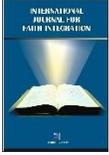


INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR FAITH INTEGRATION



BABCOCK UNIVERSITY



International Journal for Faith Integration

Volume 2

June 2021

Number 1

Instructions for Our Everyday Living and Work

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Editorial

Instructions for Our Everyday Living and Work

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A couple of years ago, I was in a prayer meeting, and one of my colleagues was asked to pray. While praying, she acknowledged God as "The God Who Gives Instructions". For some reasons, that sounded so new to me as if that were the first time I would think of God in that role. And, at that time, I was reading the Old Testament portion of the Bible for my morning devotions. From that moment, each time I opened my Bible, I saw God giving series of instructions to us Himself and through various channels – humans and nature. God's instructions are not limited only to the Old Testament. The New Testament is replete with instructions from Jesus Christ and His disciples on how Christians should live, work, relate, minister, and engage in this world. There is no situation in life that God has not instructed on how to confront; there is no work or responsibility that God has not instructed on how to perform. The challenge that confronts us as Christians is that, sometimes, we are too busy to find those instructions from the word of God, and to apply them to our situations or work. Other times, we are satisfied with just doing things the way they have always been done, without asking what the Lord says about those situations.

The Bible is our instruction book. In it, we find the God Who gives us instructions and the instructions He has laid out for us. If we apply ourselves to His instructions, we will be able to live and work according to His will, and will have peace. Through Job, God instructs us: "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good shall come unto thee. Receive, I pray thee, the law from His mouth, and lay up His words in thine heart" (Job 22:21-22). If we live according to His instructions, we will fulfil His mandate to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13) and the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). It is only the light from the word of God that can dispel the spiritual darkness that has engulfed our world today. It is that light that will reveal to us how to live out our faith as Jesus did when He was on earth.

In this issue of the *International Journal for Faith Integration*, the authors present research-based and practical articles that reflect how God's instructions in His words affect what we do and how we live. I invite you to sit back, read and enjoy them. May they challenge you to search for instructions from the word of God and apply them to your everyday living and work! May God bless you as you do His will!

Constance C. Nwosu, PhD. Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and English, and the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Babcock University. Her areas of expertise include, but not limited to Faith Integration, Curriculum Development, and Instructional Strategies. She is in charge of on campus faculty and staff development, and also heads the Institute for Faith Integration at Babcock University. She conducts workshops and organizes symposia and conferences on faith integration.