

J.J.

GOD SPEAKS (Part 3)
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Review : For the past two weeks, we have talked about God speaking today through the Scriptures, the Bible.

We have heard that the Bible is God's Word. It doesn't contain God's Word, it is God's Word.

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed

We have also learned that God's Word is :

¹⁶ All Scripture

Scripture means "graphe" something "written". So the 66 books that were written (39 in OT and 27 in NT) is God's Word.

Application : So we must base our beliefs, lives and decisions based on what is written.

Illustration : When I was younger, I was so superstitious that it's ridiculous. A black cat crossed over my path (the superstition is if you passed through it, it's unlucky), that I had to go all around the neighborhood just to reach my house when it's only a few yards away.

Another thing that I want to emphasize is there is NO MORE new revelation from God. As Jude says in his letter :

Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

The Holy Spirit's job today is "illumination". As shared to you in last Bible's study, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to His Word that we personally understand it. The problem begins when people think there are new revelations from God.

For example : The Book of Mormons

Another warning (I say this because as a pastor this is my duty to feed, take care and protect the Lord's sheep) is not because they are popular and you see them on TV and etc, you listen to them hook line and sinker.

The most notorious of them all is Benny Hinn.

- Claimed to have a video of Jesus walking around in one of his meetings but when asked to show the video, he says it has been misplaced
- December 31, 1989, went into a trance and said God was giving him real time prophecies about major events. The collapse of the American economy within a decade (1999), 1990s East Coast would be ravaged by earthquake, Fidel Castro would die in office, rapture of church would occur, homosexual community would be destroyed by fire in '94 or '95
- Claimed that God revealed to him that there are nine persons in the Godhead

Deutoronomy 18: ²⁰ But the prophet who dares to speak a message in My name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet must die.’ ²¹ You may say to yourself, ‘How can we recognize a message the Lord has not spoken?’ ²² When a prophet speaks in the Lord’s name, and the message does not come true or is not fulfilled, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

- Regarding healings, claims to have a department that verifies all healings but investigations showed that healings are not verified and they don’t even have a department that verifies these healings
- Investigations even show from independent sources that all the healings are either psychosomatic or it never actually happened.

I’ve already discussed before the tests of a person with the Biblical gift of healing. They heal “everyone” who comes to them “instantaneously” and “all the time” and sometimes it is not even dependent on the “faith” of the person who asked to be healed.

The reason why we tell this to you is because there are

Matthew 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Sometimes, these wolves act knowing they are wolves. Sometimes they act out of ignorance or are acting out of presumptions, BUT fails when tested against God’s Word.

WE ALREADY HAVE GOD’S WORD (SCRIPTURES) THAT WE CAN RELY ON FOR EVERYTHING!

Note : It’s liberating that we have God’s Word and as shared last time, if it’s God’s Word, then it is THE TRUTH. If it’s the truth, then it’s a reliable source to follow and trust.

I believe I have talked to you about knowing God’s will and there’s nothing mystical about it. Knowing God’s will is based on what’s written

For example of God’s will :

1 Thessalonians 5: ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

It’s God will for us to give thanks to whatever happens to us.

1 Thessalonians 4: It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; God’s will for you is to live holy and pure lives.

Let me give you the principles on how to know God’s will and this is for free ☺

- If it’s directly commanded or stated in the Bible, then that’s God’s will.

Example :

Colossians 3: 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

When will you not obey your parents? When what they’re asking you to do is to sin.

1 Thessalonians 4: It is God’s will that you should be sanctified

But you may ask, pastor, what if I have a spouse already? Who should I follow?
The Bible is also very clear on that one.

Ephesians 5: ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

What's the principle behind this?

³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Which brings us to next step :

- **If it's not directly commanded or stated in the Bible, follow the Biblical principle or example.**

Example : Pastor, should I marry this man or not?

The Biblical principle :

2 Corinthians 6: ¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

Note : I've seen a number of Christian men and women who have backslided because they married someone who doesn't believe in Jesus Christ.

And then of course, use also your practicality : Does he have a job? Is he gentle and nice to other people specially to those who are lower than them? The Biblical principle :

Proverbs 22:24 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,

If you follow the Biblical principle, then you will save yourself from a lot of heartache.

Read also the book of Proverbs, there's so many wise sayings there or principles you can follow which is God's will

- **If it's not commanded in the Bible or there is no Biblical principle or example to follow, then do whatever you want.**

1 Corinthians 10:23 "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive.

Example : Food. Yes you can eat all kinds of food but not everything's going to be good for you specially if it's abused.

Example : What kind of socks should I wear? There's no direct command or principle regarding wearing socks, **then just choose the sock you like.**

BUT when it comes to clothing, specially women's clothing, there are principles for that.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

You can be fashionable but make sure what you wear is not going to attract men in the wrong way.

1 Peter 3: ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

But in everything else, there is definitely a Biblical command or principle that can be found that can guide us.

What's our job now that we know God's Word?

Romans 12 : 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Your job is to saturate yourself with God's Word. Read, Study, Listen, Memorize and Meditate.

If you do this, then in every decision you make, you know it's God's will because it's according to God's Word.

So when you pray to God for wisdom :

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

The Holy Spirit will remind you of God's Word to follow.

Illustration : Charles Spurgeon said that our blood should be "Bibline".

It means that what is flowing in our blood must be the Word of God.

Ice-Breaker : But there is one command that we don't know we're breaking, "Do not eat salt because it is ASIN" (Asin is salt in Tagalog)

2 Timothy 3: ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Pray

Last time, we talked about :

I. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

Today :

II. THE BIBLE SHOWS GOD'S WAY

1. The Bible shows what to believe

¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Bible shows us the way to salvation.

Before anything else, I love how Paul said,

from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures

Etymology : infancy "brephos" a newborn child, infant, babe

So it means, ever since he saw the light of day, Timothy has been exposed to God's Word.

How?

2 Timothy 1 : ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Eunice is not a Jewish name, it's a Greek name, so it means, Eunice's mother got saved and then the grandmother was instrumental in saving her daughter Eunice and Eunice was instrumental in exposing Timothy to God's Word.

Example : In this church, the reason why we transferred here in Nahani is because we wanted to have space for the children so they can study God's Word in a more conducive environment.

As parents, what is the best inheritance that we can give our children? IT'S NOT MONEY, IT'S SALVATION! IT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

- They can't bring the money you will leave them
- They can't bring the house you will leave them
- Their education is of no use after this world

I'm not saying these are bad things but you have to make sure that they know Jesus Christ because eternity hangs in the balance. An eternity in hell without God or an eternity with God.

Mark 8: 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Note : The Bible doesn't save you. IT'S JESUS CHRIST WHO SAVED YOU. What it does is it shows the way for you to be saved.

and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

That's why Paul says in the Book of Romans

Romans 10 : 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Note : The Word of God is all about Christ.

All the reading of the Bible is futile and useless if you don't believe in Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father.

Illustration : Back in 1830 George Wilson was convicted of robbing the U.S. Mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it. The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall, who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. "A pardon is a slip of paper," wrote Marshall, "the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged." For some, the pardon comes too late. For others, the pardon is not accepted.

Lesson : Reading and listening to God's Word is useless if we don't accept the forgiveness our Lord Jesus offers when we read in the Bible.

S.G.D.