

RED LETTER LIVING

Living the Words of Jesus

Article #1 – A Renewed Purpose

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Renewed Purpose

Have you ever had a time in your life when you were compelled to do something greater than you had ever dreamed? Have you ever had a time, when you were filled with great courage, great peace, and a great resolve to accomplish something greater than your own plans or desires? Times like this seem to be rare in life and these times stand out as moments that you will always remember and moments you will always talk about.

Recently I began reflecting on one specific time that this occurred in my own life. It was the moment that God compelled me to enter into ministry. At the time, I was working as an engineer for the Navy and my life was going well. I had a good job, I lived in my home town, I was surrounded by many friends, and the majority of my family all lived within a few miles. I had felt God stirring my heart for this calling for a few weeks but honestly I was a little afraid. Sure, I trusted the Lord to provide, protect, and sustain me no matter where He sent me but my fear dealt more with my pride than His provision. I was afraid that I would fail Him greatly because I did not feel worthy to enter into ministry but then the Lord sent me a message as found in Proverbs:

Proverbs 3:5-6 – ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

As I read these words, God worked on my heart and mind through His Word and His Witness. Over the next few days, the promise and command of that passage echoed in my heart as I prayed, as I read His Word, and as He sent people along the way to encourage me, guide me, and teach me more about letting go of my fear and trusting His strength and provision. This passage became a 3 Step formula for my life that led me to experience the promises of God.

God's 3 Step Plan for Success

- **Step #1** – Trust in the Lord...
(The Hebrew word for 'Trust' means to have confidence and rely upon with belief.)
 - **Step #2** – Lean not on my own understanding...
(The Hebrew word for 'Lean' means to 'rely and depend upon with belief.')
 - **Step #3** – Acknowledge Him in all my ways...
(The Hebrew word for 'Acknowledge' means 'to respect and honor.')
- Result** – He made my path, my journey, my adventure straight...
(The Hebrew word for 'Straight' means 'to do what is right, just, honorable, and good.')

The day finally came when I yielded to the will of the Lord and it required me to take a step out of my comfort zone and rely solely upon Him. This decision gave me a "Renewed Purpose" in my life and this purpose has driven me to minister for His glory every day since that moment.

Red Letter Living and You

Maybe you need a "Renewed Purpose" in your own life? A purpose that has been hand crafted by God, one where He directs your steps, your plans, and your decisions. If this is the case, then I want to encourage you to try the "Red Letter Challenge" throughout this summer. This challenge is based on the concept of "Red Letter Living."

What is Red Letter Living?

Have you ever owned a Bible that has special red letters found in the pages of the New Testament? Believe it or not, once it was common to print the words of Jesus in red ink in many editions of the Bible. Maybe you remember. Maybe you still have a "red letter Bible".

Red-Letter Living is based on studying these "Red Letter" sayings and commands with the objective to know them and live them. This is the "Red Letter Challenge."

Why is Red Letter Living important to study?

There are several Biblical reasons why we study the Words of Jesus in detail.

- **It is the Way of the Wise Man** = *Matthew 7:24* – Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- **It is the Path of Hope** = *Romans 15:4* – For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- **It is the Mark of Love and Devotion** = *1 John 2:3-6* – ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Take the Red Letter Challenge today and live out God’s Word. One point to observe during this challenge is that you must not elevate the “Red Letter Commands” above everything else in Scripture. Even though the Red Letter words are the focus of this challenge, we know that these words along with all of God’s Word is “inspired by the Lord” clarifying that the entirety of God’s Word must be studied and obeyed in life. The Apostle Paul make this point as he states:

2 Timothy 3:16--17 – ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Conclusion

How can Red Letter Living give you a renewed purpose this summer? Try it and be blessed by living out God’s Word this year. If you were blessed by this blog then share this and other free resources with your friends. Also check out the free resources section for updated information @ www.TimLueking.com

Question

**What are ways Red Letter Living
could be a blessing to you and others?**

Share your thoughts and answers with me on facebook, twitter, or email.

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