

CHIEF MINISTRIES

January 2025

Greetings and Happy New Year!!

Jesus says in John 17:17, *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth”* (NIV).

What does sanctify mean? It simply means to grow up and to be made more like Christ—to get a reset. After you choose to follow Jesus, you’re not the same person. You’re different. You’re being sanctified.

How does that work? How are you sanctified? By God’s truth. The more you incorporate God’s Word into your life, the more you’re going to be transformed and made new. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to reset the areas of your life where you want to experience change.

However, making a change will always require you to know God’s Word. It’s the manual for resetting your life!

When you decide that you don’t like the way you’re living and the decisions you’ve made are just not working, then you need to go to God’s Word. It’s going to help you in very practical ways: Let’s look at how....

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT).

The Bible shows you the path to walk on. It shows you where you got off the path. It shows you how to get back on the path. And it shows you how to *stay* on the path. There is an acronym frequently associated with BIBLE which is “Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.” It is pretty accurate when you look at “resetting your life”!

In His Word, God has given you everything you need to make changes and then stay on the right path. This is why a daily quiet time of Bible study and prayer is important. If you’re going to change, then you’ve got to face the truth. And where is the truth? It’s in God’s Word. When you’re not in God’s Word, you’re not learning and facing the truth on a daily basis. That is a must for anyone seeking a change in their lives.

The Bible is a mirror that will reflect the good, the bad, and those areas that need change (the ugly). Let God show you all the truth he offers in his Word so you can make changes that will lead to a life of purpose and joy.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 is a foundational passage Bible that highlights the divine origin and purpose of scripture. Here’s a detailed explanation of these verses:

1. "All Scripture is inspired by God"

- The phrase "inspired by God" (often translated from the Greek word *theopneustos*, meaning "God-breathed") emphasizes that scripture originates from God. While human authors physically wrote the Bible, God guided them by the Holy Spirit to ensure His truth was conveyed without error in its original context.
- This underscores the Bible's authority as God's Word, making it unique among writings. It is trustworthy and carries divine wisdom for believers.

2. "Useful to teach us what is true"

- Scripture is a source of truth in a world where people often have conflicting opinions about right and wrong. It reveals God's character, His plan for humanity, and the moral and spiritual principles by which people are to live.

- It serves as the ultimate guide for understanding life, salvation, and God's will.

3. "To make us realize what is wrong in our lives"

- The Bible acts as a mirror, reflecting areas of sin and spiritual shortcomings in our lives. Through its teachings, believers are convicted of behaviors, attitudes, or thoughts that are out of alignment with God's standards.

4. "It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right"

- Beyond pointing out sin, scripture provides the way to correction. It doesn't leave us in guilt but offers guidance through repentance, for restoration, and righteous living.
- It teaches virtues like love, humility, patience, and obedience, shaping us as believers to live in a manner pleasing to God.

5. "God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work"

- The ultimate goal of scripture is not merely intellectual knowledge but transformation and action. It prepares believers for good works by shaping their character, increasing their understanding of God's will, and equipping them with wisdom for serving others.
- This aligns with God's purpose for His people: to reflect His love and glory in their lives and actions.

Application for Christians:

This passage encourages believers to:

1. Regularly study Scripture, trusting its divine inspiration and authority.
2. Allow the Bible to guide their understanding of truth and morality.
3. Be open to correction and strive for spiritual growth.
4. Apply its teachings practically in serving others and living out God's calling.

Doing a reset in your life is not something you can do with just human energy. Only God can produce that kind of transformation in your life.

Think of it like this: Someone could make a law that says, "No more prejudice. No more racism. No more bigotry." But no law is ever going to turn a bigot into a lover. Only God has the power to do that, because, it requires an internal change, and only God can produce a truly lasting transformation in our hearts.

