

Howardscorner

Beginning Again

Today I have decided to begin again. My life has had a lot of beginning again happenings. To begin again you must have started something and have stopped or paused for a while. So, I will give you a little background of what I started or was led to start. When I say led to start, I supposed you should know who is doing the leading. I, a long time ago made my commitment to follow Jesus as Lord of my life. Even in that decision it has not been a smooth journey. I have not stopped or paused in that journey, but circumstances sometimes changed the direction of my actions and how I followed His lead. So, I will try to explain how that decision happened and then maybe I will get to what I am starting again.

I grew up in a small dot on the map in Alabama. The beginning years, were not what people today would call –living in the “Lap of luxury” –but I was doing well as far as I remember. To my knowledge I never missed a meal, and I had a mother that carried me to church every Sunday in my young years. I do not even remember going to that church –Methodist I think-- but do remember getting a perfect attendance award for a year so I know my mother put some foundations in me that have lasted these many years. We had a big family of 7 children all of which have become followers of Jesus. A “really big deal” for this world and in these times. We are all in the latter part of our lives now and at this writing we are just four. Three have gone to be with the Lord. I am now 82 and am still following Jesus and listening to the Holy Spirit’s direction.

We moved three times until we came to Birmingham around 1950. At the later part of my high school years, I went to an Oral Roberts crusade and went forward to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. I had been attending a Methodist church for a few years but occasionally went to the local Baptist church. We were a well-rounded family –Methodist, Baptist, and Church of God. I went to the Methodist pastor and asked to be immersed instead of sprinkled. At that age I knew enough to know that I wanted the best the Lord wanted to give me. I was not a bible student at that time, but I knew that Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river and I knew that was the method used in the bible. I would not make argument against sprinkling but for

me that was not my choice. This decision to follow Jesus was I guess one of my **beginnings again**.

My life progressed from that point to going to work and to getting married and having children. These were I guess the good times. Loving my wife and children and progressing in my work career. Several years passed by quickly and we enjoyed a what I would call a “blue collar” country club where we played golf and enjoyed swimming for the family. We attended church every Sunday and were, it seems ordinary Christians. You might say I was just a “pew warmer”. But somewhere along the way I forgot who I was committed to follow. I was living just like everyone else in the world at that time. I began to realize that the parties I went to and the people I was with while seemingly nice and decent people, by the world’s standards, did not have deep thoughts about God and His kingdom. The conversations were not deep enough to drown a flea.

One day I had a medical emergency and thought I was having a heart attack and went to the emergency room. I thought I was dying. I knew I was not right with my Lord Jesus and had drifted away from my commitment to Him and His kingdom. Knowing that I had been going to church gave me no comfort. As I found out later going to church does not save you and give you eternal life. I knew that there was more to it than that, so I repented in my heart and started to seek God with all my heart. It took a while, but I began to read the word of God with fervor and praying and seeking a relationship with the Lord. This searching time was a new **beginning again**, but it did not happen overnight.

One day I had been meditating and praying and was at home on my sofa somewhat watching television. Then there came on me a feeling of liquid love poured out on my head and running down through my body. Indeed, I had been baptized with the Holy Spirit. The love that I felt was not describable in words, but this love remained on me for a long time and still does most of the time but not always because I am still in this world and this world has problems. This was indeed a new **beginning again**. This time however it was not by my strength or will or certainly not my righteousness. It was a supernatural power abiding in me. It was the Holy Spirit taking His residence in my heart. I did not speak in tongues as some say is necessary when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit. I did later in life speak in tongues as my prayer language and still do today. I think God is sovereign and gives the gifts as He

chooses at the time he chooses. This I say to my brothers in the Pentecostal denominations. Let God be what He chooses to be and the way He chooses to do things.

I was completely changed and wanted to know the Lord and His word. When I started to share the changes in my life it became evident many of my friends did not understand what had happened to me and many did not support me at that time. One said that we did not have anything in common anymore. He was right for I was no longer like the world around me I had changed permanently. I had been changed for eternity. My eyes were on the Kingdom of God and his will for my life. I remembered my original commitment to my Lord Jesus. I had been "Born again" with a new spirit dwelling in me. My old sin nature had been replaced with a new spirit. This is not to say that I became perfect, but I had a new desire to follow the Holy Spirit living in me but at the same time still living in this same body I was born with.

I wish that I could tell you a fairy tale that everything turned out well and things went smoothly but that is not the case with me. I wish I could tell you that when you become a Christian that all your problems will go away, and your life will be one of happiness and blessing but that is not what happened to me and that is not what Jesus told us. Always remember that the disciples almost all went to a martyr's death and many in the churches were persecuted. This persecution is still going on in a lot of the world but we in today's churches do not see persecution in this country and do not know it is happening. But it could happen to us at any time. If you are looking for an easy life with no problems and riches in this world then I can tell you that It most likely will not happen. Our promises are for eternal life. Keep your eyes on eternity where Jesus will reward you at that time.

So, I went to work in my local Methodist church teaching Sunday school and being involved in church life. It was a learning time. A time to catch up on my Bible reading and study but as were all Methodist churches, that I was familiar with at that time, a rather lifeless church just going through the motions and the congregation was not growing at all. The community was growing but not the Methodist church and that troubled me. At that time, the Lord put in my heart that He had something for me to do but I did not know what.

Then the Lord gave me a couple of promotions at work and the last promotion led me to move to Atlanta Georgia. After the move I started to look for a church and visited a few. One Sunday I visited the 1st Methodist of Marietta. The church was alive full of music and great preaching. I remember to this day the first sermon I heard the preacher preach, it was “Good News--Good News--Good News” and the gospel was preached for the first time I had ever heard it in the Methodist church. My wife and I immediately joined this church. I had found another **beginning again**.

