



bits from bob....

**“Steeped” in the Word of God**  
**September 28, 2020**

Last month, my new book was released: *Dwelling in the Word*. The Bible urges us to “let the word of Christ dwell in us in abundance” (Col. 3:16). The book title suggests that as the Word dwells in us, we dwell in the Word.

When I accepted my first full-time preaching job after graduating from college (50+ years ago), I moved to a congregation in southwestern Arkansas that had several members who liked to fish. They not only liked to fish; they knew how to fish. They knew when and where to fish. When they invited me to go fishing with them, I also liked fishing! I learned the value and the joy of being mentored by someone with experience.

Today’s thought is not about mentoring. During those early days of my ministry, a brother shared an illustration. He said that it was almost impossible to avoid getting a little water in the boat as we fished, he observed that when the boat was in the water, there would almost inevitably be water was in the boat.

That principle has spiritual applications. For example: when we live by (are in) the Spirit, the Spirit lives in us. When we are in the Word, the Word is in us.

Since publishing my book, I have thought of alternative titles (hindsight is always excellent!). Possibilities that I really like: Steeped in God’s Word, Immersed in God’s Word. I share another illustration.

Instant tea is not my favorite. Jan brews our tea—by the gallon! We drink a lot of tea. She brews tea two or three times a week, perhaps more in the summer.

You likely know the process. Glass container. The water must be hot but not boiling, the tea leaves must remain in the water long enough to let the hot water bring the flavor out of the tea leaves. That process is called infusion. (My mother called it “letting the tea ‘steep.’”) The right amount of tea leaves, in the right amount of water, at the right temperature, for the right amount of time, in the right kind of vessel. That pretty well sums up how Jan continually makes excellent tea!

The result—the tea is in the water and the water is in the tea, and I am reminded of my fisherman brother’s illustration. Our spiritual life is like that. Some days I do not spend enough time immersed in God’s Word. God’s Word is not in me and I do not dwell in the Word. My life is not “steeped” in the Word of God.

Some days I do not spend enough time with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to sharpen my awareness of their presence as they dwell in me. Although they are in me, I am not fully aware of it. Some days, that I live in Christ and that I live by the Spirit hardly describe my reality.

The presence of God, the presence of Jesus, the presence of the Spirit – I partake of the divine nature, their presence permeates my being, this reality is not the result of meager time spent. It is the result of infusion—steeped in God’s Word, will, and ways.

Commit yourself to spend time in the Word each day. Commit yourself to leisurely prayer. Do not hesitate to “waste a little time with God.” Relish the moments, linger, share. Drink in the living water, avoid distractions, develop a deep devotional life, listen and follow.

Trust me, people can tell the difference!

I close with a word of encouragement – and a brief advertisement. I know that a daily devotional plan will help you grow spiritually, dwelling in the Word as the Word dwells in you. You can find my book on Amazon where you can explore the content and read some of the commendations in the front of the book.

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