



Scripture nugget - Encountering Christ personally through His Inerrant Word

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: for Jew first, and then Greek. For in it is revealed the righteousness of God from faith to faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous by faith will live." (Rom 1:16-17).

It is only through a personal encounter with Christ that we have a personal relationship with Christ. Without a deep, personal relationship with Christ, our faith remains on the cerebral, doctrinal level and Christ remains just a historical figure. As such, there is no deep conviction in our faith, we readily accept the secular values imposed on us by the world, and our daily lives are not much different from that of non-believers. We are in dire need of the Holy Spirit to help us live the resurrected life of Christ so that in doing so, we can provide a credible witness to Christ to those around us who need to hear the Good News. God transforms the lives of His people in different ways. In the case of St Paul, whom God set apart for great missionary work, he was gifted with an intense, overwhelming encounter with Christ on his trip to Damascus. This encounter with Christ has the power to transform him from a persecutor of Christ into a tireless, courageous missionary of Christ. God wants every one of us to encounter Christ in a deep, personal way so that our hearts too can be set afire with zeal for God's Kingdom to which we all belong and are called to build up, a glorious Kingdom beyond our imagination, of love, peace, joy, wonder and fulfilment (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9).

Studying, obeying and living God's Word will lead us to know Christ personally, experience His power and to discern His Hand in our lives. To know God is to love God. To know of His power is to experience His power and discern His Hand working in our lives. We cannot claim to know God and His will if we do not study His Word and practise it. *Jesus answered and said to him, "Whoever loves Me will keep My Word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him (John 14:23).* Clearly, Jesus tells us that knowledge of and obedience to His Word will be the love bond of our relationship with Him. It is not enough to have knowledge of God's Word but to interiorize it and live it in our lives. This is how we are to set ourselves apart in the world as Christ's followers. This is how we can allow the power of the Holy Spirit through God's Word to transform our lives so that we live no longer for ourselves but for Christ Who died for us. This is how we can have the power to live the resurrected life of Christ even while on earth, and live life abundantly.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Inerrant Word, Sacred Scripture. In it, You reveal Yourself, Your Mind, Your Heart, Your Precepts, Your Commandments, Your Will to me. Your Word is truth (cf. John 17:17) and it stands forever without any help from man. You created the universe by merely speaking Your Word. Your Word is the sword of the Holy Spirit (cf. Ephesians 6:17) and it can correct the attitudes of my mind and heart, and has divine power over my body (cf. Hebrews 4:12). Give me the grace of a great love for Your Word so that I study and meditate it prayerfully and put into practice what I learn from it. You promise to reveal Yourself to those who love You and keep Your commandments (cf. John 14:21). Please overflow me with Your Holy Spirit and impart to me the zeal which You gave St Paul for building up Your glorious Kingdom. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk