

Ready for Action

II Timothy 3:16-17

10/22/06

Intro

In these verses Paul warns Timothy that in the last days difficult times will come. Clearly we are living in the last days where, Paul says, people will hold to a form of godliness, but deny its power – always learning but never coming to a knowledge of the truth.

The power of the scriptures is the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives by the Word.

Paul says in verse 16, “All scripture is inspired by God...” If a person “ex-spires” they breathe out their last breath. Here, God “in-spires,” He breathed into those who wrote the scriptures, superintending what they wrote so that they were without error as they wrote. But He allowed their personalities to come through as well.

God breathed life into Adam and God is still breathing life into us today because the Holy Spirit is in us and changing us.

These are insights in how God breathes life into us by the inspired Word of God.

I. Let God Breath in His Word

- God still inspires His Word as the Holy Spirit brings change in our lives by the word of God.

A. The Spirit inspires change

- Verse 5 – there were those who had a form of godliness, but denied that it could change lives.
- But the Spirit takes the word of God and uses it in our lives for change.

Ephesians 6:17, And take up the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

I Thessalonians 1:5, for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction;

- The Word of God pierces into the very issues of the soul where real change has to happen.

Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Illus - A person could read the scriptures on a desert island and become a believer in Jesus Christ.

B. Be instructed by God’s word

- **All** scripture is profitable for teaching – for instruction.

Illus – I remember when I was in high school taking all the classes I was required to take and I was not the only

one who was wondering if I would ever need this information.

There are parts of the bible that people look at the same way, but Paul says that ALL scripture is profitable for our instruction.

Psalm 19:7-11 The wise will be made simple.

Proverbs 4:10-13, Hear, my son, and accept my sayings and the years of your life will be many. I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble. Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.

- Here again is the question of a willing heart. God wants us to desire the instruction of His Word.

Jeremiah 15:16, Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;

C. We must live what we learn

- The purpose of instruction is that it be lived out in the daily stuff of life.

Illus – the only way to truly learn a language is to actually use in daily life. Learning Russian for me was this way.

James 1:22-25, But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is

like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

- Some people hear that and then minimize the importance of hearing.
- But hearing is how we learn. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ.”

Illus – “The Proclaimer” and how it will change Africa.

Illus – The Africans who first heard that 2,000 pigs perished.

II. Let God Use His Word to Prepare You

- God breathes in His Word and that is good for reproof (rebuke), correction, and training for righteousness.

A. Receive God’s reproof

- This is the only place this word is used in the bible, but it is very significant. It says that God’s word is used by God to reprove or rebuke us.

Illus – No one actually likes a rebuke. We don’t raise our hand in class and say, “teacher, choose me.”

Illus – When I was going to MBC, a professor ‘reproved’ me in front of the class, but the Lord used it to bond us together.

- Perhaps the best way to translate the word would be “convict.” God’s Word, we know, convicts us in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- This is one of the most powerful ways that we are changed.

Hebrews 12:5-7, “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.” If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? NKJV

- God’s reprove is the wound of a friend who cares about our lives and wants the best for us.

Proverbs 27:6, Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

B. Receive God’s correction

- Paul says that all scripture is profitable for our correction as well.
- The Greek work means to “straighten up” something that is in need of it.
- Another way to see it is that God sets us on the right path. He doesn’t convict without at the same time showing us the right path.

Illus – When we were in school, many of us experienced the famous “red marker” of teachers who had ‘corrected’ our papers. But that is not the idea here, God’ correction is ‘setting us on the right path.’

The picture I have is of a father working with his son to see what he needs to do and he says it in such a way that the son says, “I get it. I see what I need to do.”

- The same root of this word is seen in book of Luke.

Luke 13:11-13, And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. NKJV

- But we all so need to be available to God, in other words willing.

C. Receive God’s training

- We receive training in anything we want to excel in. This is like a coach that finely tunes an athlete for the sport in which he competes.

Illus – I have taken our kids fishing for many years, but I have often been frustrated at not knowing how to fish.

One year, I decided to learn fly fishing – what a disaster. I had no coach. I caught no fish. Then I read a book

about where I should go; and then I asked the fishermen what to do. Now I was catching fish.

Luke 6:40-41, “A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.”

- Paul says that God’s word trains us in righteousness. God is training us how to live day by day in a more righteous way.
- God helps us so we can be more like Christ in how we live.
- Paul says this is what we need to prepare us for every good work.
- If you want to be used of the Lord, you will want to be prepared, equipped, and trained.

Conclusion

“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” the scripture says. There is no other truth that transforms us like God’s Word, it is more than sufficient to bring the changes in our lives that God desires because it is breathed from God by the Holy Spirit into our hearts.