

S TUDY GOD'S WORD

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 - 4:5

Main Theme: We are to be a people of the Word.

Scripture is our bread that must be fed upon constantly to maintain spiritual health. More importantly, it is a lifeline to our Father... a personal message from Him to us. A source of direction, knowledge, and transforming power in our lives.

I. ...TO HEAR HIM

The word of God provides direction. We learn right from wrong and discover His will through scripture. God's voice speaks clearly to us from every page as we learn to listen.

John 10:27 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

II. ...TO KNOW HIM

The Bible gives us a glimpse of who God truly is. We don't just hear His voice... we see His face! Scripture reveals the nature and character of God.

1 Cor. 13:12 *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

III. ...TO BECOME LIKE HIM

Finally, as we hear His voice and see His face, direction and understanding lead to change. We become like Him as the seed of His word takes root in our hearts and begins to bear good fruit.

The parable of the sower... **Luke 8** (key verse: **11**)

1 Peter 1:23 *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*

Additional Verses:

2 Timothy 2:15-16 // Hebrews 4:12 // Psalm 119

HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE

EXODUS 20:1-3 / MARK 12:30

Main Theme: God should be the focal point of our existence.

Everything we say, do, and are should serve to bring Him glory and point others to Him.

I. IN PRAISE

PRAISE is the outward expression of God's goodness. It can be a private outflow of our individual devotional lives, or a public declaration intended for others to hear. Praise goes beyond singing and music, although both have a strong biblical presence. We should be a people who verbally declare the wonders of our God for the world around us to hear.

Psalm 150 (the entire chapter)

Hebrews 13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

II. IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP comes from the Old English word, *worship*, meaning to give worth or value to something. We should live our lives in a way that shows that we value Him above all else. True worship is about making God the highest, and only, priority in my life.

Matthew 4:10 *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*

John 4:23-24 *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

III. IN DEMONSTRATION

We are ambassadors of God and His kingdom to the world around us. We must live in a way that honors Him and displays His nature to a world that is unable to see Him otherwise.

2 Cor. 5:20a *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:*

Additional Verses:

1 Timothy 1:17 // 1 Chronicles 16:25 // 1 Corinthians 2:4

INVEST SACRIFICIALLY

2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-14 / MATTHEW 6:33

Main Theme: We are to follow the example of Christ by being givers, not takers... "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). The spiritually mature believer recognizes the church, not merely as a place to be ministered to, but a place to minister in. We are to invest our lives in the kingdom of God.

I. TIME

How time is spent clearly indicates a person's priorities and values. Weekly church attendance is the only commitment for many casual believers, but the mature disciple sees membership in the body of Christ as a serious commitment worthy of a major investment of time.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

II. TREASURE

We do not own anything. All that we have has come from our Father and belongs to Him. We are merely stewards of the resources He has entrusted us with and have a responsibility to use those resources wisely within His will and for His purposes.

Malachi 3:8-10 *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."*

Proverbs 11:24-26 *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself. 26 The people will curse him who withholds grain, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.*

III. TALENT

Our natural abilities and spiritual gifts are to be placed at the LORD's disposal for Him to use as He sees fit. We need a servant's heart, willing to minister to others with whatever we have.

1 Cor. 12:7 *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

Colossians 3:23 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...*

Additional Verses:

Luke 6:38 // Luke 12:13-21 // Matthew 6:19-21

NURTURE FELLOW BELIEVERS

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

Main Theme: The church was established as a place where Christians can come together to mutually build each other up. We have each been equipped with things that are needed by the rest of the local body. Each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the spiritual growth of individual believers & the overall health of the church body. Our duty to our fellow saints is to:

I. EQUIP THEM FOR MINISTRY

Ministry is nothing more than building others up with whatever we have available to us... Our talents and gifts, time and energy, material resources. But what are we building others up for? The end goal is continued ministry. True discipleship is reproductive.

Acts 18:24-26 [account of Apollos being instructed by Aquila and Priscilla]

II. HELP THEM GROW TO MATURITY

Spiritual maturity does not happen by accident. You grow because you are fed and tended to. We need to feed and nurture each other with spiritual growth in mind.

1 Peter 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.*

John 21:15-19 [Jesus commanded Peter to feed and tend to the flock.]

III. TEACH THEM TO SHARE THE BURDEN

Unity is not just about a shared blessing, but a shared responsibility. True discipleship brings new laborers into the ministry of the body.

Luke 10:2 *Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

Galatians 6:2 *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Additional Verses:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 // Ephesians 2:19-22 // Matthew 11:19-30

E VANGELIZE THE LOST

MARK 16:15-16

Main Theme: Everything we've discussed so far leads us to evangelism. The study, lifestyle, giving, and discipleship are all building the church toward its ultimate purpose: reproduction. We are called to "be fruitful and multiply."

I. WITH YOUR WALK

We should live in a way that stands out against the grain of our culture. As light in darkness, our character and behavior should be radically different than those around us. We are meant to serve as living examples of God to a world that only sees us.

Matthew 5:14-16 *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

1 Peter 2:11-12 *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

II. WITH YOUR WORDS

It is not enough to "let our little lights shine." We must preach the gospel. The world needs to know the reality of their current spiritual state and the truth of what God has done for them.

Romans 10:9-17 *[...How shall they hear without a preacher? ...faith comes by hearing...]*

1 Cor. 1:18-25 [Message of the cross is foolishness to the world, but is how God has chosen to save them.]

III. WITH WISDOM

Our witness becomes most effective when it is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is not enough to just "tell everybody about Jesus." We need to be sensitive to His prompting as He knows the hearts of the ones we are sharing with.

Colossians 1:28 *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*

Acts 6:10 *And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.*

Additional Verses:

1 Peter 3:15 // Acts 2:36-39 // Matthew 10:19-20

We are called to. . .
SHINE

STUDY • HONOR GOD • INVEST • NURTURE • EVANGELIZE
God's Word with Our Lives Sacrificially Fellow Believers the Lost

