

St. Thomas

Men of Faith Ministries

Volume 15 Issue 1

JAN 2012

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE – MATTHEW 19:26

Men's Bible Studies:

Thursday AM - YMCA, Neenah/Menasha

Tuesday AM – Holiday Inn, Neenah

Tuesday PM - St. Thomas, Menasha

Thursday AM – Holiday Inn, Neenah

Thursday AM – IHOP, Oshkosh

Pray & Mark Your Calendars

1. Please begin to pray for the Franklin Graham Rock the Lake Northeast Wisconsin Festival 18-19 August 2012
2. Are we a "discipling Church"? Are we raising leaders, mentoring those growing in Christ, walking alongside the hurting and downcast?
3. If we have a Sunday Worship attendance of 200 saints; we should have a Sunday School attendance of ... 200! Please join us each Sunday from 9 AM to 10 AM!
4. Small Group Discipleship Ministry – Pray for a renewed hunger to gather to study and fellowship & welcome others to join you
5. St. Thomas House of Prayer meets the third Wednesday - 6:30 to 8:30 PM – please join us



Be ready to Preach the Gospel – In Season & Out of Season

I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead of His appearing and His Kingdom. Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves, teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 2 Timothy 4:1-4

Can you think of a better in season & out of season example than family gatherings or the frenzy of Christmas shopping?

How do we go about "gossiping the Gospel"? By this I mean; bringing the message of Jesus Christ as the Redeemer into our everyday conversations? Face it we all have friends, family, neighbors and co-workers that do not know Jesus. We have the responsibility as sons & daughters of the King of Kings to *go therefore and make disciples of all nations* (Matthew 28:18f).

Your story is very compelling; the Holy Spirit thinks so! Solid wisdom tells us to be in prayer for those we will encounter during each day for opportunities to share our faith.

I have found simple open ended questions are very helpful starters such as:

1. To you, who is Jesus?
2. Have you considered ultimate reality? (sin, death and eternity)
3. Tell me about your faith walk
4. Share how the Lord was there for you when you really needed Him
5. How can I pray for you?

I pray that you feel called to spend time each day in the Word of God; praying for His boldness & wisdom. I pray that you are a good listener, that you are a friend. Have you heard that you may be the only Jesus that person ever sees! 100% guaranteed blessing for your obedience!

Abiding Words

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15:7)

In order for the words of the Lord really to abide in us, it seems clear that we should commit as many of them to memory--not only in our minds, but in our hearts--as we possibly can. *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart,"* the psalmist said, *"that I might not sin against thee"* (Psalm 119:11).

There are many promises of blessing to those who have God's Word in their hearts. *"For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips"* (Proverbs 22:18). *"My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; . . . Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God"* (Proverbs 2:1, 5).

Both the apostle Paul and the apostle Peter have noted the importance of Scripture memorization. Paul says: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (Colossians 3:16).

Peter's exhortation is as follows: *"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets [i.e., the Old Testament Scriptures], and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior [i.e., the New Testament Scriptures]"* (2 Peter 3:1-2). The words "be mindful" mean essentially "recall to mind."

Since the Scriptures cannot be recalled to mind unless they've first been installed in the mind, and since they cannot abide in our hearts unless we first hide them in our hearts, it is surely pleasing and honoring to God that we learn "by heart" as much of His Word as we can. HMM

His Vision, His Way, In His Timing

"Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about'" (Gen 22:2).

Have you ever wanted something so bad that you would do almost anything to get it? Have you ever gotten so close to fulfilling a dream only to have it disappear right before your eyes? Such was the case for Abraham.

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. He would have a son. However, Abraham panicked when Sarah aged beyond child bearing years and tried to help God by birthing Ishmael through Sarah's servant, who was not the promised son. Eventually, Isaac was born, who was the promised son.

However, God tells Abraham to sacrifice his only son on an altar to demonstrate his obedience to God. Truly, this is one of the hardest instructions given to one of God's people in all of scripture. It compares only to the Heavenly Father sacrificing His own Son. God intervenes and allows a ram to get caught in the bushes nearby, symbolizing the Lamb of God as a prophetic sign of what is to take place in the future.

God often births a vision in our lives only to allow it to die first before the purest version of the vision is manifested. This has happened several times in my own journey. Oswald Chambers observes, "God's method always seems to be vision first, and then reality, but in between the vision and the reality there is often a deep valley of humiliation. How often has a faithful soul been plunged into a like darkness when after the vision comes the test. When God gives a vision and darkness follows, waiting on God will bring you into accordance with the vision He has given if you await His timing. Otherwise, you try to do away with the supernatural in God's undertakings. Never try to help God fulfill His word."*

When God's vision is finally birthed, nothing will stop it. Our job is to allow God to birth His vision through us His way and in His timing. Written by Os Hillman

Only God can turn
a **MESS** into a
message, a **TEST** into a
testimony, a **TRIAL** into
a **triumph**, a **VICTIM**
into a **victory**.

St. Thomas Church Men Of Faith



I Stand on This Rock

Five Key Points - FCA

READY:

"Whatsoever your hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." Ecclesiastes 9:10 (KJV)

SET:

Earlier this season, I took my middle school baseball team to practice with the high school varsity. It was good for my kids to practice on a higher level and to see how high school differs from middle school. At the end of practice the varsity coach gave them a "pep talk" about life and baseball using five key points of competition. While I had used some of the same points in my own speeches, I found that they captured my attention in a new way when I heard them from another coach and saw how they got the attention of the kids. The points that this coach made would work for any sport, and they also translate well to our spiritual lives.

Point 1: Effort. If we want to be better Christians, we must do the things that make us better Christians. We must read our Bibles, pray, follow Christ's example and attend church regularly.

Point 2: Desire. We have to turn off the Xbox and pick up a Bible every now and then. We know the names of every contestant on American Idol, the stats of our favorite teams, and the lyrics of our favorite songs, but how many Bible verses can we quote? Do we know what God's Word says about the tough questions in life?

Point 3: Responsibility. We can't hide behind excuses. True winners accept responsibility. If you aren't what you ought to be, why not fix it?

Point 4: Consistency. Bad habits develop naturally; you don't usually have to do anything to develop them. Just do something "any ol' way" and you'll develop bad habits. Everything in life that's good and worth having requires effort, and following Christ is no different. You live as close to the Lord as you decide to.

Point 5: Repetitions. Reps are the only way to correct bad habits. We must keep doing the right things because they are the right things to do.

This week, let's pray for each other and ask God to work in these areas of our lives. Serving God is exciting, and we should be pumped about it! Today, let's focus on Him and expect things to happen!

GO:

1. How much attention do you give God in comparison to the other areas of your life?
2. When was the last time you were excited about God and what He was doing in your life?
3. What part of the day could you set aside for spiritual development?

WORKOUT:

Colossians 3:23
James 4:8
2 Peter 1:3-8

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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Healing Notes

What does God say about healing and who are some of the people that God used in healing?

The Bible has a great deal to say about healing, though it is mostly in the form of stories. God's idea of healing is to restore us spiritually, mentally, and physically.

I hope that you are as strong in body, as I know you are in spirit. 3 John 2a

We sometimes err when we put our focus on physical healing ahead of spiritual health and healing, or when we see physical health as our primary goal. We also err, however, if we believe that God does not care about physical healing or cannot heal physically.

He was wounded and crushed because of our sins; by taking our punishment, He made us completely well. Isaiah 53:5

We should notice here that the key issue is our sins, the things that separate us from God. That is God's first concern. Often, physical healing will follow spiritual and emotional healing.

