



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

"...the ministry of the Word" - Acts 6:4

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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

Dearhearts,

Joy is a mystery. Darting in and out among the trees, teasing us with its possibilities, discouraging us with its illusiveness. Confusing us as to what it is out there that we're seeing. Was that a phantom, or was it real. If real...what is it?

I've been hearing a lot about joy recently - or the lack of it - from Christians who wonder where it went or if they ever had it at all. As I said on facebook (yes, I've capitulated), joy is not something we can acquire. It is a gift and comes packaged in the Holy Spirit. But if there is such a gift tucked away in the folds of our being... where is it? How do we "get" it? What is it really?

As mica is not gold, happiness is not joy. If happiness, then joy hinges upon circumstance. Yet "for the joy set before Him, Christ endured the cross." The epitome of human suffering was endured *because* of joy. Joy is not subject to circumstance. Indeed, it is joy that allows us to master, even defy, our circumstances. If joy is genned up by positive thinking, then joy is man-made and subject to our genning abilities.

So what joy was it that compelled Christ to endure the cross? It was the joy that sees the larger picture. Embraces the greater good and gladly pays whatever the cost. Joy is the unconditional expression of Divine love. Christ's joy saw the millions of lost souls coming to know the graces of Calvary. Joy is found only in the Divine. It originates in heaven. It is neither of man nor of earth. So that leaves us on the short end of the stick... unless...we can access it. Upon accepting Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit brought this joy (and more) with Him and hid it in the field of our soul. To find this treasure we must seek the "goodly pearls"... we must cherish the possibilities of this hidden kingdom.

Joy either opens to us like a flower in the morning as it seeks the Sun or it bursts upon us like a sudden splash of sun slashing through a clouded sky. To "find" it, we must lay aside other objects of our seeking. Objects that seem natural and appropriate. An ending of the trials that beset us: A difficult job; challenging relationships; bickering or painful family dynamics. Uncertainty...and a myriad of other frustrating, fearful, hurtful obstacles. For it is these that deflect us from immediacy with God. They cause us to mine for happiness and miss the gold

within. They stand as defiant mediators between us and God, deflecting our attention and diverting our course. So we resort to things that make us happy, but we don't know joy and the cross. Only as we lay aside our human lot and seek *Him* will His joy come.

As Moses turned aside from his herd to see a strange bush, you and I must turn aside from the demands of our herds - the worries and pleasures, the fears and burdens of this world - and seek a strange bush on the mountain. As we seek *Him* - to sink down into Him - not for rescue but for presence... He will come. A glowing ember of His Spirit welling up from a hidden hearth, and in His presence a great, joyous exultation may splash upon the soul. And suddenly we know what thing this is aflame on the mountain but not consumed. Not consumed by the flock that awaits my return. Not consumed by the demands that will greet me at the foot of the mountain. Not dispelled by the world that exists...the world I live in...Joy meets me in the surrender of all that I seek save Him. Do you seek rescue? Lay it aside while you seek Him. You may pray for deliverance later. Do you wish for reprieve or rest? The summons of joy is to seek Him; and in Him, you and I will find rest...and strength; perhaps, even, the glowing bush of joy...God's mysterious gift to us from the mountain.

I love you,

"There is a place in the religious experience where we love God for Himself alone, with never a thought of His benefits. And there is a place where the heart does not reason from admiration to affection. True, it all may begin lower down, but it quickly rises to the height of blind adoration where reason is suspended and the heart worships in unreasoning blessedness. It can only exclaim, 'Holy, holy, holy,' while scarcely knowing what it means." A.W. Tozer

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Fall Plans

Conversations on Prayer Series Begins Tuesday, September 7, 7:00 p.m.

The well-received series of conversations with Brenda on prayer resumes the first Tuesday of each month beginning in September. The primary focus of these talks is the prayer of “communion”: experiencing His presence through prayer, stilling our own voices and learning how to hear Him more purely.

Prayer can be life-changing as it brings us into contact with God. It is boring only when we are listening to ourselves talk.

Classics Book Club Selection Release of the Spirit by Watchman Nee



Our Classics Book Club resumes the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings beginning September 14 at 7:00 p.m. Watchman Nee’s small but powerful book is our fall selection. Unlike Bonhoeffer’s daunting work of last year, this study should take approximately four sessions to complete.

As with all Classic books, they are chosen for their stretching, life-changing capacities.

If you have not been participating in this book club but would like to do so, please contact our office at 972-722-1905.

Dinner Book Club Tentative Date Friday, October 29, 7:00 p.m. Relax and Let God by James Duncan

Brenda is looking at other scheduling options for this dinner book club, including a possible Tuesday evening time slot. The 3rd Tuesday evening of each month is an option that is open, but as of this time we are sticking with our traditional Friday evening venue. Look for any revisions of our October dinner book club schedule in September’s newsletter. Call our office to order the book.

A Noon Book Club?

For quite some time we have been considering a noon – brown bag – book club patterned after our dinner book club, and including the same books. If there is interest, this club would meet the first and third Tuesdays at noon at the Dayspring office beginning the third Tuesday in September, the 21st. The selection would be Duncan’s book, *Relax and Let God*. Please let us know if you are interested.

“Person of Impact” Course to Begin Sunday, August 22

Sixteen people have registered for Brenda’s course, “Becoming a Person of Impact.” The first session begins Sunday afternoon August 22 from 2:00-5:30. To allow for input from participants, scheduling for the remainder of the first level of this course will be set at the end of this first session.

This course works on several levels. It will be very helpful personally for individuals seeking to better understand God’s life-principles and how to apply them in their daily lives. It also equips believers to be more effective instruments in helping others navigate relational and situational difficulties.

We are salt and light. This course may not make us saltier and lighter but it can help us shake the salt better and spread the light more.

“Kaleo” Roundtable Resumes in September

Last year’s experiment with “Roundtable” was very enriching and growing and we plan to resume this unique venture on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon. The start-up date is September 14.

“Roundtable is an opportunity to share thoughts and questions pertaining to the spiritual growth process,” comments Pat Townsend. “It is a refreshing environment of honesty and rapport...”

Brenda leads the discussions and spiritual focus that begin with where each person is spiritually and how she sees the Lord moving in her life. The thrust is to better understand God’s ways with us and recognize what He is seeking to do in us and what He is asking of us.

“Kaleo” means “called out.” For those who seek to answer this call of Christ on their lives, this may be an important instrument for you. Space is limited and will close shortly.

Up-Date: Daytime Classics Club

Pat Townsend continues to lead a study group in her home of Hannah Hurnard’s *Hind’s Feet on High Places*. We are encouraged with the response and interest that has been sustained since early May.

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

is a Non-Profit Organization wholly supported by your gifts and contributions which are tax deductible.
Mail to 505 E. Boydston, Suite 2, Rockwall, TX 75087
Thank you for supporting the ministries of Dayspring and the teaching ministry of Brenda Cox.