



“...the ministry of the Word” – Acts 6:4

## Dayspring Discipleship Institute

505 E. Boydston, Rockwall, Texas 75087

972-722-1905

www.dayspringdiscipleship.org

Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

August 2012

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

Newsletter

### *To See Him*

Dearhearts,

Obedience of the spirit always costs us something of ourselves. It was something the rich young ruler was not prepared for. From early on, he had done all he knew to do...faithfully following the rules. His quest brought him to Christ...*what else must I do?* His was a doctrinal question. Christ met him where he was...*What of the law have you kept?* It was an easy measure of where he stood. He had kept score since youth and was pretty accomplished at it. Then Christ took him to a place he was not prepared to go...to the spirit...and what stood between him and following, not rules, but Christ. It went to the heart of who he was...rich, young and a ruler. It is likely he had never approached anyone on their terms. Doctrine makes no such demands. We settle on a doctrine because it fits our lifestyle. It comports with our terms. But now he must decide who he would become. Following Christ meant leaving what he had done and what defined him to be re-shaped on someone else's terms. It meant becoming something completely different – not ruler, but follower – and letting go of what he had brought with him to this place. As He does with us all, Christ demanded that he go the rest of the way on *Christ's* terms, or not go at all.

Another rich man sought Christ out, not with any predetermined ideas, but simply to see Him...to see who He was. He went to great efforts to do so and at the risk of looking ridiculous. But in seeing Him up close, Zacchaeus was changed. A new law ignited his heart to give back, unbidden, four times what he had taken fraudulently from people; to give lavishly to the needy what he had always hoarded. What defined him now transcended what he had or did. Seeing who Christ was changed what mattered. He gave with no thought of himself now. Rather than a cistern, he became a fountain because nothing else mattered but Christ.

It is easier to follow doctrine than to follow a person. This is particularly so with the community of faith today as we bed with politics as God's saving voice for America. Doctrine puts us in a position of power...of rightness. A relationship puts us in a position of submission and calls us out of our own agenda. This brings us to who we are...and who we want to become.

With doctrine we get to judge, but in judging others, we lose our witness of Christ.

So He takes *us* to the spirit of the matter. And the young ruler's choices become ours. Do we want to lose our power or our witness? Do we choose to lose something of ourselves for something of Him? Unlike the young ruler, we tend to slide by default into our decisions while he consciously turned and walked away.

Doctrine does not save...only a relationship saves. It is not rules that transform, only the indwelling Christ does that. The Pharisees had the doctrine...had the rules...and they kept the rules they had. But they did not have the relationship. They had no light. They did not have a heart that would leave who they were and follow one who took them out of their life and into another life. Obedience of the spirit carried a cost they were unwilling to pay.

Our desire for people to do and believe the right things will save neither them nor this country. Doctrine will not draw people to Christ any more than the Pharisees drew people to Christ.

Our charge is to live lives that bear witness to who Christ is. The fine line between witness and doctrine is the difference between evidence of a redeemer and evidence of our rightness. Our lives and how we love and grace others points an unbelieving world to Christ. Our ethical virtue points the world to us. The world is tired of our "rightness" and even sicker of our skill at pointing it out. Yet its gaze is mysteriously snared by a shimmering glint in human cloth it may not understand but somehow knows it needs. Only when they see in human flesh who Christ really is will they be unfastened from their moorings. Without our witness, we are just like any other rock. With it...there is a vein of gold that may catch not only the eye but the heart of those who see.

I love you,

*The Ways of Intercession*  
*Saturday Morning August 11*  
8:30 –11:45 / *Dayspring Chapel*

Brenda will cover multiple aspects of intercession designed to provide a base of understanding that will infuse our prayers for others with greater energy and effectiveness.

- **Active and Passive Intercession** – the role and purpose of each
- **Spiritual Warfare** and the role of prayer
- **Doing Battle in Prayer**

As we seek to strengthen our prayer ministry we are offering more opportunities to learn about prayer and to experience it in ways that are life-changing. This Saturday teaching is part of a host of training opportunities on the agenda for this year. The more prayer is understood and practiced, the more we embrace it as the source of connection with God Himself. It is an instrument that infuses us with purpose and energy and with a knowing of God in ways that we have *hoped* existed.

Since Christ himself prayed all night and told us to pray “without ceasing,” we must at some point conclude that prayer is crucial and carries a power to it that can move mountains, uproot trees and establish God’s purposes here on earth.

*That we don’t witness this is not an absence of His power but an absence of our connection to it.*

*Please consider Joining us on this Journey into Sacred Places with Prayer*

**Call the Office to Let us Know of Your Interest in Saturday’s Teaching on Intercession**

Christ turned over the tables of the Temple declaring, “Do you not know my house shall be called the house of prayer?”

In I Cor. 3:16 and 6:19 Paul asks,

“Do you not know that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells in you?”

If we, now, are the temple that houses the Spirit of both God the Father and Son, then we also are to be a “house of prayer.”

We must turn over the tables in our own soul that hold wares sold on the marketplace of the world...those things that distract our focus and distort who we are and what we are about.

*A Conversation on Blessing*  
*Second Thursday Evening in September*

The Biblical idea of Blessing carries with it a mystical power to change lives and even destinies. Jacob and Esau fought over the spoken words of their father to extend unique favor to the firstborn. In Numbers, Balaam was caught in the vortex between a pagan king desiring to curse the children of Israel and a heavenly king desiring to bless them.

What is this mysterious force of words...this prize of blessing? Is it only a force - or figment - of the Old Covenant or does it extend to the New Covenant? Does it have meaning for us personally, today, as a people of God?

Come explore this mystery of the Kingdom with us on the first in our return series of spiritual conversations with Brenda. This year the conversations occur on the second Thursday of each month beginning September 13 at 7:00 in the Dayspring Community Chapel.

*All Other Thursday Evenings*  
*A Study on Strongholds*  
*Beginning September 20*

---

*Dayspring Fall Calendar*

**Parlor Book Study:** *Spiritual Rhythms*

Tuesday Mornings **10:00 – 11:30**

**Patty Stefani facilitates**

**With-Love Creations:** *Multiple classes*

Crocheting and other instruction

Creating gifts for those with special needs

**Contact Kaye Sinkule:** 214-562-6044

**In-Touch Nursing Home Ministry**

Tuesday afternoons

**Contact Caroline Doyle:** 214-681-5493

**Creative/Art Therapy Workshops:** *Multiple classes*

**Contact Elaine Souder:** 214-404-9113

**Saturday Prayer Opportunities**

**August 11** – Teaching on Intercession

**September 8** – Saturday Meditations

**October 13** – *Brown Bag* Chapel Prayer Retreat

**November 10** – Saturday Meditations

**Thursday Evenings: 7:00**

**Study on Strongholds**

**Second Thursday Conversations:**

The Mystery of Blessing (Sept.)

The Mystery of Suffering (Oct.)

A People Who Changed the World (Nov.)

**Sunday Morning Chapel Study: 8:00**