a series of intellectually satisfying beliefs. True faith actively responds in the sweet surrender of all-in allegiance to the object of our faith. To believe or have faith is one of the simplest things. God designed us to connect with Him through faith. *Faith is like...*

- knocking on a door (Revelation 3:20),
- receiving a gift from a close friend (John 1:12),
- drinking a refreshing glass of water (John 4:14),
- calling for help when drowning (Romans 10:13), or
- coming to a dear friend when weary (Matthew 11:28).

True faith rests our lives entirely on God and His secure promises, like resting our weight fully in a chair. The object of our faith is more crucial than the amount of faith (a mustard seed size is enough). Faith will get us anything, take us anywhere in God's economy. Yet without faith we have no new life, no approach to God, no forgiveness, no intimacy with God, no partnering in this grand adventure...no spiritual life at all.

By ourselves, we possess no ability to *live loved*. With Jesus as our true Vine, we have all the abundance we need. *Mining God's Word* of its treasures together gets us in touch with the mind and heart of our Lord and Master. As worshippers, "*we become what we behold*" (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). So, *behold* Jesus in Scripture.

What is this worth to you?

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells everything that he has, and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold everything that he had and bought it"
(Matthew 13:44-46).

What could hinder our lives from experiencing this abundance from our design?

Unbelieving heart. Unconfessed sin. Unforgiving spirit.

Please don't choose our fickle feelings over God's unfailingly promises.

How well did you live loved today?

In a quiet moment, does your heart and mind reflex back to "I'm deeply loved by my Father"?
During your today, how aware were you that the Three most Significant Persons in the universe are delighted to connect with you with their renewing love?

Also, read the article, "*A-I-D to Learning and Change.*"

If you are serious about studying God's Word to do it, I would recommend my 8-part *DiscipleMaking Companion* series to lay a healthy foundation in a user friendly way.