I started to work in the church. I taught Sunday school and began to form small groups and got involved in Evangelism Explosion ministry. It was a great time in my life for I had found fellow Christians that were like brothers and sisters to me. We worked together as one. With our going out and witnessing to the community we were adding over 400 new members mostly new converts a year to the church. There was a need for 3 services each Sunday and it was full every week This went on for a few years but our enemy, that is Satan began to attack many of our leaders. Some died and some had cancer, and some had family problems with divorce. I personally had a tragic personal problem which caused me to take a sabbatical from my involvement with church ministries.

During my sabbatical, the church went on well without me, but I was in attendance every week but was a “pew warmer” again. I thought the sabbatical would only last a short time, but life gave me some unexpected turns. A few years later this local church had a major disagreement with the Methodist Church that caused a split with about 1400 of the strongest leaders leaving. I remained because I still believed that the Lord had called me to this church for a reason. New preachers came in and for twenty years there has been no emphasis on evangelism and the services have been mostly ritualistic with no real preaching of the gospel, like the old Methodist church I had seen before I came here. I remembered that the Lord had put on my heart that I had a purpose here.

Then one day my wife became ill with an autoimmune disease, and I took care of her and did handyman work to make ends meet. She was ill for 11 years before she died. We still attended 1st Methodist during those years. After she died, I began to get active in this church by going back to my old Sunday school class. It was difficult to get reestablished since I was single and had not found my place to work in the church.

During this time, the Lord began to work in my life. I had a refilling of the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as my prayer language. I was searching for my beginning again place. The church has changed from when I was active. The gospel was not being taught and there was no evangelism at all. Having been a teacher at one time and still studying and learning. I felt like I had no platform to speak to this church. Bible knowledge and sound theology were missing. I found I had to speak out but felt I was in a corner without a voice and few if any wanted to hear what I had to say.

I decided to start writing letters to my class with my interpretations of what the Bible teaches about salvation and many other matters. I called my letters Howards Corner. This went on for a while. Some people liked the letters, so I was encouraged. I was teaching the Bible view and not necessarily the Methodist view because I see no evidence that in the Kingdom of God that there are denominations. We are to be one in Christ.

My letters were rejected by the leader of the Sunday school class, so I started my own web site and have written several letters that are still on the site. Only a few have read them. Although I have told many about my web site there has been almost no interest in my writings. I am wondering how many really care about the truth or are they just content to be "Pew Warmers". I am seriously concerned about the Methodist church and considered leaving because I see little hope of any change. You might as well take the flame off "the cross and flame symbol" for there is no fire and almost no cross preached.

So, I am at a decision point. What do I do now? While I was discussing this with the Lord, He told me to wait on him. Therefore, I have been waiting on the Lord. While I have been waiting, I have been studying the Word. I was trying to understand the book of Revelation and though I have read it at least 10 times and studied some others teaching on it I was still struggling with understanding. I have also studied the book of Daniel and had a reasonable understanding of it but had some parts that were not clear to me.

So, I asked the Lord to help me understand. He heard me and led me to find a good teacher on the internet where I can study at any time and was at no cost. The Lord works in mysterious ways they say, and I can say He does answer if we are looking for the answer.

He led me to versebyverseministry.org where I found the detail teaching of Steve Armstrong in San Antonio Texas. He teaches a detail study verse by verse of many books in the Bible. He does a tremendous job of reaching to other scripture to further explain the subject. I have learned more in the past year from him, adding to a good basic knowledge I already had, than I had learned from the church or just reading on my own in the last 65 years in the Methodist church.

This last year there was a pandemic in the world which came shortly after the Lord asked me to wait on Him. This pandemic caused a lot of the worlds functions to stop or be revised drastically so everything went to slow motion or no motion. Churches shutdown or took pauses. Businesses closed or were very restricted. Schools closed and people had time at home to do their restricted things. People were sick and many died. It looked like a wake-up call for the world to me. I am not sure if people really woke up or did, we just want to get back to our normal way of living. Did we look at the big picture and understand that God uses times like this for us to understand what is important? God has always spoken to us through events in history. Have you not noticed? I will write on this in a later teaching.

For me it was a particularly good time for me to double up on my studying. I have completed not only Revelation which was my original objective but also many other books of the Bible. At this point I have put 400+ hours of study and continuing. Though my start of studying was to understand the prophetic writings I soon branched out to a wide range of teaching. I will not teach on prophesy in this writing but will probably write a separate teaching on Bible prophesy. Although it is especially important for us to know the time and age we are in and what we have been told is to happen next.

Steven Armstrong passed away at the age of 55 from Covid 19. He was in good health but still did not make it through. He is with Lord now as was his desire. His favorite saying was “eyes for eternity”. His teachings are still on his web site and are available free of charge. His belief was the gospel is not for sale. I will miss him greatly. versebyverseministry.org

Therefore, I have decided to start writing again. This is my **beginning again**. My purpose is to reach out to anyone that wants to know the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as taught in the Bible. I will teach a clear understanding of the

scriptures as interpreted by the Holy Spirit in my heart and with proper study of the Old and New testaments. I will use input from Bible commentaries and other reliable sources. My objective will be to be non-biased toward any denomination but rely on the interpretation of the Bible with guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, Howards Corner is once again open for business. There is no cost. The Gospel teaching is free to all that hunger and thirst for the Word of god. It does not matter what denomination you are I am only teaching what the Bible teaches.

With the Love of Christ Jesus

Howard Beasley