

When God Speaks

Reflecting on 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Paul is writing his final letter from a Roman prison, knowing his death is near. He writes to Timothy, his protégé, who is serving a church in a culture becoming increasingly hostile to the truth. Paul's solution for this darkness is not a new strategy or human wisdom; it is a call to remain in the Scriptures.

1. The Source of Authority

Question: Paul says we must continue in Scripture because it is "breathed out by God." Why do we often prioritize tradition, human experience, or popular opinion over the Bible when making decisions, and what is the danger of doing so?

Dig Deeper: If you were to look at your major decisions over the last month, how much did Scripture actually dictate your choices versus your own comfort or logic?

Notes:

2. The Purpose of Scripture

Question: The sermon mentions that Scripture is not merely a collection of moral lessons, but a record of God's plan of salvation. How does this shift change how we read the Old Testament?

Dig Deeper: When you read a passage of Scripture, do you immediately ask, "What must I do?" or do you first ask, "What does this show me about God and my need for Jesus?"

Notes:

3. The Problem of Sin

Question: Paul says Scripture makes us wise for salvation. Why is it impossible to understand the severity of our sin without the light of God's Word?

Dig Deeper: Where do you see "the world" (our culture) minimizing the reality of sin, and how does the Bible provide a corrective lens?

Notes:

4. Reproof and Correction

Question: Hebrews 4:12 describes the Word as a "two-edged sword." Why are we often resistant to the "reproof" and "correction" that Scripture offers, and how can we learn to welcome it?

Dig Deeper: Is there an area of your life where you have been avoiding specific verses because you know what they demand of you?

Notes:

5. Training in Righteousness

Question: If "training in righteousness" is like physical exercise—an ongoing formation of character—why do we often treat Bible reading as a "quick fix" for spiritual problems rather than a lifelong discipline?

Dig Deeper: What daily habit can you create to ensure you are consistently "training" in Scripture rather than only opening it when you are in a crisis?

Notes:

6. Ordinary Obedience

Question: The sermon argues that "every good work" often refers to ordinary, faithful obedience rather than extraordinary acts. How does this relieve pressure on the average believer, and how does it challenge us?

Dig Deeper: What is one "ordinary" act of obedience God is calling you to this week that you have been neglecting?

Notes:

7. Accessibility and Stewardship

Question: Many martyrs, like William Tyndale, died to get the Bible into the hands of ordinary people. What does our tendency to neglect the Bible say about our view of its value?

Dig Deeper: If the Bible were taken away from us tomorrow, would your daily life actually look any different?

Notes:

8. Fighting the Battle

Question: We are told we are in a spiritual war. How are you currently using Scripture as a "sword" to fight against the specific lies or temptations you face in your daily life?

Dig Deeper: What lie about God or yourself is currently the loudest in your head, and what specific passage of Scripture counters that lie?

Notes:

Carry-It-Forward

"What's one thing God impressed on you tonight that you want to carry into this week?"

Go Deeper

- **Read:** Psalm 119:105-112. Reflect on how God's Word serves as a "lamp" and "light" in your current situation.
- **Study:** Hebrews 4:12-13. Consider how the Word "judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Journal about one area where God's Word is currently doing this in your life.
- **Listen:** John 5:39. Spend time reading the Gospels this week, specifically looking for how Jesus fulfills the promises made in the Old Testament.