



Mission Team and Bible Study

Doing the work of God

Several decades ago I was still searching for the ultimate answer, asking myself what is my purpose here on this earth, why did God put me here. Fortunately, I had been raised in a Christian family and I knew and believed in Jesus Christ. I had enough faith to ask God for what I needed or wanted but it never really seemed to work. As time went by my faith dwindled from a burning candle to a faint glimmer in the distance. It took a long time for me to understand that it was about what God wants not necessarily what I want.



Yes, that's me, baptized in the creek behind the Church in East Tennessee in 1955. That's my dad and my older brother to the left. My brother is bending over standing by dad. My sister was there also; we were all baptized that day.

Then I began to ask myself where did I go wrong, what can I do to restore my faith and experience that joy and happiness in my life when I felt the presence of God? It didn't take me long to realize that I knew the answer all along and I was using these questions as a crutch or a reason not to do what needed to be done.

The answer is not as complicated as I or anyone else likes to think it may be. The word, is the answer! Now this brings on more questions, what does that mean, first, the word is Jesus and what did John say in the very first words of the gospel of John. Chapter 1 verses 1-2 **"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning,"** Next question, what does this mean?

Now it starts to get a little complicated, that is one reason we go to church and bible study, to learn from one another. The "word" is an agent of creation according to Psalms 33:6. **"By the**

This verse is so powerful it leads me back to my bible, all the way back to the first chapter and the



first verse, the beginning of creation.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

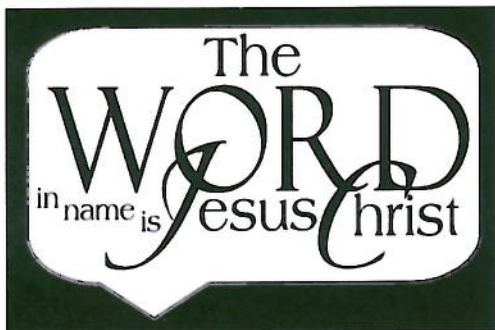
I don't know about you but I don't believe there's anyone on this earth with that kind of power.



God is the only one that can create something out of nothing.

Not the most famous scientist, not the most famous pastor or evangelist, not the most powerful politicians, certainly not any of the false gods, not governor, not dictator and not the ruler of any country in the world.

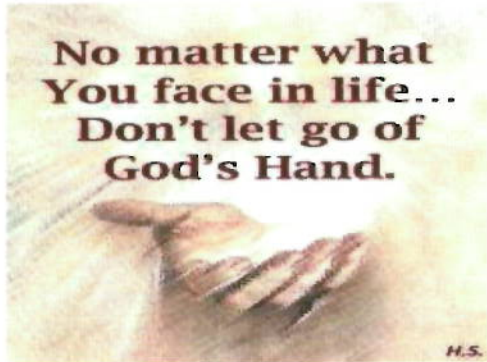
As time went by and I began to read my bible more and more, sometimes for hours, slowly God revealed to me the meaning the short verse I mentioned above in the book of John, **“In beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.”**



Jesus was the word, Jesus was there in the beginning, and He was with God and Jesus was God. Jesus was the total message, everything God want to communicate to man.

In verse 14 of chapter 1 John makes a simple statement, **“The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”** Jesus dwelt among us in the flesh. God's plan for Christ was the saving of lost souls.

Christ has the same plan for those that believe in Him. In the last chapter of Matthew, we find these parting words as Jesus spoke to his disciples ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



Only Jesus can save them through His grace, it is our purpose to encourage them by being a witness for Christ. Preparing them to accept Jesus Christ as their savior.

My question today is, am I doing the work of God and are you doing the work of God. You may think you are not qualified, trust me, we all believe that because we are sinners. We are all sinners, that doesn't disqualify anyone!

We just finished the book of Judges in our Sunday morning bible study. Please read this and you will understand why we are all qualified to serve God. Always remember this, the last words Jesus spoke while on earth, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

By God's grace He gives us opportunities every day to serve His kingdom. I would like to take this opportunity to say I'm so proud of the people in our church that are doing God's work.

I often share with others things that we have participated in as a group and as individuals. I know in God's eyes being prideful about yourself is a sin, but this is not about me. I'm proud of my church, our church and my church family. The people of our church are full of love and gratitude for one another and most of all for the giving grace of our Father in heaven. Lord we love you so much for taking care of your children and teaching us love for one another.

In September we have a group of people that are going to East Tennessee for an "Experiencing God in the church" weekend. As most of you know these trips are always a blessing, not only to the congregations that we present them to but to ourselves as well. I'm really looking forward to this opportunity and the most exciting part is the Holy Spirit always shows up at the perfect time.

I encourage you to participate in these events, if you have not been through the Classes of Experiencing God please see me. I can tell you from experience, this is a life changing opportunity.

In closing, please pray for us on this journey, pray for safe travel and pray that we will serve God in a way that will be pleasing to Him.

Rob Price in service to the Lord