

Faith Matters Part 1- God's Word

Our level of spirituality will never grow beyond our desire to love and interact with the Word of God.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

The Holy Word of God is the heart of what we believe and everything we do as a church.

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. . 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:14-15

The more we consistently read and wrestle with the word of God, the more we are instructed by God and are given the mind of Christ.

...the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

When we don't know what the Bible actually says on major matters in life we rely too heavily on what others say the Bible says.

The pressures to move away from biblical standards just to fit in or to not be viewed as intolerant and ignorant are overwhelming.

13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 1John 3:12-14

Unity is the choice of gathered people to exercise love and trust even in the midst of disagreement.

Our ability to love each other becomes a major marker for our spirituality and is possibly our greatest distinction.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins...4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even

*when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.
Ephesians 2:1,4-5*

*14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other.
Anyone who does not love remains in death. 1 John 3:14*

We have to be willing to set our preferences aside and have our personal beliefs challenged, modified, refined or even deepened.

Two assumptions to consider:

1. The Bible is true and is our only standard.

2. The God who is spoken of in the Bible exists and He is who He says he is: the Creator of heaven and earth.