

Nesting with Jesus

Blessings, if you give me a minute, I think I have a little something that can be a rich help to you and your journey into this new year. It's real simple, very practical and extremely beneficial — for I know personally how it has been a big help to me in my own walk and many others through the years.

Through my own experience, and things I've gleaned from others, I have found that simple and steadfast approaches — in the right

direction — will most often lead to a life of significance and provide the stability needed to encourage and help others. This method, simple and steadfast, will usually get you places quicker and keep you there longer — than starting off with a blaze of glory and fizzling out not long after you have launched. It applies in so many areas of life but specifically it works best when it comes to growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Remember this, more is

not always better... or let me phrase it like this, QUALITY often supersedes QUANTITY. And this, no doubt, applies to our mornings and days seeking the Lord. I find so many set out each new year to read their Bibles. And that's great... but they often don't have a plan to see it through or they take on a plan that quickly overwhelms them. When they do, it's easy to get bogged down with everything else that life throws at them... and by mid-January or some time in February they are

so far behind, with the plan they chose, they can't keep up. And let's say they can keep up with it... they often struggle with retaining and applying what they've read... due to what I call, "Information Overload!!!". So, as I said, more is not always better... think about it?

If you're reading from several different areas of your Bible each morning, then do a devotion or personal bible study from other areas, then your pastor is preaching and teaching each week from

two or three different areas and you go to Sunday School or involved with a small group, do a bible study with another group and they're all coming from different areas... plus work or school and homework, taboot. Man, I'm confused even trying to think about it all. This is one of the reasons so many aren't growing and remain stagnant in their knowledge of Jesus and His word. If we'll be honest, most of us do not have the intellectual capacity to retain all this information we're putting

in our minds but not absorbing or applying it in life. And it's the truth we know, understand and apply that sets us free from the lies that still grip our lives, in spite of all the religious activities we're involved in. Information overload leads only to defeat, frustration and a lot of wasted time. More is not always better.

This is one of the reason why so many are actively involved in their bibles, churches and community but know and understand so little about the word of God and how to apply it...

simple and steadfast in the right direction gives quality a good name. I want to help you rethink your approach... and our daily reading plan, Nesting with Jesus, can be a blessing to you who don't already have one. Let's FOCUS in and get a better look at things in bite size pieces.

What is Nesting with Jesus!

- Nesting with Jesus is our daily Bible reading plan...and this is what it looks like for December. If you don't have your own

plan, we'd love for you to join us. Lord willing, we'll spend a good portion of the month in the Older Testament books of Esther and Nehemiah. Prayerfully, in both books, we'll see how one person, doing the right thing, simply because it's the right thing to do, no matter the cost, can make such a difference in the lives of an entire nation. We'll close out the last eight days of the month in the Newer Testament books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, exploring the power and reach of the gospel of grace and

the hope and comfort that the word of God brings to each of us that believe.

- We really believe it's a great thing for a family to read the Scriptures. This plan is set up for each member of your family to read for themselves, if they can, through a specific book of the Bible with the rest of the family. It provides for great conversations around the table, throughout a day, while preparing supper, riding in a car or at bedtime. It's worked well for our nest through the years...even all our folks

at the Chapel do the same.

- If you have any questions about how it works...don't hesitate to ask. So join us, and have fun exploring the exquisite and extraordinary treasures of God's Word with us and your family.

- Always remember...we can't live out what we don't know or give away what we don't have. May you find much joy and life exploring the wonders of His Word and grace.

- Remember this: A

growing INTIMACY, in any relationship, is the lifeline of the relationship. If you have been saved by Jesus, you were rescued from yourself, your own sin and God's wrath and through Christ God had graciously given you life in Christ to live in intimate fellowship with Himself and His people. Your Father has invited you into His presence, and to also join Him in His work upon the earth. The ONLY way to know the specific course He has chosen for you is to SEEK His face, day by day, through prayer, digging in His

Word and obeying His voice.

- Blessings, and stay hungry my friends (Proverbs 10:3).

Can I help you with something? A little above average thinking can take you far in this world. That doesn't necessarily mean our thinking will take us in the right direction. We find above average thinkers in every facet of life and business. Some can be more beneficial at times than others and some are much more devious than most.

Can I put a little something in your hands, like a surfboard in the hands of a surfer, that will enable and equip you to be an above average thinker on the rough waters of life. Questions are such good prompters and stimulators that help us exercise our thinker. But not all questions, we use to probe our thoughts and lead us to think, are helpful for us or others. Can I give you three questions, three really good questions, to ask yourself and the reason why these questions can

help you be an above average thinker?

