

# **HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY—PATRICK WALTON**

*A Series About Our Values—10.4.2020*

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## **Week 2 | “Our Commitment To The Bible Pt. 2”**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Is it possible to cultivate hunger for God? Is it possible to hunger for God in the same way that we hunger for food, for water, and for the essential needs of our existence? Yes, it's not only possible, but it's actually to be the aim for every follower of Jesus.
- B. The goal/aim for every follower of Jesus is that our primary passion and drive in life, is to desire God's Words/presence more than the surpassing pleasures of this age. But this doesn't happen in a ministry line, it doesn't happen at a conference, and it doesn't happen automatically. It is something that has to be cultivated.
- C. In the Kingdom of God, hunger begets hunger, and thirst begets thirst;
  - 1. **John 4:10-14**     *“Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it was who says to you, give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would give you living water...Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well...Jesus answered and said to her, Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst. But the water that I give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”*
- D. This morning, it's my goal to call you to cultivate a greater hunger for God's truth, for the Bible as the sole source of our spiritual lives, and the primary means that God uses to conform us into the image of Christ.

### **II. THIRSTING FOR GOD**

- 1. **Psalm 42:1-2**     *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”*
- B. At first glance we might think that this Psalm is about the deer, but the emphasis David would like us to see, is about water; a desperate quest the most fundamental need of every human.
- C. Just like the deer, longing for water after a drought, not as a luxury, not as something good, but as a necessity, David also is thirsting after God. Like a deer wearied from running from the dogs, running from the attack of predators in the woods, looking for water to cool itself down, looking for life itself, so David is thirsting for God!
- D. Like a wearied traveler, who's water bottle is empty, like a man without water, he must drink or die, David also, must have His God or faint! This isn't optional, it's not essential, for David, and for every follower of Jesus, it's life or death!
- E. Thirst isn't something that can happen from time to time, it's something that's to remain with us, throughout all our days, all our moments, and all our situations.
- F. This kind of longing, this kind of drive, this kind of passion confronts our feeble love for God. It challenges us, it provokes us, it opens our eyes to what's possible in the grace of God.

- G. Beloved, there is something more than Church attendance, there is something more than rote, routine spirituality, it's called passion for God. It's called fire on the inside. It's called desire for God, a desire that takes over our lives and beings to inform all that we do!
1. **Matthew 4:3-4**    *"Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. But He answered and said, It is written (Deut 8:3), Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."*
- H. David says, *"My soul thirsts for the living God..."* He's not just expressing a sincere desire for God, he's expressing a strong desire, the strongest with us.
- I. David said his soul, his mind, his will and his emotions, the seat of his affections are longing for God. This is the strength of his person, the lifeblood of his personhood is longing, like an animal without water. This is a desperate search for God, a quest not out of curiosity, but out of life and death, out of desperation.
- J. Beloved, this is a work of grace in the believer's life, that the number one drive, the number one ache, likened to water in a drought, is that their hunger is pointed towards God. This ache, this longing, this thirst, it's FOR GOD, not for the Church, not for fellowship, not for ministries, not for preaching, not for music, but for God, for the Living God!

### **III. HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN CULTIVATE PASSION FOR GOD/BIBLE.**

- A. Because the Bible is the only written repository of God's Words to humanity, it demands our attention. For the follower of Jesus, reading, memorizing, meditating and singing the Bible isn't a suggestion, or an option, it's the only source of Word's written from God to us, mainly about God.
1. What Bible translation should you read?
    - a. I think you should read, either the NJKV or the ESV. The ESV is the translation of choice for the reformed community, and the NJKV is the translation of choice for the Spirit-filled/Charismatic community (*the NLT helped me get started*).
    - b. My grandfather used a Thompson Chain study Bible, so that's what I have used for nearly 18 years. I have 3 of them, because they keep everything on the same place, in each Bible.
  2. I think you should pray before you read the Bible every time;
    - a. Ask God to breathe on the text and make it come alive in your heart (**2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 3:6**).
    - b. Ask God to put His Word deep inside your heart, so that when you speak, when you pray, when you counsel others, it's God's Word that comes out (**Ps. 119:11**).
    - c. Ask God to open your eyes, so that when you read the Bible, you can see what you could never see on your own (**Eph. 1:17-21**)
  3. I think you should read the Bible with a pen/pencil/highlighter, a notebook, or a computer so that you can write down the things that God might speak to you.
  4. I think you should read the Bible in books, not just some chapters, or some verses, and not just flipping and skipping around. God didn't just give us thoughts, or verses, He gave us books.
  5. I think that you should read the Bible consistently, day by day, week by week, month by month and year by year.

- a. I've read the Bible cover to cover a few times. I think that every follower of Jesus should do this at least once, and really, multiple times throughout their life.
  - b. **Here are some ways I've read the Bible** (1) Cover to cover (2) Year's ago, Mike Bickle challenged me to read 10 chapters a day, 6 days a week, so that you could read the New Testament once a month. For one year, I did this and read the New Testament about 9 times. (3) I've read the Bible, doing a couple chapters in the Old Testament and a couple chapters in the New Testament, and also, including everyday some from the Song of Songs and the book of Revelation. If you read the Revelation for 4 chapters a day, 6 days a week, you can read it once a week.
6. How much should you read each day? You have to figure that out on your own!
- a. Whatever you choose to do, stick with it, and make it doable so that you don't beat yourself up, or give in to discouragement along the way. Set your sights for a lifetime of being a student of God's Word. Give yourself to it, entirely! According to **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:17-18** you will become what you behold.
7. The Bible must be obeyed.

#### **IV. WHAT ARE THE CULTURAL NORMS AT LEGACY CHURCH WHERE THE BIBLE IS FRONT AND CENTER?**

- A. Here at Legacy Church, the Bible informs all that we are doing. This is why Sunday morning will always feature a sermon from the Bible, and even though our preachers preach from digital devices, you should also see an actual Bible next to it.
- B. Legacy Kids, Val, our team of teachers and helpers are all committed to giving lessons that are from the Bible. We don't desire to babysit kids; we want to equip them as disciples of Jesus for the road ahead.
- C. Our prayer meetings are built solely on the Word of God, even the format of our prayer meetings is taken from **Revelation 5:8**. Our singers are singing from the Word of God. Our prayer leaders are praying from the Word of God.
- D. Groups that will be forthcoming, in November are being built, and will be sustained by the Word of God. We're building community, but that community will be built through the Word of God.
- E. As a Church, we only have one solid thing TO BUILD ON, only one solid thing that will endure, only one solid thing that will transcend political parties and threatening ideologies, only one solid thing that will confront liberal and heretical thoughts, only one solid thing that will outlive nations, only one solid thing that will survive wars, and rumors of wars, only one solid thing that will outlive personalities, styles of ministry and the latest, coolest and greatest, THE WORD OF GOD!