In the same way, you can tell yourself that you're ready to change, that you want to change, that you can change, and that you will change. But nothing will ever happen, nothing that lasts or has eternal significance, without the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says in Zechariah 4:6, "*You will not succeed by your own strength or by your own power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD All-Powerful*" (NCV).

Just like you can't transform yourself into a tiger or a leopard, you can't transform yourself to be like Christ. You can't change your life on your own power. Willpower is not enough.

You didn't collect your hurts, habits, and hang-ups overnight, and you're not going to eliminate them overnight either. It's going to take time. In fact, it's going to take the rest of your life! It's a slow process. And on your own, you won't have enough patience and endurance to finish strong.

But there's good news. The Bible promises, "*As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him*" (2 Corinthians 3:18 TLB).

Making changes involves a lifelong process that requires the power of Holy Spirit. As the Spirit works within you, God transforms you into who you were created to be and makes you more and more like him.

When God wants to make a mushroom, he takes six hours. When he wants a mature oak tree, he takes 60 years. Do you want to be a mushroom or an oak tree? God wants you to grow into an emotionally mature, spiritually strong, happy, and healthy man or woman of God.

It won't happen quickly. But it will happen with the help of the Holy Spirit.

When considering 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in light of Zechariah 4:6, the Bible emphasizes that the transformative power of Scripture and the ability to live according to God's will come not from human strength or effort but through the Spirit of God.

1. "All Scripture is inspired by God" (2 Timothy 3:16) and "By My Spirit" (Zechariah 4:6)

- The inspiration of scripture ("God-breathed") connects directly to the work of the Holy Spirit. Just as Zechariah 4:6 reminds us that success in God's purposes is not achieved through human strength or effort, Scripture's power lies in its divine origin, breathed out by the Spirit of God.
- The Spirit, who inspired the Word, also enables believers to understand and apply it. Without the Spirit's guidance, human effort would fall short in grasping the depth of God's truths.

2. Scripture's Role and the Spirit's Power

- **Teaching Truth:** Zechariah 4:6 reminds believers that truth and victory come through reliance on the Spirit. Similarly, scripture, inspired by God's Spirit, reveals truth that transcends human wisdom.
- **Conviction of Sin:** The Bible points out what is wrong in our lives, aligning with the Spirit's role in convicting the world of sin (John 16:8). This conviction is not merely intellectual, but a spiritual awakening prompted by the Spirit's work in the heart.
- **Correction and Transformation:** Correction and teaching for righteousness are only effective through the Spirit's empowering presence. Zechariah 4:6 reminds us that we cannot achieve lasting change or obedience by our own power; it is the Spirit who transforms hearts through the Word.

3. Equipping for Good Works

- 2 Timothy 3:17 teaches that Scripture prepares believers for every good work. Zechariah 4:6 highlights that these good works are not accomplished by human effort but by God's Spirit working through us.
- Good works are an outflow of a life yielded to the Spirit, guided by the principles of God's Word.

4. The Unified Message

- Both passages underscore that success in the Christian life—whether in understanding Scripture or living out its teachings—requires total dependence on God. The Bible, inspired by the Spirit, equips believers, and the Spirit empowers them to live in obedience.

Application for Believers:

1. **Dependence on the Spirit:** Approach Scripture with humility, recognizing that understanding and application come through the Spirit's guidance.
2. **Reliance in Action:** Trust God's Spirit to work in and through you to bring about the good works for which Scripture equips you.
3. **Prayerful Study:** Seek the Spirit's help in studying the Bible, asking for wisdom and strength to live by its truths.

In essence, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Zechariah 4:6 together remind us that the power of scripture and the ability to live righteously come not from human effort but from the Spirit of God, who inspired the Word and empowers, guides, corrects, and equips believers for a life of faith and service for His people to fulfill His purposes. It is not just a historical document but a living, active source of wisdom and transformation. "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!"

May this year bring peace and revelation to all!

Blessings and prayers for each of you in this New Year!

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

Christ's Heart In Every Felon



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