

“Summer Bible Jam 2018”

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May 27, 2018

INTRO ...“Summer Bible Jam”

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

...Peter’s Context

...Larger Context of Peter’s Message to them & us

— *this verse teaches us to 'Posture/prepare our minds... for a revelation of Jesus Christ'—that will bring with it 'Grace' that will become the 'new address for our HOPE'!!*

1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

...This New Address affords us the opportunity to STOP being controlled by our Personal Bents, Our Controlling Habits, Our Self-Absorbed Sins

1 Peter 1:23-25 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

... *The WORD of God has played the Communicating & Dominating role in our experiencing of Spiritual Life (In partnership with the Spirit).*

...*Our Calling, our Obedience, our Transformation, Our Experience of Grace that relocates our Hope, ...are ALL Dependent On and Connected to the WORD of God!!*

John 15:4-11 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ² I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ... ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ... ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

...Jesus said Our JOY & FRUITFULNESS were Connected to His Words ABIDING in Us

1 Peter 2:2-3 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

(1) The Interesting Command to “LONG” for the Word

- How so you create longing?
- “LONGING” is to be the Word that Describes Our Feeling about the Bible!

“He is not simply telling us to develop the discipline of reading the Bible. He is telling us to develop a yearning for the word. Hunger for it. Crave it. Desire it.” John Piper, “Reading the Bible Supernaturally”, p. 126

“...People do what they WANT to do...” ...What governs and generates our actions and life choices and life patterns is first conceived in our DESIRES!

— So... is the Bible Boring? Irrelevant? ...Offers no Human Intrigue ...No sense of Awe or Amazement ...No Beauty or Wonder or Emotional Impact??

**...Is this a Problem with the CONTENT of the Bible—
or the Way We Read & Interact with it?**

(2) Growing in Respect to Salvation

- Growth is dependent on a healthy and significant interaction with God's Word!
- *Immature, Thumb-sucking, Diaper Wearing, Temper-tantrum-throwing, Self-absorbed, Toy-obsessed, Non-serving Christianity IS AVAILABLE ...for those who have an insignificant encounter with God through His Word!*

(3) Encountering the Lord ... "if you have tasted that the Lord is Good"

— The need and longing and thirsting ISN'T for Bible Passages or mere words/concepts or doctrines—it is for GOD!

Psalms 63:1-8 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.
 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
 6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
 7 for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.
 8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

...Here is the Diagnosed Need of the Human Soul! ...It is thirsting for GOD!

- **v. 1 ...the soul was meant for communion with God** (for fellowship, for worship, for conversation)...
- **v. 2 ...The soul needs a MEANS of Looking Upon God** (Creation... The Tabernacle... the BIBLE)

- v. 2-3 ...*The soul needs to Encounter Realities of Him—*
“power”, “glory”, “steadfast love”

Psalms 19:7-10 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

...These are EXPERIENTIAL Words & Concepts:

- *Have you ever felt your soul 'revived'? ...or your heart genuinely 'rejoicing'?*
- *Have you ever receive a sudden impartation of 'wisdom'? ...or had your understanding suddenly "enlightened"?*

Psalms 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

“...we are always aiming to experience spiritual affections in our heart wakened by the spiritual sight of truth in our minds. We are taking upon ourselves the same goal for our Bible reading that Jonathan Edwards had for his preaching when he said: 'I should think myself in the way of my duty to raise the affections of my hearers as high as possibly I can, provided that they are affected with nothing but truth, and with affections that are not disagreeable to the nature of what they are affected with.' ...We read our bibles to raise the affections. Yes. But we aim to be affected by truth. ...Seeing the glory of God as we read the Bible should never be an end in itself. We read in order to see in order to savor. We seek insight in order to enjoy. We seek knowledge in order to love. We seek doctrine for the sake of delight. The eyes of the heart serve

the affections of the heart.” John Piper, “Reading the Bible Supernaturally”, p. 102

Isaiah 66:2 But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

- **v. 5 ...The impact on the soul is “satisfaction” and expressed “joy”**

“We never read the Bible merely to see the glory of God. Never merely to learn or merely to know or merely to amass doctrinal truth. We always see and learn and know in the pursuit of affections, and feelings, and emotions, and passions that are suitable to the truth we have seen. ...The divine fingers of Scripture are meant to pluck every string in the harp of your soul. We never read just to know.” John Piper, “Reading the Bible Supernaturally, p. 104

- **v. 6-8 ...the object of the soul's encounter is God Himself!**

Conclusion: Experiencing your calling, transferring your hope, encountering joy/power/glory/lovingkindness, walking in obedience, bearing fruit, being transformed—are all vitally connected to a significant encounter with God through His Word!