

The Power of the Word

Two weeks ago we moved into our October theme by talking about the Seed ... the Word of God that has the power to bring salvation and transform lives. It is important for us to focus on the effectiveness of the Word. It is able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. It is also useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. This all leads to maturity. Focusing on the Word should be a distinguishing characteristic of the Cornerstone church. It is behind everything we do. Our personal lives are dominated by it. When God speaks to us ... we heed what He says.

I. Understanding the Context

- A. 2 Timothy 3:14: *But as for you, **continue** in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, Continue: “to remain, abide, or stay.” In what is he to continue?*
- B. 2 Timothy 3:15: *and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred **Scriptures**, ...*
 1. The scriptures. Don't walk away from them. Conserve them. Continue in them.
 2. We need to be unapologetic in our allegiance to the unchanging truth of the word.

II. The Power of the Word

- A. 2 Timothy 3:15: *the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for **salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. It is the Spirit's instrument to lead you into a relationship with Christ.*
 1. John 5:24: *Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal **life** and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.*
- B. A collection of Scriptures: John 6:63: *The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.*
 1. John 12:49–50; John 20:31: *But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by **believing** you may have life in his name.*
 2. Romans 10:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; James 1:18: *By his own choice, he gave us birth by the **word** of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*
 3. Psalm 19:7: *The Law of the Lord is perfect, **restoring** the soul;*
 4. Luke 8:15: *But the seed in the good ground—these are the ones who, having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, produce fruit.*
- C. The Bible is our greatest tool of evangelism.
 1. 1 Peter 1:23: *you have been born again—not of perishable seed but of **imperishable**—through the living and enduring word of God. What is the “imperishable” seed? It is the word of God.*
- D. Why the Scriptures Have Power
 1. 2 Timothy 3:16: *All Scripture is **inspired** by God...*
 2. Psalm 119:89: *Lord, your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven.*

III. The Effectiveness of the Word:

- A. Scripture provides us with doctrine
 1. 2 Timothy 3:16: *it is profitable for teaching, for rebuking,...*
- B. Scripture impacts our behavior
 1. 2 Timothy 3:16: *...for correcting, for training in righteousness,*
 - a) *correcting* - to straighten out. “to stand straight,” “to set up again,” or “to put on its feet.
 - b) *training* - it brings you to maturity.
 - c) **Righteousness** - holiness; *Right things; right behavior; right conduct; right thinking; action; words.*
- C. This makes us complete
 1. 2 Timothy 3:17: *so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

IV. As We Close...

- A. Do you need the Word for salvation? Have you come to know Christ?
- B. Some of you sitting here need doctrine. You're not yet living the Christian life to its fullest.
- C. Do you know Him? If not, why not?