

Pk's Perspectives ... Simply Read

Most of you know that I enjoy reading books. I wasn't always an enthusiastic reader; but somewhere around seventh or eighth grade I was introduced to the Hardy Boys - a series of 38 books - and I read every one of them. My passion for reading emerged and continues unabated! Nowadays I read all kinds of books: historical, biographical, devotional, theological, mystery & suspense, science fiction, historical novel...you get the idea. Sometimes I'll purchase a book because the title catches my fancy and when I'm finished reading the book I realize the title was the best part of the book! Some books require a great deal of self-discipline to continue reading beyond the first chapter...but like a snowball traveling downhill, the book gets better and better and the ending blows my mind! Some books are so profound that I experience a small twinge of grief when I come to the end. Reading is a great discipline to establish in your life; podcasts are good, videos are good...but reading sharpens the mind in a way that technology just can't!

I have some favorite authors and I'm always on the look-out for the release of their latest tome. Some of my fave authors are David Baldacci, Charles Martin, Ted Dekker, C.J. Box, Brad Taylor, R.C. Sproul, Lee Child, Chip Brogden, Chip Ingram, Daniel Silva, Gary Chapman, John Grisham, Mark Batterson, William Kent Krueger, and many others. I have favorite deceased authors and I tend to re-read certain of their books on a regular basis — authors like C.S. Lewis, Timothy Keller, Watchman Nee, A.W. Tozer, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer to name just a few. The only books I ever read more than once are the ones that highlight, teach, and reflect biblical truth within their pages and I want to share with you a passage from such a book...a kind of modern day parable. The author's name is Joseph Girzone and the title of the book I'm excerpting is Joshua. I would recommend this book if you've never read it.

“But it is important for you to remember that God is so far above you and His being is so far removed from anything you have ever experienced that you should not be shocked when He manifests Himself to you. His love for you is so tender and so intimate that should He manifest Himself to you in a way that is personal, in a way that expresses His desire to be present in your midst, you should not be scandalized. He is, as Isaiah said, your ‘Emmanuel’ — God in your midst. If this forces you to alter your understanding of the nature of God, then open your hearts and listen. Your minds must not be closed to a deeper and wider understanding of God than you may have known before. Though God is one, His oneness is far different from any kind of oneness you have ever known because He is unique. He is Himself. His oneness is not like the oneness of man's nature. Do not judge God by what you see in man. Even though man is, in a way, God's image, the image is reflected in man's soul. There is his soul, and his mind and his will, all distinct, but one.

“God is not limited in His presence. People are so frightfully rigid and limited in their understanding of things. Do you not realize that God can be present in many different ways? In whatever form He uses we should be careful not to prejudice ourselves and say, “He can't come in that form, or in this form,” because if we do, then we reduce God to our own limited image, and in doing that run the risk of rejecting Him if He comes to us in a way we don't expect. God may be one and He may be simple, but He can also manifest Himself in many facets of His greatness.

“Look at the sun. The sun is one and it is simple. However, there is the sun itself, and there is the heat and the light that touches our lives. We know the sun when its rays disperse the darkness of night. A blind man knows the sun by its warmth. They are different manifestations, but they are expressions of the same being. It is the same with God. His oneness cannot be defined by our understanding of oneness.”

Oh yeah — my all time favorite book is actually a book of books, the Bible!
Grace & peace, love you. PK.