*“With the Master Before the Mirror of God’s Word”* by Susan Heck

A Ladies Bible Study on First John

Tuesday, January 28th, 2020

*Susan shares that before the Lord saved her she “was absolutely terrified at the thought of the second coming of Christ.” Perhaps you have known someone who has experienced this same kind of fear or maybe you, at one point in your life have had these same fears or perhaps even now fear Christ’s imminent return. “John makes it very clear in the text we are going to cover that those who are born of God have no fear of the coming judgment or the rapture.” (pg.237)*

**Susan’s Summary** of Chapter 17– “Three Spectacular Gifts for God’s Children!” – 1 John 4:13-18 (pg.246)

What great gifts from a great God---

*“The Gift of the Holy Spirit” (v 13)*

*“The Gift of His Son” (vv 14-16)*

*“The Gift of Self-Confidence in the Day of Judgment” (vv 17,18)*

Have you received these gifts?

**Given by God Himself, these gifts are a wonderful assurance for the believer that she is born of God.**

Does the Spirit dwell within you?

Do you know the Son?

Do you have confidence when you consider the Day of Judgment?

Susan says, “As I mentioned before, these three wonderful gifts are also three tests to examine our hearts. I wish someone had challenged me in my college days with questions like these:

-“Susan, do you have the Holy Spirit living in you? If you do, what are the evidences that He resides within your heart?”

-“Susan, have you received the gift of God’s Son? If so, does your commitment to Christ manifest itself by a life of submission to His Lordship?”

-“Susan, do you have self-confidence when you think about the judgment that is to come or do you fear the day of the Lord?”

The great news is that now I can answer those questions with complete confidence. And you know what? You can talk to me all you want about the rapture, and I won’t get weak in the knees or sick to my stomach. Why? Because I have no fear of the rapture of Jesus Christ!

God’s love in my heart has flung those fears completely out of my life and I look forward to glory and eternity with the Father, and with each of you who have confessed Him as Lord!

In our last Tuesday morning Bible study as we worked through 1 John 4:13-18 we discussed the “Three Spectacular Gifts” that we as children of God possess. It was once again another rich portion of Scripture to not only stop and ponder its powerful proclamations but to stop and ponder it’s powerful implications for our lives! Let’s briefly look at 1 John 4:13-15 once again.

1 John 4: 13-15 “By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the ***SAVIOUR*** of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.” *(italicized mine)*

Looking at these verses, we had to ask ourselves some heart probing questions:

How do I know that I abide in Him and He in me?

How do I know that God the Holy Spirit dwells in me?

Am I able to tell others the evidences that God the Holy Spirit not only dwells in me but is working in me?

As we paused to reflect on 1 John 4:13-15, there was a question that Susan threw out to us in the middle of our study.

The question was —What does **“Saviour”** mean to you? (4b)

This question for me was very thought provoking. Especially because the question followed our having to prayerfully read and copy out multiple Bible passages that taught us about our dear Saviour. To me, it was simply one of those questions that I realized needed not only a lot more meditation on my part, but also needed a lot more implementation on my part!

It was exactly at this point in our morning study that we stopped, and I shared with you the fruit of my meditation on the meaning of our precious **“Saviour”** in acronym form!

Some of you ladies wanted me to share my answer again with you in written form. So, here we go!

What does **“Saviour”** mean to you? My **SAVIOUR**:

**S** – set His love upon me; suffered for me; saved me; sealed me with His Holy Spirit; is sanctifying me

**A** – accomplished in me His work of faith and repentance by His grace and adopted me as His very own

**V** – veiled(clothed) me with His perfect righteousness and made me holy

**I** – identified me: Called me out of darkness into His glorious Light to follow Him all the days of my life

**O** – owns me and has not only obtained for me an eternal inheritance but orders me to trust & obey Him

**U** – unleashed me from the power and penalty of sin

**R** – ransomed me; redeemed me; rescued me; regenerated me; removed my stoney heart and replaced it with a heart of flesh; recreated me into something new; renews my mind with His sanctifying truth

As much as these truths are powerful and profound, they need to become very practical in my life also. The Christian life is more than learning precise truths that are proclaimed in the Word of God. There are also powerful implications for our lives. The Christian life is learning how to live out these truths practically…for His honour and glory. Because of this, I created another acronym. Because my Saviour’s life is so amazing, I need His amazing grace to help me live as He lived.

Responses to my **SAVIOUR**:

It is by the Spirit’s enablement and empowerment, that I can pray each day…. Lord, I will:

**S** –submit and surrender my life to Your loving leadership and Lordship

**A** –acknowledge that I am in need of Your grace and guidance to live a holy and hope-filled life

**V** –view every situation and circumstance in my life as an opportunity to glorify Your name

**I** –invite You to search me and to test me and to see if there is any offensive way in me

**O** –open my mouth daily to say, “Bless the Lord, O my soul for all of Your benefits towards me”

**U** –understand that I am utterly dependant upon You to die daily to sin and to live to righteousness

**R** –relinquish control of my wants, my “needs”, my pain, my desires, my plans, and my will to Your will

How do I know that I abide in Him and He in me?

-Because you believe the Father sent the Son to be the **Saviour** of the world and you confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

How do I know that God the Holy Spirit dwells in me?

- My belief in the Gospel is the fruit and the evidence of not only His presence in my life but His work in me.

Am I able to tell others the evidences that God the Holy Spirit not only dwells in me but is working in me?

-Apart from His presence and His work in my life, I not only would never have come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, but I would never be able to walk in the light, confess and repent of my sins, love Him, obey Him, love others as Christ loved me, hate the world and the things in the world, do the will of God, practice righteousness, discern truth from error, or pray to Him….

Ladies, praise be to God as we have learned in this chapter that one of the spectacular gifts given to us as God’s children is the gift of God the Holy Spirit who permanently dwells within us and helps us “walk in the same manner as He walked” 1 John 2:5-6! We learned that we can live a Spirit-filled life as we yield ourselves to the control of His Spirit. How do we do that? We do this by “Letting the Word of Christ dwell in us richly!” (Colossians 3:16) As we wash and cleanse our minds with the living Word of God every day, praise be to God, His Spirit within us will continue His work of convicting us of our sin, counseling us, comforting us and conforming us more into His image!

GREAT things our Saviour has done, is doing and has promised to do! To Him be the glory, forever!

With love and prayers for all of you ladies,

Christyn