Random Notes on the Bible

Recently, we've seen God's word questioned, defiled, glorified, and deified. It's all caused me to really think through what the Word of God means to me. God's word is peace to me, but God's word also disturbs the peace in my life. That's right, it disturbs the peace. It causes me to see the storms. It's constantly stirring me as batter in bowl- It thickens me.

It tells the whole story. There are lots of things that I would have censored out, but God chose to tell the truth. To record anger so great that it wishes for the death of infants. It shows heroes with flaws. You won't find a Clark Kent type in this book other than Christ- who was the Word. Men and women fail and then succeed. Or they succeed and then fail. It's always a combination of both except for Enoch and he got a hall pass before the bell rang.

The Christians I'm around today are on a quest of defending the Word of God against heretics. Nothing new to the church… But as Spurgeon once said, "The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend it; you just have to let it out of the cage." (How I wished I would have thought of that metaphor! Please forgive the writer envy, Sweet Jesus.)

Theologians wield the Word of God as a theological litmus test to keep out people they don't like. We find our favorite parts, parts that fit our general worldview and we make people sign off on it. Others choose to make the Bible a graven image, worshiping it more than God himself. Putting God, the 20lb version on the communion table- never read *but ain't it big.*

As I read the Acts of the Apostles- the major formula of the Holy Spirit is this: The Holy Spirit doesn't have any formulas. Meanwhile the Acts of the American Church is that we

are glitzed out, overfed and underachieving. We are focused on the power of the company (church inc.) rather than the Company of His Power.

To tell you the truth the thing I love about God's word is this: It's a director's cut of the Good News. No deleted scenes. No formulaic ending, no apologies, and no edits. It's the light unto my path. It's a scary book when you get right down to it because it calls for radical love- it propels us to snatch people out of the leper colony and the Bethesda's pool of self-help and holistic healing. It leaves the servant work to me. It warns me to avoid debt and riches- both have the potential to damn me. And it dares me to believe in something from nothing, life from death, and beginning from ending.

You can't deconstruct the Bible, yea and verily, it is deconstructing you.

The Bible is Anti-Religion. It doesn't show God as a "tip toe through the tulips" Creator. He's a roaring Lion and He dares you to battle- note that His battle is always His. He is not looking for our help. He is inviting us to adventure- so great and unpredictable that even as we gasp our final breath, we look forward to the next page-turning chapter of the swashbuckling thriller. It is not stayed; it is not a book of administration and order. It's a living, progressive organism of divine transformation. And again, I say—**It's against religion.** (And most will never get their brain around that truth. I pray I will.) The Bible is about dead men walking. It's about surrendering- holding our hands to Heaven and watching our God, like an angry parent witnessing a bully torment his little girl- knock the snot out him and dare him to pull that stunt again. Therefore, one must examine himself to be sure he is not a bully.

Some Christians use the Bible as lawyers use precedent the argue their case citing certain past cases in God's Word as their loophole and syllogism. Usually, their case has more to

do with their personal power than it has to do with the Great Commission or the Greatest Commandment. Some of these people would rather see a neighborhood go to hell than have the wrong type of person (sex, race, political faction) preach in the neighborhood. And because of this they become the practicing liberals in the Body. I'm convinced that the Bible needs more lovers than apologists, more incarnations than discernment rangers.

I must spend more time reading the Word of God than the time I spend listening to people talk about the Word of God. I must spend more time letting the Word teach me through the Holy Spirit. It's trusting God's promise that the Word will accomplish what it set out to do. And yes, indeed, certainly, and verily I must DO the Word of God every day.

I look forward to spending more time in God's Word- when I do, it's never wasted time.