



“...the ministry of the Word” – Acts 6:4

## Dayspring Discipleship Institute

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087

972-722-1905

[www.dayspringdiscipleship.org](http://www.dayspringdiscipleship.org)

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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“...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” --Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

### “Come up to me into the mountain”

Dearhearts,

The mountain quaked and rumbled as lightening spears lanced the smoking darkness that had enveloped it. Those at the foot of the mountain witnessing this strange, foreboding presence stood off at a distance. Only one approached the “thick darkness where God was.” “You go,” they had told Moses, “and we will hear what you say, but don’t let God speak to us, lest we die.” So, alone, he turned his back on the trembling humanity and entered into a smoking darkness he knew shrouded something Divine.

There is something in us that stands with Israel at a distance from God. That quakes at the thought of drawing too near to Him. He might ask too much of us or take something from us that is precious if we get too close.

So we stand back and hope someone else will go there and tell us what God says. Perhaps even bring back a souvenir or two from the holy mount...an article or a book we can read that can reassure us about God. That speaks to us of the adventure. We like to read about such things because it stirs some distant longing in us of our own possibilities if we dared.

There is a moment in Jack London’s *Call of the Wild* in which Buck, lying near the campfire that kept him safe from the glowing eyes of the forest, gazes into the dark woods about him sensing a draw he did not fully comprehend. “Deep in the forest a call was sounding, and as often as he heard this call...he felt compelled to turn his back upon the fire and the beaten earth around it, and to plunge into the forest...”

Deep in the wilderness of every soul is a longing, a distant voice that calls us to pilgrimage. Calls us to leave the familiar fires, the well-worn terrain and, alone, embrace the shrouded fringe of our faith seeking the One who calls to us there. It is a longing that masquerades as restlessness or mid-life crisis; as loneliness or an indistinct un-ease we can’t quite put our finger on. It may even show itself as control or anger. This distant thunder in our souls is God’s voice calling us to come to Him.

There is something about the Holy we cannot comprehend and often do not trust. It is so far above our humanity we fear it. So we tend to crouch near safer fires. We tend not to risk close encounters of the sacred kind.

Yet it was there that Moses became God’s friend. In the smoking furnace of Sinai, the clear words of the Divine resounded in his ears and chiseled themselves in stone while those who stood at a distance watched a storm on the mountain and thought that it thundered. And his face was clothed in the sheen of glory. In the thick darkness, the Light of God had pressed into his humanity the vesture of heaven. Sacred presence arrays in grandeur any human soul that will come. The grandeur of love...of faith. The grandeur of knowing Him. Yet it is usually in the dark places in our lives where sacred garments are donned.

From the beginning of their life together, Ray and Shelley sought after God. But when their young daughter lay near death with meningitis, they entered into this dark place and offered Dana to Him. It was an unfamiliar fire that burned in their night...the ground about it untampered by use. Always before, they had warmed by His fires of promise and assurance...fires that had served them well...till now. Now they stood in a night of no promises...except His love. No guarantees...except eternal life. Here, on the coals of this altar, they placed their daughter. Here in the embers of the Divine, they rested. When the night at last ended, Dana came down with them from the mountain with them. But had she not, they still would have worn the robes of heaven...the sheen of knowing Him...the vestige of love and grace and faith that adorned them their whole lives.

It is our fears that keep us bound to familiar fires; that keep us from sacred pilgrimage seeking the One who calls.

And so Buck ran in the forest “seeking for the mysterious something that called, called, waking or sleeping, at all times, for him to come...He walked to the center of the open space and listened. It was the call...And as never before he was ready to obey...the last tie was broken. Man and the claims of man no longer bound him.”

I love you,

## *“Ancient Paths” Conversation*

*Tuesday Evening, March 5*

A small group of eight people met last month for a look at “Ruptured Paradise,” the first in our series of conversations on the ancient paths that got set up at the beginning of time that condition life on this planet and determine how God must work with man. Discussion centered around the nature of God and of Satan and the two mysterious trees of Eden with their cataclysmic effect on man and the entire planet.

The first Tuesday in March marks our second conversation with a look at a “Third Tree” that has equally profound implications for how we live. These three trees carry ultimate implications for man and offer both understanding into life as we know it here and wisdom into how we are to live as people of faith.

Please consider joining us at 7:00 p.m. at the Dayspring chapel Tuesday, March 5, for a journey down these ancient paths.

## *Saturday Meditation* *“Entering Into His Stillness”*

*8:30 – 11:45 March 23*

This meditation is well-timed for spiritual preparation for Easter. More guided focus will be offered during the first hour than is typical on stilling our own voices so we may not only better hear God but more deeply experience His presence. The following two hours will be for personal reflection and mediation from Scripture on God’s peace and Presence.

Stories Moses had heard of a bush burning on the mountain without being consumed drew him away from his father-in-law’s flock. How long the Divine had lured people to this bush we do not know. But the stories were there and Moses had heard and he went to see for himself. And destiny was changed because of it.

We all have heard stories of people whose lives were forever changed when God’s presence overtook them like a fire in their soul. If these stories cause us to wonder at the possibilities in our own lives, then we must turn aside from our own flocks not only to see for ourselves what these burning bushes are in the souls of others on the mountain but to see what this strange bush is in our own souls designed to burn with Holy presence but somehow is strangely quiet.

As with all Saturday Meditations, this is a time for turning aside from your flock of activities and responsibilities to see what God will say to you from within His holy bush.

## *Prayer Garden Workdays*

*March 16 and 23*



We have a lot of work on our hands to begin getting the garden ready for several spring weddings as well as for our normal spring tending. We would welcome as much help as possible for the task.

Our *Spring Workdays* are two Saturdays in March before Easter that start at 9:00. Workdays will continue through April. Warm bodies are more important than green thumbs. Leave word at the office or let Gay Bostick know of your desire to help. Knowing how many are coming helps us know how to plan the projects for the day.

## *Easter Week Observances*

*March 25-31*



*“Gethsemane’s Hour”*  
*Thursday Vesper Service*  
*7:00 – 8:30 p.m.*  
*Dayspring Chapel*  
*Communion*



*Good Friday Watch*  
*Personal Focus Interspersed with*  
*Guided Scripture Focus beginning at*  
*8:15 with events through the night.*  
*Major points of guided focus include*  
*8:45; 9:00; 12:00; 3:00; 6:00*  
*Silent Vigil: 12:00 – 3:00/Chapel darkened*  
*Chapel remains open for personal time until guided focus*  
*at 6:00... Christ’s removal from the cross.*



*Easter Sunrise Service*  
*6:45*  
*Dayspring Prayer Garden*

*Breakfast Pastries / Coffee / Juice*  
*in Dayspring office building following*

*Chapel is Open All Week from 8:00 – 7:00 for*  
*personal reflection and Communion*