



Searching Outside Yourself To Help Others

Volume 39 - 8

Monthly Newsletter

August - 2022

This month, I want to write on the topic of “**A Disciple And His Or Her Doctrine.**” Or another way of saying it is a man or woman’s relationship with the “**Word Of God.**” Following are some quotes concerning the Bible: “A thorough knowledge of the Bible

is worth more than a college education.” Theodore Roosevelt; “Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men and women face.” Ronald Reagan; “The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.” Martin Luther; “If you are ignorant of God’s Word, you will always be ignorant of God’s will.” Billy Graham; “A Bible that’s falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.” Charles H. Spurgeon; “The Bible is not man’s word about God, but God’s word about man.” John Barth; “The object of the Bible is not to tell how good men are, but how bad men can become good.” Dwight L. Moody; this is my favorite, “A person only loves God as much as he or she loves His Word, no more and no less.”

Before I go any further, I want to tell you my own journey of falling in love with God’s Word. I got saved on July 26, 1972, and the next day I turned myself in for a crime I had committed

DISCIPLE

BE ONE. MAKE ONE.

Part Three

one day prior. I ended up being convicted of that crime and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Prior to getting saved, I had never read the Bible. When I was put in the county jail another inmate gave me a Bible that he wasn’t reading. Every day I tried reading it, but it made no sense to me and I found it boring. To make matters worse, my mind was completely fried from the drugs I consumed on a daily basis before I got saved. I was in a complete mental fog, which really affected my short term memory. It was so bad that the other inmates gave me a nickname, which was “crispy critter.” I had a hunger to read the Bible, but lacked the mental capacity to do so.

When I got to the state prison where I was to do my time, I started attending a Bible study taught by a local pastor. I struggled to keep attending and in my frustration I asked

this Pastor if I could talk to him, which he very graciously agreed to. I told him of my struggle to want to read the Bible, but that my mind was so damaged that I didn’t think I could. He told me that he

would help me to study the Bible. He started coming a half-hour early so that he could disciple me on how and why I should read the Bible. During that time, he told me two things that changed my life. First, he said the brain is a muscle and how you exercise it to make it strong is by reading. Secondly, he encouraged me to read the Bible and books about the Bible even if I didn’t remember what I read. He said the Word of God has restorative powers, the more I read it the more I will be restored. He gave me this scripture to memorize, **Jeremiah 30:17** which states, **“For I will restore you to health, and I will heal you of your wounds, declares the Lord.”** He also said to read the Bible when I first get up in the morning, because my mind is rested and refreshed. Therefore I started getting up at 4:30 am to read my Bible. As I continued this practice, I

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slowly but surely began to both understand and remember what I was reading.

I have maintained this practice for the past fifty years. People are amazed at both my understanding of the Bible and my capacity to remember it. To this day the Bible continues to minister healing to the entirety of my life. Reading the Bible is no longer a struggle for me but a joy. Most nights I can't wait to go to bed so that I can get up at 4:30 am to spend two hours with the Lord and His Word. In 2021 I read through the New Testament 5 times in 5 different translations. I also read 37 books concerning the Word of God. If we are to become disciples of the Lord, we need to develop a love affair with His Word. Therefore we all have a mandate to study His Word.

The Bible is full of great doctrines that we will both need for ourselves and to equip us for the needs of others. Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "doctrine" this way: "Whatever is taught. A principle or position. Whatever is laid down as true by an instructor or master." The Greek word for doctrine is "*didache*," which denotes "teaching" either that which is taught or the act of teaching. Scripturally one should lead to the other. **1 Timothy 4:6** states, "*In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the*

sound doctrine which you have been following." And **2 Timothy 3:16-17** states, "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*"

2 Timothy 2:15 states, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" I want to look at three of the main words that are found in this scripture.

The first word is "*study*," which is the Greek word "*spoudazo*," which means "*to make an effort and to be consistent.*" I am always amazed at the number of Christians who don't make the effort to read their Bible, and if they do, it is not consistent. They justify this by saying, I'm too busy and I don't have the time. I am a fairly busy man, that is why I get up at 4:30 am. My desire to study the Bible is stronger than my desire for sleep. I have found that most people will find time for what they consider important.

The second word is "*workman*," which is the Greek word "*ergates*," which means "*a toiler or a laborer.*" Where the first word "*spoudazo*" speaks to the actual act of study, this word "*ergates*" speaks to the length of time that we devote to studying the Bible. You can't really say you have toiled or labored with the Word if you

only spend a short time with it. You should read the Word until the Word speaks to you in some way. I believe the written Word of the Lord contains the Living Voice of the Lord. So read it with your mind until you hear it in your heart.

