

## Reflections and Random Thoughts of Today

### LETTERS IN THE SAND©

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As I was thinking to myself what it means to live in the faith I had a few thoughts:

- I must be willing to be obedient, faithful and not self-serving;
- There is no act in and of itself that I can do to be saved, it is only by God's grace and mercy that I am led into a justifying and saving grace;
- I also find myself today no longer walking in faith with pre-determined boundaries put in place by man, but I now find myself exploring my faith much like a cave diver, diving into the depths and uncovering miraculous gifts of God;
- I no longer view my faith from within a 3-dimensional world and with a 2-dimensional God, but now I am starting to view my faith in a 2-dimensional world and with a 3-dimensional God;
- Decreasing so He can increase – I believe in order to decrease one must be willing to surrender everything to God. One must also clear their mind of any pre-conceived thoughts, control their impulses and in the full sense humble oneself. I understand this to be a daily devotion, not something that is done once and is completed. This is an act of discipline that allows us to stand ready and allow the Spirit to use us.

Now, how to put these thoughts together so that one can have a glimpse into the desert I have been wondering around in. Living on faith...we may begin or end here, I will make no promises.

I believe living our faith takes more than just reading our Bibles, Sunday School and attending Church. Let me be clear they are all very important indeed, but we can't allow ourselves to stop there. I know that what I'm about to say has been heard and agreed with by many if not all of those in the churches but that's as far as it gets.

So, here it goes...**we must be willing to be obedient and we must make sacrifices when living out our faith.** Sadly, I believe we never take those words from the page or off the airwaves and place them into our minds and hearts. The Bible was written by man and inspired by God, John Wesley however, believed that the Bible was twice inspired, when written and when read. I also agree with Wesley and find the scripture to be twice inspired. As I start to

descend below the words on the surface it becomes evident that there is more to God's Word and you too can start to explore these underwater caves of the twice inspired Word of God.

If one was to be honest with oneself and ask this question, "How often do I open the Bible and tell the words on the page to say what I want them to say?" Think about it...I know myself that I have done this. It might have been to prove a point or to make myself feel better about something I did wrong. Some may argue that it was because of my immaturity, but I must disagree. I believe it is human nature whether you are young or old in years or young or old in the faith you are susceptible to it. I myself, having once been dependent on alcohol, wanted to discourage anyone from using alcohol and I would point to the scripture and twist it to support my view or conviction. My intentions were that of love, but it would slowly graduate to an unhealthy judgmental coldness if someone didn't agree with my view. I am not saying that we should all go out and get drunk and I certainly understand that we shouldn't be a stumbling block for someone else in the faith. What I am saying is if someone is mature enough to have a glass of wine with dinner who am I to judge. This is just one example of how I had to grow and I was only able to grow when I removed myself from the scripture and allowed the Holy Spirit to work.

So what I have learned and what am I learning on this journey in the sand? It is this...When we commit to a life that wants to glorify God we will make a conscious decision to decrease in action, deed, mind and fleshly nature. We are also empowered to walk in our faith with God and we don't allow ourselves to be influenced by the pre-determined boundaries of man. When we choose to view the scripture in a methodical nature such as John Wesley's Quadrilateral, well he didn't know it as such but it was his method of study, we can view scripture with lenses of not only scripture but also tradition, reason and experience. We are now well equipped to begin exploring and diving into the depths of our faith. We are able to transform from a view that see's the world in 3-dimension and God in 2-dimension to a 2-dimensional world and a vast and colorful 3-dimensional God and Faith.

*"Letters In The Sand"* was written 8 December 2010