

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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WHY DO WE READ THE BIBLE?

Why do we read the Bible? – to get in touch with God.

Yes, I know there are other reasons too, of course. To learn the guidance of God. To learn what God has done throughout history. To know more and more about God. To receive God's commands. To grow spiritually. But fundamentally, for me today in my life, it is to get in touch with God.

And that is what I am seeking when I read the Bible.

I've read so many verses there so many times. Late at night when I need or want to be in his presence I read the Bible.

I don't rush through the Bible when I read it. Often I read it out loud. And I take my time, sometimes lingering over a verse. And perhaps I meditate on a phrase. Just thinking about it. I read with the inner guidance the Holy Spirit gives me. My own spirit reads the words with me, and they are alive in my heart.

Now, I don't mean I just randomly read. No. Usually I have a section I want to read, but then that is based on my years with God, on areas I have found myself close to him in the past, on areas that feed my soul. Now the whole Bible can do that, but surely there are some sections that do that more than others.

The Book of John, for example, or indeed any of the gospels. The Book of Isaiah. And some Psalms and Proverbs. Those are marvelous and wonderful for being with God.

Or I might read healing scriptures scattered throughout the Bible.

Years ago when God for an extended period was waking me in the middle of the night, I would get up and read Isaiah beginning with Chapter 1. By the time I got into Chapter 9, usually he was here and we would begin our conversation or he would just tell me some things.

But you know, being with him does not necessarily mean talking with him. It can mean just being with him, being in his real, tangible presence that overwhelms you as you sit and read. The tangible presence of God is beyond words I have to describe.

Why do I read the Bible? When I want to be with God, with the Lord, with the Holy Spirit. When perhaps I need his help to deal with some physical problem or some issue in life, or to fulfill something I

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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understand or think he would have me do. Or when I need help in some relationship with someone else. Oh, there are countless reasons.

But the truly great reason for me now is just to be with him. There is nothing more wonderful.

And that is what I pray for each of you, that you will seek his presence always, more and more. And live in it, bask in it, be fulfilled in it, grow in it.

Again, don't read the words quickly or like you are trying to get finished. Read them slowly and thoughtfully. Take them in. Let the Holy Spirit work with you, interpret for you, bring the peace that passes all understanding.

Sitting in his presence, being with him, you realize that all is well, that all is well with you. Regardless of all that is happening in the difficult world, all is well with you. You know the God who created the universe, who created you. You know Jesus Christ. Just saying his name should bring his presence more into being around you. And in you. And you know the wonderful Holy Spirit, who guides and comforts and leads.

Jesus is never going to lose you. He said that in the Bible. And God the Father loves you as much as he loves Jesus. He said that in the Bible too.

The Bible is a living book, the living word of God. It is the only thing we have like it in this world. And God has given it to you. In your own hands. In your own home.

Many years ago we did a program weekly for about 70 weeks in a city. Our title for the program? "Spend an Evening with Jesus."

Isn't that wonderful. Isn't that what we all want. And that is what the program was about.

God has given us some grand titles and short phrases to use in this ministry. Spend an Evening with Jesus is one of those. Just like Keep Your Eyes on Jesus. Or the television program Dare to Believe.

Really, what I want, what you really want, is to spend an evening with Jesus, to spend your time with God, to be in his presence always, his real tangible presence, to spiritually feel him all around and in us, to receive his guidance and companionship, to discuss things, to just be there.

Eternal life, Jesus said, is to be with him and his father. So that also is what we are experiencing when we seek and then encounter our wonderful God. Eternal life. That is what it will be like and what it is. Being with Jesus and his father always.

May you live in and experience the presence of God always. May we all.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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PEACE - YOU NEED IT NOW

When you have a personal encounter with the Lord, everything else in the world recedes in importance. It is as if everything else becomes shadows, and God is in brilliant color. And you realize just how insignificant all the issues of the secular world are.

