

Welcome to Calvary Chapel of Hilo

Pastor Ron Brav - 933.1037 – ronbrav@gmail.com – www.calvarychapelhilo.org
885 Kilauea Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Sunday Morning - 9:00 A.M Light In Darkness 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

GUEST Worship Ken Wells

Next Week –9 A.M. "Out of Site, But Not out of Mind" 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

Wednesday Bible Study – Wednesday Morning 9:30 AM

The study of God's Word for the purpose of discovering God's will is the secret discipline which has formed the greatest characters.

James W. Alexander

John Blanchard, ed., *The Complete Gathered Gold: a Treasury of Quotations for Christians*

Bible Study; Community; Courage; Love; Relationships; Sacrifice
John 13:34–35; 15:13

Prisoners of war in Japanese camps during World War II endured horrific conditions. A few Christians formed Bible study groups, which brought about amazing transformations within the camps. POWs who had stolen and cheated from one another became men who cared for and gave their lives for their friends.

Ernest Gordon, in *Miracle on the River Kwai*, writes:

During one work detail, a shovel was missing, and the Japanese guard shouted, insisting someone had stolen it. Striding up and down before the men, he worked himself up into a paranoid fury. Screaming in broken English, he demanded that the guilty one step forward to take his punishment. When no one moved, the guard's rage reached new heights of violence. "All die! All die!" he shrieked. To show that he meant what he said, he cocked his rifle, put it to his shoulder, and looked down the gun sights, ready to fire at the first man at the end of the line.

Another man stepped forward, stood at attention, and said calmly, "I did it."

The guard kicked the helpless prisoner and beat him with his fists. He lifted his rifle high over his head and, with a final howl, brought it down on the soldier's skull, who sank limply to the ground and did not move. The men of the work detail picked up their comrade's body, shouldered their tools, and marched back to the camp. When the tools were counted again at the guardhouse, no

shovel was missing.

— Ernest Gordon

Miracle on the River Kwai (Collins, 1963)T

"So Shall My Word Go Forth and Not Return Void"

It is related that "an old peasant in Northwest India learned by heart the first chapter of John's Gospel. After his harvest was over he would go out year by year into the villages nearby and repeat what he had learned. It is stated that in eight years he had brought some four hundred of his countrymen to embrace Christianity and receive baptism."

We know that it is written: "As the rain cometh down, and the snow, from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth bud, that I may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Is. 55:10, 11).

SOAK YOURSELF IN THE TEXT

Charles Spurgeon once encouraged preachers by saying, "Soak yourself in the text." What is he talking about? He is talking about bathing ourselves in the Word of God. He's asking us to **meditate**, to **ponder**, and to **immerse ourselves in the Word of God**. The image is one of being submersed in water, to be **covered by the Word of God** — that we allow God's Word to **cleanse us**, to **purify us**, and to **give us a renewed sense of excitement**. The Word of God washes over our dirty bodies and cleanses us in such a way that we are able to see His Word in a new light.

I have heard that the late John Stott repetitively read the Word for the sermon passage that he was preaching on. Wherever he was, whether he was waiting for the doctor or sitting in a bus waiting for his transportation to take him to where he needed to go, he would pull out his Bible and read that passage over and over and over again. He would meditate on it. He would reflect on it. He would soak deeply in the Word of God.

I would like to encourage you to slow down. And maybe this week, just as Charles Spurgeon encourages us, "**Soak yourself in the text.**"

I will answer for it, the longer you read the **Bible**, the more you will like it; it will grow sweeter and sweeter; and the more you get into the spirit of it, the more you will get into the spirit of Christ.

—ROMAINE