The third word "*rightly dividing*," which is the Greek word "*orthotomeo*," which means "*to cut, dissect or measure correctly, it denotes great skill.*" This word speaks to the quality of our studying. The first part of this word "*ortho*" can be defined as "*skilled.*" You can see this in some of our English words such as: Orthodromy, the skill of sailing a straight course; Orthoepist, one is well skilled in pronunciation; or Orthographer, one who spells words with great skill. Skill is developed not given. Doing something over and over again will produce the skill to be both effective and successful.

1 Timothy 4:13-16 states, "*Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed unto yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you*

will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

When Paul wrote this passage to Timothy, he was a young pastor working ferociously to see his ministry succeed. Timothy was serving as the pastor of the giant church of Ephesus, the world's largest church at that time. In the process, he was learning to deal with all the problems that go along with serving as the senior pastor of such a large church. Timothy was discovering that taking care of a large church was an all-consuming task. He was giving every ounce of himself to serve the needs of that church and to make sure it was well taken care of. In fact, he was so busy taking care of everything and everyone else that he was forgetting to take care of himself.

Have you ever been guilty of running around and taking care of everyone else except yourself? Have you ever gotten so busy helping others that you forfeited your own vital time with God? Be honest. Have you ever done this so regularly that you began to feel drained, and you knew it was because you weren't taking care of your own spiritual needs? That's why Paul admonished Timothy, ***“Take heed unto thyself.”*** This phrase ***“take heed”*** comes from the Greek word ***“epechoe,”*** which is a compound of the words ***“ep”*** and ***“echoe.”*** The word ***“ep”*** means on, and the word ***“echoe”*** means to have or to hold. When these two words are compounded into one word, it means to grab hold of something very tightly. In other words, the word ***“epechoe”*** describes an extremely firm grip.

It's so easy to get distracted by other things that scream for your attention. However, if your relationship with God suffers because you are trying to help everyone else, it will just be a matter of time until you run dry, lose your energy, your passion, and have nothing more to offer. This is exactly what was happening to Timothy. If he was to continue serving as an effective minister to other people, he had to set aside some private time to develop his own relationship with God. Paul's words to Timothy could be translated: ***“Get a hold of yourself, make your own spiritual life a priority.”*** This phrase says it all.

Next month, I will share on ***“A Disciple And His Or Her Prayers Life.”***

Jim Newsom

I recently received a letter from an inmate at the Lancaster County Prison, in Lancaster, PA who had received a free copy of my book. Here is an excerpt from it.

Jim, WOW!! Thank you so much for taking the time to write your book. I can't express to you enough how thankful and blessed I am that your book fell into my lap. It's a miracle how God used your book as a tool to help teach and guide me. While also answering my prayers. No sooner would I pray for help with something that was keeping me stuck in my mess, then the answer would be revealed a chapter or two ahead. I can definitely say my emotions ran thick while absorbing the knowledge of your book. I could feel the Holy Spirit's work in me.

You have an amazing story and God has chosen to use your strengths and weaknesses for His will. Thank you for dedicating your life to make this possible. What an honor!!! You have amazing gifts. Thank you for helping to bring the Word of God into my life in a way that I can understand it better.

Thank you again,
Bobbie Jo Hollow

Please consider giving a donation, so that we can continue to give copies of my book to inmates around the country for free.



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Notes From The Newsom's From Diane's Desk



Jim's Itinerary For August - 2022

August will be a very busy month for Jim. He celebrates his birthday on the 15th, turning 72 years old. The on top of his travels this month to minister in multiple cities; he is also having hand surgery on August 23rd. He had the same surgery done on his other hand years ago, and because you have so many nerves in your hand, it is very painful. The surgery this time requires two different areas on the hand, making it much more complicated. The recovery entails physical therapy, which is very taxing. I know he will appreciate your prayers!

Jason just started a new job out in Seattle, working as an executive personal assistant at a nation wide financial company. It entails a very nice pay increase, is closer to where his new apartment is located, and allows him to work two days a week from home. Thankfully his new job doesn't require any heavy lifting like his last job did, so hopefully this will alleviate much of his back problems. After having had three back surgeries, lifting is not something he should be doing.

I can hardly believe that Ronan starts kindergarten on August 8th. What a milestone! He is a little sponge, absorbing so much knowledge. He loves learning new facts. He knows more about the planets, space and rocks than I do! He remembers everything, and has quite a mature vocabulary. He loves to play with "Mimi." It always amazes me that he remembers where everything is in the video games, while I bumble around. We have such a great time playing together, which usually entails a lot of laughter, (one of my favorite sounds.)

August 1-7 - Hattisburg, MS

Grace Temple

Pastor Higgason - (601)264-0593

August 7-8 - Pensacola, FL

Reconciled Ministries

Jim Britnell - (850)380-0745

August 9 - Nashville, TN

River Bend Prison

Charlie Bretz - (615)554-9085

August 10-11 - Kingsport, TN

Friendship Ministry

Jimmy Wallace - (407)247-4597

If you would like to schedule Jim to come speak at a school, prison, or church in your area, please call or e-mail Jim at the above number or address.