I have been asked to speak about the benefit of study as a discipline.

Over the years, I have participated in a variety of Bible Studies.

Long-term studies.

Short-term studies.

Thematic studies.

Studies for women.

Studies on church seasons, or particular books of the Bible…

I love history. I love to read. I love to learn.

So when I heard a young pastor in our midst (PAUSE) speak of

GRACE – INFUSED HABITS WHICH TETHER US TO GOD…

Something shifted.

I realized that through Scripture-

-the parables

-the poetry

-the history

-the lineage

I learn about Christ and the Company of Saints. OUR collective story.

And MY OWN story.

I will not lie. Some days my better angels are not in charge and I have to wrestle with God before I read my daily assignment.

HOWEVER -

I have NEVER once finished a day’s reading and thought:

“Well, THAT was a waste of time.”

BECAUSE:

Bible study is a grace-infused habit which tethers me to God.

Bible studies are open to everyone.

I have studied alongside people who don’t vote as I vote.

And to be painfully honest, I have studied alongside people I do not particularly like.

So when I feel love in my heart for EVERYONE at that table, I know Christ is present.

And when I can LISTEN to everyone at the table with the HEART and MIND of Christ, I am RECEIVING His grace.

That Grace FEEDS my hungry soul.

That Grace enables ME to EXTEND Grace to others.

Bible study helps me to live.

GRACE – FILLED.

GRACE – FULL.

ALL of us… tethered to God.