

LifeSpot ... Powered by the Word

Basic instruction

Somewhere I read about a child who came up with a perfect acronym for B-I-B-L-E. “Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth.” I like that! One way or another, each of us will leave Earth. I will either move off the scene into oblivion, or I will journey to a new Heaven and a new Earth. I need basic information about this choice of destiny, and I’m glad I’ve found it. Have you found this information? Have you made your choice? All we need to know about our destiny is described in that marvellous collection called the Bible. God lets us know, and he makes his appeal. “In the beginning was the Word. . . . Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.” John 1:1; 5:24 (NIV).

Bring it home

We value what we’re close to. I’m close to my wife, close to a few excellent friends, close to nature. Some of my friends live across oceans, but I take steps to stay close to them. What’s the current distance between you and God’s Word? This is a fair measure of the distance between you and God himself. To be a mile away from the Scriptures is to be at least half a mile away from God. King David understood this. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11 (NIV). The apostle Paul advised, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Colossians 3:16 (NIV). For you, where is God’s Word right now? If it’s only in church, bring it home. It’s up on a shelf, get it down into your mind and heart, starting now.

Before you go

At age 23, I had a job most challenging to my shy nature—selling Christian books door-to-door. Not in my homeland, but in Iceland. Using Icelandic, a language I did not know. Each morning I would rise in fear, then tell myself, “Of course you’re afraid—you haven’t got your power for the day.” Then I would plunge into the Word. I’d open my Bible and find a promise I could cling to every hour. Promises like “I am with you always” and “With God all things are possible.” I’d imprint these on my mind through prayer, then go! What a difference it made. God gave the language, the courage, the ability. Today, before you go, will you pause? Will you get the power?

Battle victory

The book of Acts tells us that when the first Christians began their mission, the enemy brought every force against them. I’ve felt some of this evil force in my own life—have you? Criticism and opposition; plus my own pride, selfishness, impurity, doubt, anger. My recourse is the Word of God. My personal defences are weakness, but God’s Word grows in power. Acts 19:20. You and I battle against unseen powers of darkness and evil. But we have weapons—especially “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Ephesians 6:12, 17 (NIV). Can you see it? God’s Spirit strikes the heart of our enemy, and his sword is the Word. Let’s sign up for special forces training with this weapon.