

The Transforming Power of God's Word
2 Timothy 3

Introduction: As Steve said on Sunday, everyone of us is becoming somebody. For better or worse, each one of us is being spiritually formed. Although there are many things that God uses to shape our lives, central to our formation are the Scriptures. In this study, we will consider a passage of Scripture that explicitly tells us what God wants to do in our lives through His Word.

Opening Question: What is one event, person, truth, etc. that has had a significant role in shaping who you are today?

Read 2 Timothy 3

1. What is the context of chapter 3? In what kind of world did Timothy live and minister?
2. What is Paul's command to Timothy in verse 14? And why is this important given the world in which Timothy lived?

Steve said:

The term translated "inspired" means (literally) God-breathed. The imagery suggests that the Scriptures have come from the mouth of God. This is consistent with the imagery of the Scriptures being the "word of God." "All Scripture" referred to the Hebrew bible in Paul's day. Since the New Testament writings now have the same status as "Scripture" (see 2 Peter 3:16), we understand that both the Old and New Testaments are "God breathed."

3. What are the implications for us of the Scriptures literally being from the mouth of God?
4. In what ways does Paul say Scripture is profitable for us in the process of spiritual formation?

5. How have you seen these benefits of Scripture in your life? Can you think of any specific examples?

Steve said:

When Paul writes that “all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness,” he probably isn’t saying that every single passage of Scripture accomplishes all four of these things. Different passages of Scripture have different functions in our lives. But taken together - as a whole - “all Scripture” accomplishes this four-fold benefit in our lives. This is why it’s important to spend time in all different portions of Scripture, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

6. Do you have a practice of spending time in all different portions of Scripture? If so, how do you do that?

Steve said:

Consistently receiving Scripture is really a matter of submission to God. When we consistently, over time allow “all Scripture” (the whole of Scripture) to teach, reprove and correct, and train us in righteousness, we are allowing God (by His Spirit) to shape and form our lives. We invite **God to be God in our lives** when we allow Him to do whatever He wants to do through the Word . . . When we talk about the Bible having its rightful place in our lives, we’re really talking about **God** having His rightful place in our lives. The challenge of our passage today is to allow God to teach, reprove, correct, and train us so that we will be adequate and equipped to live out our calling. And God does these things through the Scriptures.

7. Do you agree with the statement that "receiving the Scripture is really a matter of submission to God"? Why or why not?
8. Do you think/feel that your current habits with the Scriptures are allowing God to shape and form your life?
9. What habits do you sense you need to begin or strengthen to more consistently allow the Bible to have its rightful place in your life?