



All Scripture Is God Breathed **2 Timothy 1: 1-6; 3: 14-16 (17)***

All scripture is God breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17—ESV).

Paul wrote his letter to a man who was raised by a Christian grandmother and mother. As he grew up, they taught him the Hebrew Scriptures and how they pointed to the coming and work of Jesus Christ. When Timothy was prepared, Paul laid his hands on Timothy and formally set him apart for the sacred work of the ministry. And the Holy Spirit gave Timothy the gifts he would need for serving Jesus. In 2 Timothy 3: 16- 17, Paul teaches Timothy and us how to “fan into flame” the gift of the Holy Spirit, Who is given to us by Jesus.

The goal and guidance in Paul’s message to Timothy are also for us. As Christians, we aspire to live as more faithful followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to do the will of God. We prepare ourselves for the good work that the Lord Jesus wants us to do. With the help of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures, we commit ourselves to serving God and others in whatever way the Lord leads us. Today, we need to think about how we can follow Paul’s advice and “fan the flame” within us.

First, we need to study the Bible, especially the New Testament, with a strong prayerful intention to learn the truth. As we mature, we look to godly men and women and books that have stood the test of time, that are known to offer true teachings from the Bible, though no one is perfect but Jesus, and no book is perfect but the Bible, the infallible Word of God written. It is important for us to know what is true, because we will be tempted to doubt. The Bible never instructs any teacher to teach doubts in God or the Bible.

Second, our intense study and sincere obedience to the Scriptures will make us wise and able to understand the right way of doing and living with the help of the Holy Spirit. We will be given the wisdom to understand and do day by day what God wants us to do to help others with our knowledge of the Bible and what Christ expects of His followers.

Third, during our prayerful study of the Bible, we can ask Jesus to show us what we are doing wrong and what we need to do right. In reading the Bible, Jesus will sometimes touch our hearts and minds in ways that make us sorry for what we have been practicing or failing to practice. Remember that Jesus Christ is merciful and forgiving and eager to help us. He is with us. He will give us the wisdom and strength to do what will please God and us. As our love for Christ increases, we will learn of more improvements we will want to make with His help.

Fourth, if we know God is calling us to help someone else with a problem or sin, we need to pray that they will see the love of God through us and our love for them as we share with them what the Bible teaches. Only the Holy Spirit can help us love and teach those we believe have become unlovable. Jesus corrected the correctable with kind, loving, and patient ways, and we can pray and strive to do the same. We do not have the infinite love and mind of Christ, so we ask Jesus to teach us and lead us as we seek to help others His way and not in the ways of sinful human nature.

Finally, as we pray, study the Bible, and practice the ways of Jesus for His followers, we are training in righteousness and preparing ourselves to meet the Lord Jesus Christ face to face. We want to hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” When we think of ourselves as followers of Jesus, we need to remember these words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

* The committee that determines the Scripture readings for each week’s Uniform Lesson omitted 2 Timothy 3:17, which left teachers and students with an incomplete sentence. Our Bible Lesson will focus on 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Furthermore, 2 Timothy 3:17 is vital to understanding the complete International Bible Lesson.