

## **Revelation, Prayer, and our Culture Book Giveaway**

Red Moon Rising ... prayer and the supernatural results of developing a culture of prayer.

Give away two more books- non-readers.

First- I think as a culture we need to shaken into some sense of reality.

As a culture we have embraced triviality that occupies our lives w/worthless activity.

As a result, many do not read today.

A research study has shown that ... reading ...

- >helps prevent stress/depression/dementia
- >about other characters/situations helps us look at life from a new/fresh perspective.
- >helps us to feel life is worthwhile
- >despite being a solitary experience, increases our empathy for others

**2 Tim 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (also vs 16-17)**

## **Revelation and Prayer in Today's Culture**

We desperately need God's revelation (insights, truths) to live successfully in today's culture.

Our Christian values are being challenged.

We need the supernatural empowerment of the HS and spiritual discernment and wisdom.

Many issues being debated in the public arena today are dramatically reshaping our culture ...

- >abortion and Planned Parenthood videos (issue- about- character of our nation)
- >euthanasia and physician assisted suicide

>racism/division- politically/morally/racially  
>redefinition of marriage (open other doors)

**The legality of something does not change its morality. John Stonestreet**

Supreme Court/law of the land- does not make it legal for you if it is immoral in God's eyes.

My commitment to something that comes forth from God must first be to God and not to man.

**I can be completely loyal to a speed limit because that is something man invented, but marriage is something God invented and so I must render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, but marriage belongs to God. John Stonestreet**

We have taken moral issues invented by God and decided that man has the right to modify them.

God's view is always right- He will allow us to have our opinion, but His view is right.

From Adam/Eve- down to today, we understand we are not owners of creation but caretakers.

ie marriage- built into- fabric of creation- God called a man/woman- partner in marriage- to tend to God's creation.

We do not have the right to arbitrarily change what God has clearly established.

Our culture has become intolerant to dissent.

As Christians- we must be prepared to take our stand and face the consequences.

**2 Tim 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.**

If I stand for the ...

- >value of human life from conception to natural death
- >traditional definition of marriage
- >value of all people regardless of race ...

... and I am

- ridiculed,
- lose my job, or
- get a bad grade on a paper ...

I must believe that God can guard what I have entrusted to Him and use it for His good regardless of the cost to me.

There will, at the end of time, be eternal justice.

These are indeed increasingly difficult days in which we live- important not to grow fearful.

**2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (fear), but of power and love and discipline (sound mind).**

We focus on what God has not given us- fear- but what is important- what God has given us- the-

- >power of the HS alive in every believer
- >love of God that opens up the door for us to a relationship/receive forgiveness and to love others as God has loved me
- >mind of Christ- access to- wisdom of God
- 1 Cor 1.24- Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

-we should be- creative/innovative

These are the spiritual realities that we must pursue and declare to be true in our lives.

In this cultural climate it is important that we know God and can hear His voice.

We must draw down from heaven- grace/wisdom

**Ja 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**

We need revelation from above.

**The chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell. William Booth**

religion w/o the HS-

**2 Tim 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power ...**

We need the power of God to change who we are and to move supernaturally in our lives.

Christianity w/o Christ-

We can talk about spirituality/God but not about Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.

forgiveness w/o repentance-

Everyone wants to be forgiven but no one wants to change their behavior.

salvation w/o regeneration-

In Christ we are new creatures- old has passed away, we reckon the old man dead to sin.

politics w/o God-

Our constitution does not mandate taking God out of politics- religion is necessary for us- survive.

heaven w/o hell-

We love the thought of heaven but how could a good God send a man to eternal hell?

P Aaron started his sermon out of Zechariah ...

**Zech 8:23 NLT “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: In those days ten men from different nations and languages of the world will clutch at the sleeve of one Jew. And they will say, ‘Please let us walk with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’ ”**

What a testimony to have before men- may we be known as those who God walks with.

When we walk with Christ/Christ walks w/us- we bring- presence of God to everyone around us.

**Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.** (God spoke)

By faith- faith is an issue of the heart that comes out of revelation- God opening our eyes.

Understanding- involves the mind and reason.

It is through revelation and spiritual encounter that we truly begin to understand God/life.

Without revelation there is no true understanding.

**Revelation is living seed from another world that carries with it new possibilities for our lives in our world.**

It is faith/revelation that leads to understanding...

**We do not have faith because we understand, we understand because we have faith.**

Faith must be built up ...

**Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.**

In this context- biblical understanding is more than just information/knowledge.

When God reveals things to us, we must put those things to work in our lives.

If we do not, we will lose the power and opportunity that revelation offers to us.

True biblical understanding results in ...

>behavioral changes,

>lifestyle adjustments, and a

>renewing of our attitudes and affections.

If revelation does not lead to this type of change- it leads to a more sinister deception ...

**Believing in our mind that we possess something that we do not possess in reality.**

In other words the revelation has never taken root and born fruit in our lives.

**It can be a terrible thing when a man identifies his aims with the will of God instead of submitting his aims to that will (William Barclay).**

It is not good enough simply to identify as

Christians, we must become true believers.

**Call on Me**

It is also true that revelation comes to those who pursue it.

**Jer 33:3 Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'**

We- church- should be the source of supernatural wisdom, creativity, and moral truth.

Revelation comes to those who hunger for it and are willing to seek after it.

Our willingness to put forth effort to pursue Him determines the revelation we will receive.

**Casual prayer gets casual revelation.  
Deep cries cause God to “hear you” and  
“answer you” and “show you great and  
mighty things you do not know.”** Bill Johnson

Consider ...

**1 Cor 2:9 but just as it is written, “Things  
which eye has not seen and ear has not  
heard, And which have not entered the  
heart of man, All that God has prepared  
for those who love Him.”**

There is much God has for those who seek Him.

**Pr 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a  
matter, But the glory of kings is to  
search out a matter.**

God has hidden great mysteries- but He does not  
hide things from us, He hides things for us

God has many incredible mysteries available to  
those who will take the time to seek them out.

Why- because we were created for relationship  
and as we seek Him- drawn into His presence.

### 24/7 Prayer in China

Prayer is an important part of developing our  
relationship with God/receiving revelation.

China- 24/7 prayer centers growing rapidly.

One regular attendee at- a 24/7 prayer center ...

**Through prayers our heart is broadened;  
we learn to care for others and for the  
world. As time goes by, prayers inspires  
us to love each other.”**

Broadening includes- insight/revelation/divine  
strategies that affect the way we live/think.

Out of this broadening process we develop a  
heart to love others and then- care for others.

This takes us back to our mission statement ...

**Encounter God, Love People, Share Life**

**Encounter God** ... our Identity

All of life comes from personal relationship w/God

**Love People** ... our Culture

We are learning to love others as God loves us.

**Share Life** ... our Purpose

God displays His Kingdom on earth through us.

**Conclusion**

As we study and read the scriptures prayerfully it should lead to experience not just information.

Any experience with God will lead to a changed life, a new set of values, and a deeper faith.

**Challenge**

**Act 18:23 And having spent some time there, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.**

**24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.**

How can we as Christians strengthen our fellow believers in their walk with God?

(open to the church for discussion).

What a wonderful testimony. How can we become mighty in the scriptures?

(open to the church for discussion).

This week purpose to encourage someone in their walk w/God.

This week purpose to take time to read/study-Bible.