

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

A light to my path

- Pastor Hank French

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path (Psalms 119:105)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.... And the Word became flesh and lived among us (John 1:1-5, 14).

Jesus told his followers, "If you *continue* in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." One of Martin Luther's most well-known and best loved hymns begins with the words: "Lord, keep us *steadfast* in your word."

Luther wrote this lyric because he understood that unless one is steadfast in God's word, unless one continues in God's word, unless one lives God's word, it is practically impossible to be truly Christian.

Without the Word of God, Jesus, there would be no faith, no trust, and no knowledge of God. Without the Word of God there would be no knowledge of forgiveness and mercy, no receiving of salvation, and no entering into a relationship of mutual love with God.

Without the Word of God, Jesus, there is no gospel, no good news for the downhearted, the brokenhearted, the dispirited; without the Word of God there is no good news for the sinful, for those bowed down by guilt or shame; no good news for the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, the excluded; without the Word of God there is no good news for the wounded, and in one way or another, we are all wounded.

Without the Word of God, Jesus, we could not know, we could not experience or trust the heart of God. Without the Word of God, we would not know that the heart of God is the heart of love and justice, and we certainly would not be able to follow the heart of God.

Prayer: Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word that we might be truly Christian, that we might know you and trust you and follow you. Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word, a lamp unfailing. Amen.