

September 10, 2017

“Life Verse – A Close Encounter
When God Gives Direction for Our Lives.”

“Little Becomes Big When God’s Got It!”

*“The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.”
Isaiah 60:22*

A. God’s Word is ...

1. Inspired!

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

2. Alive!

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12 NLT

3. A Guide!

*“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”
Psalm 119:105 NIV*

4. A Mirror!

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.” James 1:19-24

B. My first personal encounters...

1. My first personal encounter was when I gave my heart to Christ.

*“But we have never turned our backs on God and sealed our fate. No, our faith in him assures our souls’ salvation.”
Hebrews 10:39 TLB*

2. I was concerned that my old friends would reject me.

“Of course, your former friends will be very surprised when you don’t eagerly join them anymore in the wicked things they do, and they will laugh at you in contempt and scorn. But just remember that they must face the Judge of all, living and dead; they will be punished for the way they have lived.” 1 Peter 4:4-5 TLB

3. I wondered if God wanted me to stay in the teaching profession.

“Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them.” 1 Corinthians 7:20 NIV

C. My encounters when life was a struggle...

1. When I was discouraged, He promised encouragement.

*“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”
2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NIV*

2. When I felt defeated, He promised victory.

*“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”
Romans 16:20a NIV*

3. When I felt incapable of serving, He promised strength.

“For the Holy Spirit, God’s gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them.” 2 Timothy 1:7 TLB

D. My encounter when God called me into ministry...

1. Even though I didn’t understand, God gave me direction for my future.

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” 2 Timothy 2:1-7 NIV

2. When I didn’t know where to turn, God gave me a promise for future of Meadowbrook.

“Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.” Isaiah 30:20 NIV

E. My encounter when God called me to pastor Christ Wesleyan...

1. God reassured me that He had a great plan than I had ever imagined. (Isaiah 61 Ministry Chapter)

*“The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.”
Isaiah 60:22 NIV*

2. God gave me a focus for my ministry!

*“to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith...”
Ephesians 4:12-13a*

“...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.” John 17:20b-21a NIV

3. God reminded me to always keep Him as my “first love!”

“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance... You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.” Revelation 2:2-4 NIV

Fall Sermon Series:

September 17, 2017 – Pastor Ken

September 24, 2017 – Pastor Ryan

October 1, 2017 – Pastor Immer

October 8, 2017 – Pastor Mike

October 15, 2017 – Pastor Branden

October 22, 2017 – Pastor Erik

October 29, 2017 – Pastor Arlie