

## Polly's Pondering

In Liberty Missouri seventh grade was at the middle school. I was in that awkward stage. I was short, somewhere under 4ft. 11inches. But my hair was long, below the waist, and my legs were longer. Christianity was new to me. I had given my life to Christ in sixth grade and was active in Sunday school and Youth Programing, yet still, I was a newbie to the faith.

My Dad traveled a lot! Heading out on the airplane almost every week. Sometimes he would bring us peanuts from the plane. Little did I know they were given away free to passengers. Following one particular trip my Dad brought me a Bible. It had a special cover denoting its previous owner as the airline he flew. It was *a Good News for Modern Man* Translation.

I wonder now as I look back over that gift, if he knew I was growing in my faith and the Bible would be a great help, or if giving me the Bible is what lead to my growing in faith. During Sunday's service, we heard three testimonies by individuals whose lives were transformed by a Gideon's Bible. And in listening to those powerful testimonies, I was reminded once more of the power of the printed Word of God. Today I have so many Bibles I have lost count. Some were required for seminary course work, some are written in Hebrew and/or Greek, and some are specialty Bibles, in picture, cartoons, or audio versions. Some I use for sermon prep. Some I hold on to because they have been passed down through the generations. None of them are the Bible my Dad gave me, sadly that has been lost in the numerous moves we have made. But what has stayed with me are the stories, and the verses that I have come to know through the reading the Bible. Two verses I love for their power to both console and comfort are "Jesus Wept." John 11:35 and "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:24

Today these words from 2 Timothy 3:14-17 are in my thoughts: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from which you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." I am convinced that to continue growing in faith I must embark on a fresh reading of this book that transforms lives, families, and communities. And I am inviting each of you to grow in faith alongside me.

Starting this Sunday, I will be distributing a schedule that will enable us to read through the New Testament, the Psalms, and the Proverbs in one year. This is timed so next year when we celebrate Bible Sunday in August of 2022, we will be able to declare together that we have gotten into the Word and have read the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs from start to finish. This will be done on an honor system. Each person that completes the task will be given a special recognition of the accomplishment. But the more important gift will be the increased faith, the power of the Word of God being put into hearts, and the equipping of our hearts for the days ahead.

On page 6 you will find a link to an important message on Right Now Media and on page 7 you will see the start of the reading schedule. The full reading schedule will be available in worship Sunday or through the church office. Let the reading begin!!!!