

Out of My Bible: A Youth Finds Christ in the Word

A True Autobiographical Sketch

Demonstrating the Matchless Grace of God

By Donald L. Potter



Ronald Potter Donald Potter

In front of the Old Potter Home Place
On Pleasant Ridge Rd. near Rising Sun, Indiana.

Holding in their hands the Message of God to Save the Soul and
Transform a Generation into the image of the Son of God

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Preface

I set down sometime in 1994 with my old zipper KJV Bible to make a record of the passages that I had marked as a young man. On July 21, 2014, I went through the Bible again and added a number of passages that I had overlooked in 1994.

I seem to recall that one of my grandmothers gave it to me. It had a zipper with a little clear glass ball containing a mustard seed. I used that Bible all through elementary school, high school, and my first year in college. I bought a beautiful, genuine leather KJV Oxford Reference Bible on October 21, 1966 so the underlines and marginal notes must have been made before then. I have not marked in that Bible since.

As I reread the passages that I had marked, I thought about how studying and meditating on those passages of Holy Scripture would impact the life of a teenager. How would that life be different from a teenager who did not have such an encounter with the Word? I ended up that year preaching a sermon based on the question, “What would the life of a youth be like if **these** Scriptures were a part of his or her life.” I was able to find a picture of my brother Ronald holding our Bibles the day they were given to us.

There was an infrastructure of believers that encouraged the young people to seek the Lord in His Word. I think of my grandmothers Gladys Bailey and Mable Potter, who were examples of diligent Bible students. My first-grade teacher, Pearl Monroe, was also my Bible class teacher at Church, sharing at school and at Church her deep and abiding faith. My uncle Oscar, a Gospel Preacher, and his faithful wife, Katherine, inspired me to put God first in everything in my life. My father was an Elder in our Church as far back as I can remember. His daily example of what it means to walk with God lead me to study the Word from my youth up. In fact all my uncles and aunts encouraged me in the Gospel way.

I wrote on the flyleaf in the front of the Bible the following: “February 12, 1994. Cleaning my Radio Room (I am an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator, NG5W). Scanned through the OT & NT. Many passages underlined! As a child – at Indiana University – Praise God for His word! As an adult (46) I am reading through his word. Signed, Don Potter. I also wrote later, on January 1, 1998, “Finding life in the Word. Lord, help me to immerse myself in Your word this year – renew my zeal. D.P.” I am now 67 years old and reading this year though my new Cambridge Paragraph King James Bible (Howard Norton edition).

May this little autobiographical sketch encourage the youth of today to seek Christ our Savior in His inspired Word. Note that these are just the verses I underlined, marked, or annotated. Of course, I read a lot that I did not mark. This is just a tiny glimpse of the full impact. I personally recommend the KJV, NJKV, or perhaps the ESV, not the NIV.

It is good to recall that Paul wrote to Timothy, “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” I did not mark this verse, but I did mark the next one. I am blessed that my parents obeyed Paul’s admonition in Ephesians 6:4 to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

New Testament Passages

1. Matthew 4:23 – Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom
2. Matthew 6: 7 – When ye pray, use not vain repetitions...
3. Matthew 3:21 – For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
4. Matthew 6:33 – Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
5. Matthew 7:1 – Judge not, that ye be not judged.
6. Matthew 7:20 – Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
7. Matthew 10:2-4 – Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; first, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbeaus, who name is Thaddeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.
8. Matthew 13:15 – For this peoples’ heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart and be converted, and I should heal them.
9. Matthew 13:38 – The field is the world
10. Matthew 16:16 – Thou art the Christ the Son of God
11. Matthew 26:28 – This is my blood of the New Testament
12. Matthew 28: 19-20 – Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel
13. Mark 10:27 – With men it is impossible, with God all things are possible
14. Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.
15. Mark 10:43 – great = minister
16. Luke 22: 40, 42, 46 – Pray that ye enter not into temptation
17. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world
18. John 4:24 – God is a spirit
19. John 8:32 – Know the truth – truth shall make you free
20. John 14:15 – If ye love Me keep My commandments
21. Acts 3:19 – Repent – converted – sins blotted out –times of refreshing from present of Lord

