



God's gift
to the
world.

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2 Tim 3:14-17

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

God's Word is a gift to us, He graciously provided us his written Word. God didn't have to do so, but his love for us, his creatures, has moved him to provide us with his Word in written form. God's love for us comes first, then follows his provision of the Bible. We wouldn't be able to know and love God if God hadn't first loved us and communicated to us through his written Word. God gives us his word in Scripture because he loves us, and he wants us to *know* that he does. We should always remember that the Bible is God's gracious gift of love to us.

What does Paul mean Inspired by the Spirit?

God's word is how He has made himself known to us. The word "inspired" means "God breathed." By the Spirit of God, certain people down through the ages were called, appointed and specially enabled to speak authoritatively for God. They were "inbreathed" by the Spirit, first the prophets of the Old Testament and then the apostles of the New Testament.

What **2 Tim. 3:15** is telling us is that the Bible itself tells us this is God's Word, who the author is and where the Scriptures came from. Reading the Bible is like reading a letter or an email from someone you know and who knows you, not like getting junk mail from someone you don't know and who doesn't know or care about you. Sometimes when I've get emails from people I know, and read what they wrote, I can almost hear their voices. I know how they'd say it. It sounds "just like them." Reading the Bible should be like that. The more we get to know the heart, mind, purpose and attitudes of Jesus, the more we'll hear his voice throughout all of Scripture.

So by the Spirit, Scripture serves as a written communication that God can continually use to make himself and His ways known to his people down through the ages. It was the Spirit of God at work in these individuals throughout history giving us written communication of God's authoritative Word.

God has given us His Word. We hold it in our hands. We read it. But do we realize what an incredible treasure we have been given? Do we read God's Word like we're completing a duty, or with joy and eagerness, expecting God to speak to us just what we need for the day? Do we really realize that His Word is a priceless treasure meant for us? Do we really understand that we're holding the Word of God in our hands--the words of the All-knowing, All-wise, All-powerful God?

We should value God's word like David

Ps. 119:23-24

Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.

Ps. 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

King David understood the value of God's Word. He meditated on it--and made it his delight and counselors. Can we say the same? Is God's Word our delight? Do we soak Scripture up like we would a letter from a dear friend?

Col. 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

God's Word, is the ultimate gift given to mankind – **John 1:1-15:**

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 **And the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

– **Jesus Christ – “God's Word made flesh!”**

If we study God's Word, we then learn about Him, His ways, His love for us, and how He helps us to grow each day. The Bible says, “All Scripture is given...for instruction in righteousness. Simply put, the Bible is God's Word to us! And as we study it, we discover and learn how to live as God, our Creator, designed us to live. And as a result, we please Him, plus, we experience His joy and peace.

In this process of reading and studying God's Word, we are inviting Jesus to join us, and to help us learn what He would have us know from His Holy Word. We should always enjoy our time studying God's Word and getting to know Him better. And as the Holy Spirit leads and guides our hearts, minds and spirits, we will grow as God designed us to grow.