Now is the time to have those encounters as often as you can. Now is the time to be in the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit, to experience his guidance. Now. Always the time for this is now, although certainly current events around us in the world seem to make it even more important today.

Things around are just too unpleasant for any believer in Jesus Christ. Evil is abundant everywhere, and the deception Jesus warned about is so obvious in so many places. The famous writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who suffered long in Soviet prisons and who wrote several great books earning him the Nobel prize, gave a great quote about government leaders that fits many nations today:

We know they are lying.
They know they are lying.
We know they know they are lying.
They know that we know they are lying.
And still they continue to lie.

You may have to read that a couple times and think through each sentence. But you will realize the inherent horrible truth here. It is our world – it is the daily press briefings from government authorities or speeches from officials giving us their party line. And similarly it applies to much of media and universities and elsewhere. Sometimes though I wonder if some of these people know they are lying. They may just be delusional.

Jesus is the source of your peace. He and he alone. Peace that passes all understanding. You need to spend some time with him, with the Holy Spirit, with God. Just read scripture, sit and pray – in the Spirit if you know how (that means in tongues)- and rest. Wait for the Spirit.

I like to quote James 4:8 where the Bible says “come near to God and he will come near to you.” I say “I come near to God and he will come near to me, he does come near to me, he has come near to me! He is here right now. He is always with me. And I am always with him.” And when you are in his palpable presence, sometimes you realize you can ask him something and he will answer, or the Holy Spirit will affirm or not affirm, he will lead you in a direction.

In this world certainly we all should be active doing all we can to represent Jesus, to work as the Holy Spirit leads us. God is responsible for drawing people to Jesus. We can’t do that. But we can tell any people the Holy Spirit leads us to the gospel message, who Jesus is, how to be saved, how to be ready for his return.

All of us I am sure have someone or many whom we have tried to speak with or wish we could speak with about Jesus – but we see they are just closed. The fact is they can’t hear the truth, they can’t accept

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it unless God the Father leads them to Jesus. The Lord said that. We don't know if they are ever going to hear, and it is tiring and frustrating. Still we share the truth. Because we just don't know specifically who God's elect are, the people he chose before the beginning to be with him in the Kingdom. As a minister I have had experiences I am sure other ministers and also other believers have had in preaching or speaking or teaching wonderful subjects from the gospel, with the Holy Spirit enlightening all the words. And while doing that I see and realize some are just being lifted up, and then I realize for some all the words just bounce off. That is the way it is.

To show you how God leads in his wonderful ways, let me give you a wonderful example: Once I was speaking at a healing service and teaching about some aspects of the gospel. Afterwards a man came up and said that was really wonderful when you said this and that, it really moved me. And I standing there realized I had never said what he said I had. Obviously, the Holy Spirit had been talking to him. God had been leading him.

I am just writing all this as encouragement and hopefully some guidance in your receiving the peace the Lord has for you and your going forward with your eyes on him even in these really discouraging times all around. Jesus himself talked about how rough the times would be at the end right before he comes, so it is no surprise to look at the times today.

Keep your eyes on Jesus and always use the gifts of the Spirit. Let him guide you. Use that gift of discernment all the time. And live in the blessings of God. Regardless of whatever happens, the Lord is never going to lose one of his believers. You will be with him and his father forever.

NEVER FORGET THE GREAT TRUTH OF OUR TIME: Everything is secondary right now to the fact that Jesus is coming soon and that to be in the Kingdom, to go with him, you must be a true believer in him. You must be born anew. Jesus must be your Lord. (For more guidance on what it takes to be in the Kingdom, read our October 2021 newsletter, see Chapter 11 in our book **WAKE UP AMERICA!**, or watch our two television programs titled "Getting into Heaven" on YOUTUBE and our website.

Our thanks always to all who contribute to this ministry with your financial donations as well as to all those who pray for us and assist in other ways! Receipts for 2021 contributions to the ministry will be sent to all 2021 contributors before the end of January 2022. (All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 © 3 nonprofit corporation.)

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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