

Nuggets from Mildred

My dear friend, Ruthie, asked me to write and share some of the precious nuggets that I have found over the years of relationship with the One Who saved my soul in 1977. I can sincerely say, “what a friend I found in Jesus”.

The first and most precious nugget to me has been to understand and set my heart to walk in the “fear of God”. As a young Christian, I heard Joy Dawson at a women’s retreat teach the whole weekend on the “fear of God”. It became such a foundational stone in my walk with Him. Proverbs 1:7 states, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” and Psalm 111:10 says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.” The Hebraic definition of “fear” is to reverence (stand in awe) and to dread. If we don’t reverence Him, we will dread Him! There are blessings upon those that fear Him (Psalm 112:1). He will direct us in our choices and paths; He will give prosperity and inheritance; He will deliver us; He will show us His secrets and His covenant (Psalm 25: 12-15). Anyone want blessing? Fear the LORD!

Another nugget is to “trust and obey”. Life is going to be difficult at times. I personally have had my difficult times. My husband went home to be with the LORD at the age of 41. We walked through some tough times with finances and our children, but I had to determine that I would trust Him because He is trustworthy and keep on obeying Him. I often reflect on Isaiah 55: 8-9, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Most of us have been brought up with a Greek mind set when reading the scriptures. That mindset causes us to try and reason everything out. However, the Hebraic mindset is to believe and rest in the fact that He is God regardless of whether I understand something or not. When I was growing up, we used to sing the hymn “Trust and Obey”. The words say it right, “trust and obey, cause there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey”.

How about this nugget? God is bigger than my mistakes! I would get so uptight when I did something wrong or if I thought I might miss God when I was trying to make a wise decision. I have found that He is able to make course corrections, and that I can make a U turn and get back on track. He is more desirous of us staying on track than we are! However, as one teacher has said, “I have good news for you, you can repent (change your mind and change direction)”. His promise to us, “In all your ways (a road, a course, a mode of action) acknowledge (have direct intimate contact) Him, and He shall direct (to be straight, right, pleasing, good, prosperous) your paths” (Proverbs 3:6).

Another nugget that has been valuable to me is having friends that will speak truth to me! I have found that real friends that love me and care about me, need to have avenue to speak into my life. These are friends that spend time with me and know about my talk and walk with the LORD. I used to really get upset if a person/friend brought a “correction” in my life. Part of that “hurt” was rooted in pride. One day I came across a scripture that changed my heart and mind about corrections from friends. Psalm 141:5, “Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it.” Basically, I saw in this nugget of truth, that if I would receive correction from this trusted friend, it would be as oil upon my head – which the anointing in my life would increase. Yes, and amen. Let me not refuse it!

The last nugget I will share is the need to have a consistent time of reading and pondering the Word of God! I need a plan! It doesn’t just happen! I am grateful that my parents encouraged a reading plan for me when I surrendered my life to Christ. They even subscribed to a “read through the Bible” magazine for me during the first couple of years. This so grounded me in His Word and truth! I remembered when a good friend of mine was killed suddenly in a car accident and I had so many questions. God was faithful to comfort me through His Word. I would ask a question and He would answer me with a scripture! I am so glad that I had His Word in my heart! Spend time with Him in His Word and let the Holy Spirit imprint it on your heart! “Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts” (Jeremiah 15:16). I need His Words of life. They truly are bread to me. “But Jesus answered him, saying, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God’” (Luke 4:4) and John 6:63 says, “...The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

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