



NEW YEAR SERIES

gracepoint NEW YEAR SERIES 2011

DEVOTIONS

Monday 17 January 2011

The Word of God is living and powerful

Scripture readings:

Genesis 1

Hebrews 4 vs 12

John 1 vs 1-5

God created everything out of nothing with His words. With the same words by which He spoke the universe into existence – the words that are alive, creative, life-giving and powerful – He longs to speak to us through the Bible.

The Bible is more than just a story or words on a page. It has transformative power because it is living and active. It has the ability to penetrate our hearts, to change our thinking, to move us into action and to renew our spirits. It is alive!

Will you allow the Scriptures to transform and change you today? Will you allow God to accomplish His creative, powerful work in you through His Word so that you will be shaped into His likeness and live a life that brings Him glory?

“The Bible as a book stands alone. There never was, nor ever will be, another like it. As there is but one sun to enlighten the world naturally, so there is but one Book to enlighten the world spiritually. May that Book become to each of us the man of our counsel, the guide of our journey, the inspiration of our thought, and our support and comfort in life and in death.” - A. Galloway

Tuesday 18 January 2011

The Word of God is a light for our lives

Scripture readings:

Psalm 18 vs 28

Psalm 19 vs 8

Psalm 119 vs 105

The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths. We may often feel as though we are stumbling about in darkness; uncertain as to where to go, what to do and how to live. There are many decisions to make and many paths we can choose to follow. God promises that He will guide us down the right paths – the paths of life – when we choose to live His way and live according to His Word.

The Word of God brings light to our eyes and enlightenment to our minds. It will point out our direction for us if we let it. It will lead us through times of uncertainty and fear and it will give us the wisdom and insight we need if we open our hearts and minds to receive it. God does not want us to roam around in the dark, lost and directionless. He wants us to follow Him and His Word will light the way.

Make a decision today to delve into Scripture so that God's light may drive out any darkness and confusion in your life. Let it be the light that leads you into the great and wonderful plans He has for you.

Wednesday 19 January 2011

The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit

Scripture readings:

Luke 4 vs 1-15

John 8 vs 31-32

Ephesians 6 vs 12-18

We are engaged in a spiritual battle each day and God has graciously provided armour for His soldiers. In Ephesians 6 we read about the protection He has given us and it is interesting to note that there is just one offensive weapon we have at our disposal in this epic battle between good and evil, right and wrong and life and death... the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, He did not use physical force or armies of angels to defeat him. He simply used the Word of God. Whenever Satan attempted to cause Jesus to sin, Jesus responded with a truth from Scripture and Satan was immediately silenced on the subject because he cannot argue with or dispute truth. It is a weapon against which he cannot prevail.

We need to ensure that we are reading the Word and that it becomes part of who we are so that our swords are sharp and ready and that we are not caught in battle with rusty, ineffectual weapons. May the Scriptures penetrate your heart today and pierce and decimate the lies of the enemy so that you may know, believe and stand on the truth and that it may set you free.

Thursday 20 January 2011

The Word of God is a solid foundation

Scripture readings:

Matthew 7 vs 24-27

Isaiah 40 vs 8

In Matthew 7, Jesus tells a parable of a foolish man who builds his house on the sand. It may have been a pretty house with a nice view. It may have been prime real estate in the eyes of the world, but as soon as the storms came, the house was destroyed. On the contrary, there was a man who built his house on the rock and no matter what storms came, no matter the severity of the weather, his house stood firm.

Jesus compared those who take His words to heart and apply them to their lives – those who build their lives on the solid foundation of the Word – to those who build their houses on the rock. Life is unpredictable and the storms will inevitably come, but those whose lives are firmly established on the Word, shall not be moved.

Don't be tempted to build your life on anything other than the foundation of the Bible and of Christ, of Whom it is a testimony, because nothing else is a stable and sure base. Nothing else will remain despite the circumstances and continue unchanged throughout the seasons and centuries. Nothing else can weather the storms.

Let us choose today to make the Word of God our foundation and not to build our lives on cultural quicksand. Let us choose to let the Bible and its truth be our anchor and our standard, so that no matter what may come, we know that we stand on the truth and we stand secure.

Friday 21 January 2011

The Word of God is nourishment for our souls

Scripture readings:

Psalms 19 vs 9-10

Psalms 119 vs 103

Matthew 4 vs 4

Hebrews 5 vs 12-14

Just as the body needs healthy, nutritious food to grow and function, our spirits and souls require spiritual nourishment. The Bible makes it clear that we cannot live on bread alone, but that we live on each word that God speaks. We need more than physical food to sustain real life. Our spirits need to be nourished by the Word of God, or they will starve and waste away.

The author of Hebrews admonishes the people to whom he writes because they have allowed themselves to remain spiritual infants. They were quite content taking in only spiritual milk, rather than growing up in Christ and becoming mature, taking in more substantial spiritual food. Like we are so often tempted to do, they were content with nibbling on the Word and getting stuck on basics, rather than devouring the feast God had set before them and really making their walk with God and their pursuit of Him the priority of their lives.

May we be challenged today to examine our spiritual diet and to become more aware of our need for divine sustenance. As we do, may we rejoice in the promise of Jesus that those who hunger and thirst for more Him and His ways are blessed, and will be filled (Matthew 5:6).

Saturday 18 December 2010

The Word of God is our guide

Scripture readings:

Joshua 1 vs 6-9

Psalm 139 vs 23-24

Romans 12 vs 1-2

When we commit ourselves to keeping the Word always before us, as Joshua was commanded to do; when we decide not to turn away from it but to choose to meditate on it; when we let it be the authority in our decision making, it will guide us and lead us to Christ and into a place of His blessing and favour.

The Scriptures have the power to direct and guide us because they lead us in the way of God and because they have transformative power that renews and changes us from the inside out. We are called not to fit into our culture, but to allow the Spirit and the Word to change our thinking and our hearts, so that we may be conformed to Christ alone. We are called to let God and His Word examine us and to expose the lies we believe and the darkness in our souls. A.W. Tozer once said, "An honest man with an open Bible and a pad and pencil is sure to find out what is wrong with him very quickly."

When we look into the mirror that Scripture provides we can clearly see our shortcomings and sin and can catch a glimpse of all God intends for us to become. The Bible exposes us – our behaviour, our intentions and our thoughts – not so that we can be judged or condemned, but so that God can renew our minds, change our hearts and give us His abundant life... so that we can be increasingly moulded into the likeness of His Son.