

## John 15:26 (KJV)

*But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

Trying to read the bible and follow it without the Holy Spirit, is like trying to drive a car with no oil in it, because without any oil, it won't get very far and will quickly breakdown.

In a job I had several years ago, part of what I did was to write procedures that new people could follow to do their job. I would also make any changes as things would change in our computer system, or rules would change based upon the government (I deal with the FDA) so the existing employees could follow these new rules or use the updated software correctly.

I was also the trainer, so when someone did something wrong, I would ask them if they read and followed the procedure. In most cases the answer was no, they didn't read the procedure to find the correct way to do their job, but rather they asked someone else, who gave them incorrect instructions. Because the person they asked thought they knew better than the procedure did, and that their way was better or right.

Now, as a trainer and a writer of the procedure, it would get frustrating at times when the instructions are right there for them to read and get the right answer. Yet people want to take a short cut and would rather ask someone else (or google it) instead of finding the right way by reading it for themselves.

Even when we get new Apps, or a new appliance, or a new car, or an upgrade to something, we don't read the instructions, because we think, "*I got this, I know how to use this*" then we get frustrated because this new thing doesn't seem to be working correctly. So we call the HELP line asking for assistance, and what do they ask you when you call? "*Did you read the manual or instructions, because it says...*" Even if you bought a new car, sure you know how to drive a car, but how many features are we not aware that our cars can do, or even with software (Apps) how many more things can the one we use everyday be even better if we read the instruction manual and find all these hidden gems located in it?

With all of this in mind, how much better would life be if we read the instructions for ourselves, searching for these hidden gems that God has placed there for us to find? Or in our car and software example of things withing it that it can do, how many great things does God have for us that wants to bless us with, and they are all there in black and white (**and red**, Jesus' words) and all we have to do is read the manual to find them.

How many times do we ask others about what they think about something we are going through, and like my example of work, how others think they know better than the procedure (God's word), so they give bad advice or wrong instructions?

Jesus' word tells us of these things when He said:

† **John 5:39-40** *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*

Did you catch the second part in verse 40? “***But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.***” And how do we come to Jesus to have this life, by going to His word and reading it for ourselves instead of asking others advice all the time.

You know, when we get to heaven, the excuse of doing something wrong will not hold up if we plan on saying, “*Well, so and so told me to do it, or they said that it was alright to do.*” But I wonder if God would come back and ask, “*But did you check the manual, My Word, that has all the instructions for life that I gave you to follow to have a wonderful life on the earth?*”

So, over the weekend and even the rest of the year and even the rest of our lives, let's ask God about those things we want to ask others about and getting their advice and ask the Lord to show us through His word the answer to our questions. Maybe He will answer with: “***Then when you pray, GOD will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.' 'If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins.***” Isaiah 58:9 (MSG)

Then meditate on these things as He speaks to you through His Word and the Holy Spirit directing you in His Word.

† **Proverbs 6:23** *For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life*

† **Proverbs 10:17** *He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.*

† **Psalm 119:104 (MSG)** *With your instruction, I understand life; that's why I hate false propaganda.*

† **Psalm 119:104** *Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*