Ok... Three question we should ask ourselves from day to day... or as often as we need to throughout a given day, are:

1. What am I trusting Jesus for today?

2. What promise or promises, from Him, am I clinging to today?

3. What is the assignment He has given me to accomplish today?

Can I give you a little

insight that will help you understand the importance of asking or seeking Jesus first above anyone or anything? If you grasp this, and allow it to permeate into every aspect of your life, it will significantly help you with the priority of seeking and hearing from the Lord.

We must know, recognize and remind ourselves regularly, that there is no such thing as accidental obedience. It is eternally impossible to accidentally obey God. Obedience is always the answer of genuine faith. And every

act of authentic faith is eternally rooted and rewarded... and it can never be done accidentally. God never does anything accidentally... NEVER!

And if God isn't initiating and intentionally rewarding your faith, with His presence, promises and path (Proverbs 3:5-6 ; Philippians 2:12-13 ; 2 Peter 1:2-4), you, as well as myself, could not and would not trust and obey Him.

Whatever is not the eternal product of the zeal of the Lord host is simply not part of God or His

kingdom. He said it Himself, "...the zeal of the Lord of host will perform this and all He promises in His kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7). I remind myself, "Nick, if it ain't of grace, it ain't of God... and if it ain't of grace, it cannot be a faith that is FROM Him or FOR Him. That means, if you can't accidentally trust or obey Him, you need to seek and hear from Him. Because faith comes from a report you've heard from God's own words. And without a report from Him, you have nothing to place faith in."

These three specific questions will encourage you seek the Lord, and may His report be your trust, may you welcome and accept and appreciate what He reveals, go where He leads, love and serve those He's brought you before, and may you do it all by faith. May He make you an above average thinker in the kingdom... He won't do it by accident and neither will your thinking be, when you're living by faith. Glory...

He's been so so good,
splendidly gracious and
very very generous with
His tender mercies over
us all. Again, Nehemiah
reminds us that "the JOY/
WILL of the Lord is our
strength..." (Nehemiah
8:10). I can't help but
praising Him for revealing
His WILL/JOY to us. May
[IT] be ours, too!

Blessings... and may each
of you have a glorious day
and life walking by faith.

Yes... when it's believed
and trusted or as
Hebrews 4:2 describes it:
"mixed with faith."

These are some of the thoughts I plan on carrying over with in the nights ahead about the word transferring the right kind of life to us when we work WITH the Lord and the news He reveals.

As Jesus said... the words I speak to you are spirit (breath) and life (blood) (John 6:63). As blood is to our bodies (carries oxygen to all our organs and flesh) so is the word of God to the new man. It's life to the new man that has the life in the Spirit of God making the word alive and able and

active in them.

“For the word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...” (Hebrews 4:12)

Disciples see all news from God as Good News from the word of God:

Living (ALIVE)

Powerful (ABLE)

Sharp (ACTIVE)

Faith is what makes this makes news profitable/beneficial/helpful

It's ALIVE:

It is life... it has life... it transfers life

God's word transfers the RIGHT kind of life.. (John 6:63 spirit and life)

It's ABLE:

It is effective...

God's word produces the RIGHT kind of response and results to life's test, trials and troubles.

It's ACTIVE:

It's actively keen... it's wise... it's discerning...

God's word equips/
furnishes the RIGHT kind of insight and wisdom on life.

God's news transfers its life to me.

God's news produces its results/effect in me.

God's news furnishes its wisdom through me.

Life, results and wisdom are found in God's word when it's believed.

The word of good is ONLY good news for them that trust... (Micah 2:7 ; Hebrews 4:2)

The root to all and any transgression and sin will always BE that we chose

to trust our own ways and solutions rather than trusting, acknowledging, repenting and walking in ways of God... the right way and only way not to transgress. (Hosea 14:9)

Jeremiah 6:10

The word is a reproach to the transgressor

Many blessings to you, your nest and your arrows... may each of you have a rich and rewarding Happy New Year.

#nestingwithjesus

#nehemiah #nehemiah8

#thejoyoftheLord
#reachingteachingandequipping #accountability
#goodquestionstoask
#whilenestingwithjesus
#whatamitrustingJesusfortoday
#whatpromiseamclaimingtoday
#whataassignmenthasHegivenmetoday
#psalm143and7thru8
#advicefortheeverydaymissionary
#goingsomewhere
#whatkindofimpact
#thewayoftheLord
#thewillofGod
#ismystrength
#allsayingthesamething
#readingthru myBiblewith

pastorNickHolden

#simple #steadfast

#bitesizepieces

#informationoverload

#moreisnotalwaysbetter

#quality #quantity

#livingtoblessnottoimpres

s

#holdentoJesustipswithp

astornickholden

#happynewyear

#newyears2019