

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ ...

Ephesians 3:4

Store In My Heart Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

The inspired Scriptures are where we learn who God is and what He wants from us. Without reading and learning from Scripture we cannot develop trust in God or hope for eternal life. Belief and trust in God are essential to practicing the righteousness that is a necessary part of walking in the light.

Our faith depends on the time we spend with the Word given by Christ. If I am to know what God wants me to do, reading and meditating upon His Word must be a priority each day of our life. Time spent with the Word will never be wasted and will always bring benefit. It is the only way to prepare our self for eternity.

Reading that produces faith takes effort. Are you spending enough time "hearing" the Word to develop faith?



How Do You Read It?

Keith Barclay

I would like to take a moment to ask you when you last felt awestruck by a given biblical text. When you read in the Old Testament of God using Moses to part the sea and then using that same sea to destroy Pharaoh's army, what type of response does it elicit? Reading of Jesus' transfiguration on the high mountain: what is your initial reaction?

Do you think God intended the reaction to His written revelation to be so markedly different from those who were eyewitnesses to the events written about?

At least in one respect God clearly tells us He intends for the written revelation to produce in us (readers) what it produced in them (eyewitnesses): faith. John's gospel was written for this purpose. The seven (eight, if you include the resurrection) miracles John writes about are intended to produce faith in us, just as those miracles had been intended to produce faith in those who witnessed them.

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31 ESV).

John 2:23 and **11:45** illustrate that the miracles Jesus performed resulted in belief. The miracles also brought about a number of other reactions that I am afraid we miss when we read. We read of people who "marveled" (**Matthew 8:27; 9:33**); individuals who are in "awe" (**Luke 5:26**); and folks who are "amazed" (**Luke 2:12**). It has been my experience that we (people I have been associated with over the last 40 years as a believer) have difficulty being moved in these ways as we read about what Jesus did or God has done as

They moved and worked in the lives of people. We have tended (myself included) to read academically. Our intellect is affected, and it should be, but we stop short of being awed—of marveling at what we have read.

Amazement is not a common word in our vocabulary, especially when it comes to our study of Scripture; yet that is the reaction of those who encountered Jesus in the flesh. Why should I get a pass when it comes to my reaction to the Son of God?

The fact that I can even use that phrase “Son of God” in any relationship to myself or us as a people should produce wonder! When you add to this the things we read about Him doing and saying, how can we walk away from our reading, pick up the sports page, or the remote, and be more impacted by the events of the day or the entertainment world than we are by the deeds of a great God who makes it clear He is transcendent (**Isaiah 55:8-9**)? We are called by a God Who cannot be exaggerated! Does this not suggest we ought to spend time marveling in His greatness, being awed by His power, and finding His love to be awesome? Do we “Stand Amazed In The Presence” of Jesus?

I am thankful, regardless of how late it has come in my life, that I have come to realize how important it is to recognize what an awesome God we serve. I spend time every day, if I do not allow life to crowd it out, considering just how incredibly wondrous our God is by reading texts which convey such things. The Psalms are full of such writings as are the gospels. Even the histories of ancient Israel offer moments of great wonder and awe. Read them. Put yourself into the story. Assume the role of one of the individuals in the story. Maybe you are the one writing the story. When I read in this way it has a significant impact upon me that reading the text to simply answer a question does not.

These moments increase my faith. They produce reverence and respect. Prayers are prayed with more fervency. I hope my life reflects such encounters by heartfelt obedience. Above all, I believe it aids me in sharing my God and Savior more readily with others. It places upon me a sense of urgency to tell others of this awesome, marvelous God Who cannot be exaggerated.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Jim Soliday is waiting on insurance to get his cardiac ablation scheduled.

Sue Soliday is seeing some progress in dealing with her Bell's Palsy. Her knee has also been giving her trouble.

Ruben Keisler is scheduled for surgery on his foot in late February. He and **Brenda** are leaving for a cruise on Tuesday.

Shannon Soliday has returned to work.

Sunday Evening – **Malachi 3:13** Wednesday – **John 15**

Gospel Meeting – April 27-May 1 – Alan Blaylock