



#59

Theme: "Information verses Transformation"

Scripture: Isaiah 40:8 (NIV) *"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."*

A Thought: Recently I was reading Christian quotes by many of our famous and blessed men of God. One quote in particular brought back memories when I first accepted the Lord. D.L Moody's warning of our intellect and information conscience mind getting in the way of learning Scriptures for information sake and not grabbing the thrust and importance for the sake of transformation. Listen to D. L Moody, "The Scriptures were not given for our information, but for our transformation." I was one such person. After one year of being a baby in Christ I started to merge commentaries with my Bible study. That in itself is not bad. What is bad is that the Lord's presence did not exist when I read and studied the commentaries. I had the chutzpah to have marginalized our Lord. His presence existed only when I read His Word. My lovely wife took note of my dilemma and with a few spiritual nuggets of wisdom from her lips to my ears....I realized the importance of the Apostle John's first words in his book, *"In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God."* Thereafter, I was able to discern what is said about God and to intellectually grasp that the authority of Scripture is one of the most important doctrines of our faith. Theologian and author R. C. Sproul, *The Character of God* is heavy handed with his thoughts on this subject, quote - "The pursuit of knowledge of God must never be undertaken as a causal exercise. It must be the chief business of our lives."

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Do you take reading the scriptures for granted? Another verse, another book...oh hum.
- Is the Holy Spirit working in you while you read the Word?
- Do you notice a transformation since you been reading the scriptures?
- How often do you read the Word? Are changes forthcoming?

Scriptures to read:

- Proverbs 6:23; Matthew 28:40; John 5:24; Acts 2:42, 4:42, 5:42, 18:11;
- 1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 1:11, 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 4:17;
- Colossians 1:28, 2:6-7, 3:16; Titus 2:1; 1 Peter 2:2;

Quote: George Mueller, German Preacher, Evangelist and Orphanage Director,
“The vigor of our spiritual lives will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our lives and in our thoughts.”

Bottom Line: In one succinct sentence King David is clear on the strength of God’s word in Psalm 12:6... *“The words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.”* Do you truly believe the above verse? Be honest. When and often do you read the Word? Is the Holy Spirit solely present at a weekly Bible study, Sunday service or at a church activity? When you are down and out having exhausted what the world has to offer is the Word an afterthought? We can learn from Apostle Paul with his words in Romans 1:16... *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”* Powerful words. Intellectual study of the Bible is fine, but does it lead to transformation of oneself? No of course not! There are many folks in the world with tremendous intellectual knowledge of the Gospel. They can run circles around Christians who do not! However...have their respective lives been transformed? Again, theologian R.C. Sproul, “It is not enough for the Christian to know what God is; we must be driven by a Holy passion to know Who He Is.”

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,
Your bro, Ray