

Devotion: The Power of the Word

Isaiah 55: 10-11

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

In the name of Jesus:

I have been blessed to have been raised in a godly family. My Grandpa Davidson lived to be almost 100 years old, and for his century of life, he gave a strong witness to not only me but also my family that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. Grandpa ventured to this country as a Scottish immigrant, arriving with nothing more than the name of a welcoming relative and a few dollars in his pocket. Yet he departed this earthly life leaving behind a treasure and tradition beyond all measure, a timely legacy.

I vividly remember when he and my Grandma Davidson began a tradition in 1962 of giving to us young grandchildren a shiny leather case that held a King James Bible, inscribed personally for each grandchild. This black one is mine, given to me by Grandparents. This

white one is the one Grandpa gave to Grandma in 1962. In the excitement of getting childhood toys and trinkets, this gift, God's Word the Holy Bible, still stands out above all the others. This is a Bible, meant just for me. My grandparents gave me this gift, and they gave one to my sister and each one of my cousins, because they wanted each member of the family to know and believe the essential message of the Bible, that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.

Grandpa included a letter in each of these Bibles, a letter steeped in love, explaining to us what the Bible is, describing the books in the Bible, encouraging us to read the Psalms and a chapter of Proverbs daily, so that we might grow in faith in Christ and godly wisdom. Grandpa's last words in this letter were clear: "Read the Bible, it will tell you all about Jesus and lead you to eternal life."

For this gentleman whom we called Grandpa, it was simple. He knew that the Bible told the story of God's love in Jesus Christ. He read the Bible, worshipped regularly with other believers, and took part in Bible studies with fellow Christians when possible. Although Grandpa came to America to find the land of promise, he knew long before his arrival that this was just a stopping off point that the real land of promise he sought would be found in his heavenly home. This gentle

Scotsman read the Scriptures, prayed the Psalms daily, and delighted in worshipping with others. He knew that the Holy Spirit used the Bible to bring him to faith, and he wanted nothing less for his family and the succeeding generations to believe in Jesus.

Is it any wonder then that his son, my dad, and his siblings took Grandpa's witness to heart? I remember the witness my father gave to my sister and myself. We would find him daily reading his Bible at the side of his bed then kneeling in prayer. We would find our mom reading her Bible daily and living her life as well as a witness to us.

It shouldn't be a surprise, then, that this is the reason why I am a pastor today and that my sister is a Lutheran schoolteacher. These seeds were planted by the preceding generation. Today not only am I a pastor, but I have a cousin who is a Baptist missionary and travels regularly to the mission fields. And still others in the Davidson clan serve the Lord with joy in a variety of other vocations, in the church and outside of the church.

Sometimes we think that it is very difficult to tell someone about Jesus. But it can be so very simple, as simple as giving someone a Bible to someone you love. Perhaps you too can do like Grandpa, adding a heartfelt note urging your loved ones to read it, for it will tell them

about Jesus and lead them to everlasting life through faith in Him.

Witnessing to others you love about Jesus is really very simple. Just like Grandpa, you don't have to be a pastor to preach. Grandpa lived his faith in a very natural, loving way. In this way God the Holy Spirit can and will use you and your life, your words and your actions, to tell another generation that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son Jesus, so that by believing in Jesus they might have life by His name.

None of us really know why the world and we suffers in this current Pandemic. But in these troubling and tough times, we can know for certain what God's will is in these times. The Apostle Paul writes his son in the faith, Timothy and says: "³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2: 3-4). God's good and gracious will is this: He wants people to believe in Jesus. So in these days, weeks, months, and even years ahead, know for certain that God seeks to work in and through you, in your words and actions, to tell another generation about Jesus and His love.

So make the most of the opportunities that God presents you to tell this generation and the next about the love of God in Jesus Christ by sharing the Word with someone you love. God promises that He is at

work through His Word, and God does not lie. It is just as Isaiah wrote long ago under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

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and do not return there but water the earth,
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¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
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May God grant it by the power of His Spirit, through His Son Jesus
Christ!

Amen