22. Acts 8:35 – 38 – Underlined in green ink.
23. Acts 9:3-4 – And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined around about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me?
24. Acts 9:20 – And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogue, that he is the Son of God.
25. Acts 10:33 – Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Not therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. (There is an arrow from this verse to verse 48.)
26. Acts 10:34 – The Peter opened his mouth and said, of a truth I receive that God is no respecter of persons.
27. Acts 10:48 – And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. (There is an arrow from Verse 33 to 40)
28. And the hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord.
29. Acts 11:26 – Disciples called Christians first at Antioch
30. Acts 12:4 - Easter crossed out and Passover written in.
31. Acts 22:16 – Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord
32. Romans 8: 26, 27 – Groaning's that cannot be uttered. (Holy Spirit intercession)
33. Romans 12: 24 – Be not overcome with evil but overcome evil with good.
34. 1 Cor. 2:2 – Nothing save Christ and Him crucified
35. I Cor. 14:33 – For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.
36. I Cor. 15:44 – Spiritual and natural body
37. 2 Cor. 5:7 – Walk by faith, not by sight
38. 2 Cor. 9:15 – Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.
39. 2 Cor. 10:5 – Casting down imaginations
40. Gal. 1:12 - For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by revelation of Jesus Christ.
41. Phil. 1:21 – For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.

42. Phil 4:8 – Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise think on these things.
43. Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengeheneth me.
44. 2 Thess. 5:21 – Prove all things.
45. 1 Tim: 4:15 – meditate on these things
46. 1 Tim. 6:10 – The love of money is the root of all (kinds of) evil.
47. 2 Tim. 3:15 – Study to shew thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God.
48. 2 Tim. 3:7 – Ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
49. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 – All scripture of given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
50. 2 Tim. 4:8: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not only to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
51. Hebrews 8:12 – For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will remember no more.
52. Hebrews 10:31 – It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
53. Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
54. Hebrews 12:14 – Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
55. James 4:17 – Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.
56. James 5: 16 - The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
57. 2 Peter 3:15 – And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you.
58. 1 John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
59. 1 John 2: 3 – And hereby we know him, if we keep his commandments.
60. 1 John 3:14 – We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

61. 1 John 3:18 – My little children, let us love not I word, neither in tongue, but in deed and truth.
62. 1 John 4:13 – Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
63. 1 John 4:16 – God is love.
64. 2 John 9 – Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.
.... 10 neither bid him God speed.
65. Rev. 2:10 – be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
66. Rev. 21:3 – God himself shall be with them, and he their God.

Old Testament Passages

1. Gen. 45:5 – for God did send me before you to preserve life.
2. Gen 46:3-4 – He said, I am God, the God of they father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation. I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again, and Joseph shall put his hands upon thine eyes.
3. Numbers 12: 29 – And Moses said unto him, Envieth thou for my sake? Would God that all the LORD’S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!
4. Numbers 13: 22 – Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.
5. Numbers 13: 32 - ... The land through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof;
6. Numbers 20:12 – Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into this land which I have given them.
7. Numbers 21:14 – ...the book of the wars of the LORD....
8. Numbers 22:1 – this side of Jordan by Jericho... (I wrote in margin Name of Place)
9. Numbers 33:2 – Moses wrote their goings out...
10. Deuteronomy 31:24 – And I came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished.
11. Deuteronomy 34:5 – So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

12. 2 Kings 17:23 – Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day. (I wrote in the margin 10 lost tribes)
13. 2 Chronicles 27:4 – Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers. (I have not idea why I thought this was important.)
14. Psalms 103:12 – As far as the east is from the west so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
15. Proverbs 18:10 – The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. (In the margin I wrote Jehovah and put a line to LORD.)
16. Proverbs 27:5 – Open rebuke is better than secret love.
17. Ecclesiastes 3:4 – A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
18. Isaiah 6:8 – Then said I, Here am I; send me.
19. Isaiah 53: The chapter heading is underlined, indicating that the whole chapter was read and was considered important.
9. Jeremiah 17:7 – Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.
20. Joel 2:28 –
21. Micah 6:8 He hath shown thee, O man, with is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.
22. Micah 6: 13 Therefore also will I make the sick and smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins.

I pray with all my heart and soul that the young people of today, especially my children and grandchildren, will follow the Word of God all their lives and experience God's love, forgiveness, grace, mercy and power.

Donald L. Potter last edited this in Odessa, TX on July 21, 2014.

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