



Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087
972-722-1905

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

August 2009

"...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness..." --Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

Dearhearts,

There is a difference between silence and stillness. When our parents had finally had enough of the racket they would order my brother and me to be quiet, and though we might be bursting at the seams to laugh or talk or argue, their tone scared us into silence. The issue would continue, be it arguments or otherwise, with silent pushes or looks or a defiant nudge with the foot. The same, of course, was true years later with my children. Silence could be compelled, but stillness could not.

As there is a difference between silence and stillness, so there is a difference between soul and spirit. Our soul carries the press of life - its rubs and frustrations and our perceptions of them. It is tossed about with voices bursting at the seams to be heard: scars and shadows in our lives that carry the sound of resentment or anger or fear. Our spirit carries the press of heaven - sacred nudges and inclinations that defy the rationale of the soul - and lies tucked away beneath it. The soul carries religious inclinations - even religious activity and ritual - and gets the ball rolling toward heaven, but it is the spirit that harbors heaven in us and draws us into a sacred communion in whispers too faint to be noticed by the soul.

When Christ retreated to the deserts and high places to pray through the night, He not only was withdrawing from the commotion that swirled about Him, He was stilling the voices of His own soul to better hear His Father's voice. Only on earth is there need for prayer. There is no prayer in heaven. Prayer is God's gift to those who live on the eastern side of the great rip in the unstained fabric of Eden; a rip that quarantined blighted flesh from its holy home. The spirit realm now is lost to the senses of our soul. It is prayer alone that gives us access. Even Christ was separated from His Father by humanity's flesh and engaged the spirit realm through prayer.

If we would hear His voice, we must turn aside to solitary places with Him; we must silence not only our soul but embrace a deeper stillness that invites the stirring of His wind. The absence of noise may not lead us to a sacred encounter, but stillness in the soul will.

Our soul is stilled only as its natural inclinations are relinquished. Control, anxiety, fear...anger...are part of a

labyrinth of automatic responses rising from the silt of life. Peace visits our soul only as it yields to a higher realm, but it can only yield as it releases the hurts and unfairness that have gouged its terrain by another's hand. But how does the soul entrust itself to such a contrary wind? If there are questions about who God is or how He is, we cannot suspend our logic and reason. The soul will clench a fist - or shake one - and defy the Divine by insisting on fairness or understanding. Only by faith in God - not in *outcome* - can we summons a stillness that calls forth the unseen God in us.

We walk, as someone has said, in a "cloud of unknowing," where confusion and mystery drape our world; and then a sudden breakthrough as a shaft of the Spirit pierces the soul's clouds and laces them in gold. Heaven breaks through as prayer arches like a rainbow heavenward - seeking Him.

Silence may bridle the soul, but it is stillness that awakens the spirit. In our journey, we must go with Christ to deserted places where silence and stillness both are guests in our souls. It is not enough to be in silence before the Lord; we must still our soul and let it sink into a radiant presence.

I love you,

Join us for An Evening with Brenda

In

Conversation on the Prayer of Communion

"Stilling the Soul"

Tuesday August 18

7:30 p.m.

Dayspring Chapel

WEBSITE UPDATES and ADDITIONS

New pages are up on our website and the home page has been revamped. We invite you to visit and see our updated version. We are in the process of simplifying the menu as well and hope the changes will serve you better.

The Home Page.

Our home page has been refurbished to be more visually appealing and offer easier navigation of the overall sight. When our young webmaster guru has time between school and work, he will completely renovate our site. Until then Brenda continues to slug it out in the trenches.

Pilgrim of the Soul.

This is a new section with five sub-menu pages. Four pages deal with the nature of our life in Christ: the **deeper life**, the **abundant life**, the **winged life** and the **interior journey**. The fifth page carries a list of suggested reading for each aspect of our journey with Christ. That list will be regularly up-dated.

From Pilgrim of the Soul Web Page

"For those who seek to follow Christ, who listen for His voice, these pages may be a guide and a friend. "Pilgrim of the Soul" is for those who have come to a place and time on their journey here of searching out the deeper possibilities of God in their lives. It is for those upon whom a sacred longing rests and draws them to something more."

BOOK CLUBS TO RESUME IN FALL

Christian Dinner Book Club.

This club meets quarterly and will pick back up in October after a year's break with James Duncan's little book, "Relax and Let God." It is out of print so we will need a count of the number of books needed. If you are interested in a Friday evening of enriching discussion around a table of soup and bread, please pre-register by calling our office. The exact day is to be determined but will likely be early in October on a Friday evening. It meets once in the fall and twice in the spring.

Christian Classics Book Club.

In this book club Brenda leads discussions on some of the classic books in Christian literature. Emerging from a long hibernation of several years, this club will meet twice

monthly, probably in the evening. It will begin toward the end of September with *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Most of the selections in the Classics Club are of ancient works such as:

- *Release of the Spirit* by Watchman Nee
- *Practicing His Presence* by Brother Lawrence
- *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* by Hannah Whithall Smith
- *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Union with God* by Jeanne Guyon
- *Interior Castles* by St. Teresa of Avilla
- *Dark Night of the Soul* by St John of the Cross

Next month's newsletter will carry exact times and dates. If you are interested, please contact our office as soon as possible.

Conversations on Mysteries from a Sacred Hand Resumes in September

"The Mysteries of Eden"

Tuesday, September 8

7:30 p.m.

Dayspring Chapel

The popular monthly series of Conversations with Brenda on Mysteries from a Sacred Hand resumes Tuesday evening following Labor Day with a talk on the mysterious trees in the Garden of Eden and their significance for us.

Response to our two conversations in the spring encourages us to continue the series in the fall. Below is a tentative schedule of future conversations:

The Mystery of Creation – Thursday, October 8

The Mystery of Time – Thursday, November 12

The Human Mystery – Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Consider Setting Aside

**1 - 4 Hours Of Personal Prayer Time
In the Chapel or Prayer Garden**

Friday – Saturday August 21-22

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Friday

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Saturday

To Reserve Your Time Block Please Call our Office

Check Website Bulletin Board for Event Up-dates or to make donations on line, click on **Donation page**.