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*A Delightful Experience*

By Becky Combee

I was thinking the other day about lemon bread. I love lemon, so lemon bread seemed like a good idea, unless, of course, we opt for lemon bars, lemon pound cake or lemon pudding cake. I just delight in lemon. Similarly, the Scripture declares that every Christian should delight in God's Word. When you delight in something, it is a priority – a must. Yet often, we approach the Word of God as an intrusion into our busy schedule, not as a moment of delight.

I don't particularly like movies. I was newly married and just nineteen when Wayne took me to my first movie. Although that particular movie was acceptable, I never developed a desire for movies or for the theater. You can twist my arm if you like, but you cannot get me to the theater. I am just not going. It is not a delightful experience for me.

However, there are always things we enjoy. Some people are enamored by a particular sport, some by reading, some by scrapbooking, and some by gardening or other interests. They are simply delighted with these activities. We should be the same way with the Word of God. We cannot – we must not – approach it reluctantly or with any degree of disinterest.

Proverbs declares that God's Word should be constantly before our eyes. Our ears must be bent

toward it, listening to capture every syllable. Then, it gives us this glorious news! As the Word fills our hearts, it brings life and health.<sup>1</sup> This makes reading and meditating in God's Word a very, very valuable experience. Yet, there is a greater reward. We also stand in the presence of God through His Word.

Years ago, a man told Wayne and me that he decided to go to work early and read his Bible in the car. He was diligently reading God's Word when someone knocked on the window of his car and asked if he was coming inside. He was so delighted

*We need the nutrition of God's Word.*

with his Bible reading that he was late to work. Of course, as a citizen of God's kingdom, we strive to fulfill our obligations (such as being on time), but that day, he was wrapped up in God and forgot his commitment to his employer.

In this life, certain experiences become a priority. One we can all agree on is eating. Most of us love to eat, and should we decide not to eat, it will be detrimental to our health. Our mental and emotional faculties will cease to function successfully, and eventually, our earthly life is ended because the body requires nutrition.

In the same manner, the spirit needs the nutrition of the Word of God. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of

God.”<sup>2</sup> Here, He refers to God’s Word as bread. It is bread, or food, for our spirit. The spirit must be fed.

Man is a spirit being living in a physical body. Our body has mental and emotional capacities with the ability to make decisions. It is a poor decision to refuse the food needed by our body, just as it is a poor decision to avoid the nutrition needed by the spirit. We need the nutrition of God’s Word.

When I was a teenager, our church training program graded us on several points. One of these was reading your Bible every day. I always strived to make one hundred percent, so I read my Bible daily. It was a wonderful habit, but it wasn’t until I was an adult that I realized the impact of that time in God’s Word. I am sure that being introduced to the fullness of the Holy Spirit made the difference.

Today, as I read my Bible, I am aware that He is my teacher and guide. When I read, I call upon Him to instruct me and give me understanding. He

is a faithful friend who opens my eyes to the truth. With His help, I leave that time of reading and prayer with greater understanding. Yet, even if I don’t sense increased wisdom and understanding, I know one thing. My heart is fueled for another day.

One Christmas, I turned the lights on all the Christmas trees before Suzanne came to work. Some years I put up many trees. When I mentioned it to her, she said, “I know, Mom, and I feel warm and wonderful.” That is how I feel when God the Holy Spirit and I sit together to read the Word. I leave that place of meditation feeling warm and wonderful.

Oh, it isn’t a physical feeling, but a deep-seated refreshing from the Spirit of God. It is the catalyst for a successful day in God. You should try it! God will bless you as you read His Word.

<sup>1</sup>Pr 4:20-22 <sup>2</sup>Lk 4:4

## *Stay For A While*

By Suzanne D. Williams

*And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where **to lay his head.** (Mt 8:20)*

When I was learning to drive, my mom would say if I drove too fast I'd leave my angels behind. From a spiritual standpoint, I don't know if that's true or not, but it came to me when thinking about the above Scripture.

### **How many times do we outpace God?**

He wants to sit with us and commune but we're too busy to give Him enough time to lay down His head.

*And there I will meet with thee, and I will **commune** with thee from above the mercy seat. (Ex 25:22)*

That's His desire. We were created for fellowship. (1Jn 1:3) But talking to someone while they run away is fruitless. They're listening to the sound of their breathing, their pulse in their ears, their footsteps pounding the pavement, not what's being said. Eventually, the speaker becomes tired of trying to keep up.

Slowing down so God has a place to lay His head, is our responsibility. It won't happen until we make the choice to do it! We can continue to run ten steps ahead, or we can stop and stay for a while, clear our mind of the turmoil of our day, and listen.

I'd hate to think I'm cooking supper, washing the dog, writing a book ... while there in front of me stands my Savior wishing I'd sit down for a moment and just ... be.

Think of what I might miss - an instruction, a moment of prayer on behalf of a friend, or maybe He simply wants to say, "I love you." Those three words might change everything, give me hope and faith, strength, perhaps another dose of patience.

All because I was listening.

