

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

May 4, 2023 – Pursuing Holiness – Myra Ilagan

Inclining Our Ears & Applying Our Hearts

“So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding.”

Proverbs 2:2 NKJV

We are to receive and treasure the Word of God (Proverbs 2:1) for a purpose: "so that you [may] incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding." One precedes the other. We must first receive God's Word - Himself - before we can incline our ears to wisdom and apply our hearts to understanding. The key phrase, so that, tells us how God prepares hearts to encounter the knowledge of Him. We incline our ear and apply our hearts by setting our heart on 100-percent obedience to the work of the Word of God in us. By nature, we do not want to listen to God, even when we are aware of the delights the Word offers us. Nor do we want to apply our hearts to follow God's ways, we want the eternal pleasures without having to change. And it takes the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit to work in us what is pleasing to Him.

Only the Word of God brings transformation in our lives. As we pursue the Word of God more and more, it begins to change us so that we will be more like Him. We feel pain as the Word begins to move on the inside of us, waging war on the areas of our hearts that are in rebellion against the truth of God, His ways, and His leadership in our lives. Despite the pain we will endure and pursue the Word of God that we may find the true knowledge of God. Know that our pain is caused by the Holy Spirit revealing and destroying the lies and secret sins inside of us. Why is this painful transformation necessary? Because He wants us to know Him, not in theory or thought, but for real. He wants union with us through the Word. God wants to make a home within us so that His Word - His Son - can fully abide in us and we can abide in Him. **But our secret compromises and strongholds hinder this union, for the Holy One cannot abide in the same place with sin.**

If we begin to understand what He is doing and why, we learn to embrace it, pain and all. We begin to apply our hearts in obedience. Receiving and treasuring the Word isn't enough, and we can't stop at inclining our ears to the Word. We have to go all the way and apply our heart, walking out obedience to the Word of God. Obedience is the manifestation of the Word of God ruling in us.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

John 14:15 NKJV

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

John 14:21 NKJV