

BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST

The Keys of Spiritual Development

The Benefits & Blessing of the Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16

Introduction: Before coming to the Scriptures for wisdom and guidance we must be convinced of their authority. We must also be persuaded that there is actual benefit in doing so before we will be motivated to read the Scriptures with purpose and persistence. Before even giving the application, Paul address both of these issues: *All Scripture is inspired by God AND profitable....* In this brief study we will examine the benefits and blessing of building God's Word into our lives.

I. God IS interested in our success in life. He desires us to live lives of purpose and blessing. Here are some of the words the Bible uses for lives well lived:

- A. Profitable—Prov 3:13-15; Is 44:9-11; Jn 6:63; Acts 20:18-21; I Tim 4:7-8; Heb 4:2
- B. Successful—Gen 39:2; Joshua 1:7&8
- C. Satisfied and Contented—Deut 6:6-12; Ps 91:14-16; Luke 6:20-21; I Tim 6:6-11
- D. Great Gain—I Tim 6:6-11; Phil 3:8-11;
- E. Wise & Full of Understanding—Deut 4:5-8; Prov 1:1-7; Dan 2:21-22; Ps 19; Eph 5
- F. Strong and Mature—I Co 1:5-8; 2:6-7 Eph 4:12-15; 6:10-16; IJn 2:14;2:6-7; Heb 5:12-14
- G. Unshakable and Immoveable—Ps 16:7-8; Heb 12:27-28;
- H. Blessed and Greatly Rewarded—Ps 119:1-2; Pro 3:13-18
- I. Respected and Influential—See Nehemiah (All) & Daniel (All)

II. Every One of these Benefits Comes as a Result of Knowing God and His Ways Through the Study of His Word:

- A. Adequate & Equipped for every good work—2 Timothy 3:16-17
- B. Fortified to resist sin and satan—Psalm 119:11; Ephesians 6:10-17
- C. Matured through knowing the Word of God—I John 2:12-14; Hebrews 5:12-14
- C. Transformed to a Godly perspective by renewing of the mind—Romans 12:1-2
- D. Knowing God through the Word BY the Holy Spirit—I Corinthians 2:1-16

III. A Truly Successful Life Does Not Develop by Accident:

- B. Fill your heart with Scripture—Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 4:12
- C. Talk about the Word with family & friends—Deut. 6:6-12; Ephesians 5:19-20
- D. Study the meaning of Scripture passages—2 Timothy 2:14-16; Proverbs 25:2
- E. Seek God through His Word—Rom 10:17; with Heb 11:6; Jn 5:39-40; Lk 24:27

Conclusion: The purpose of the Word of God is to reveal the character of God and to expose the problem of sin and rebellion. God promises a life of joy and peace, of true success and strength of character for those who pursue a relationship with Him through diligent study of His Word. It is not knowing the Bible that insures a quality life, it is knowing God. But the knowledge of God comes through the revelation of His nature and His will found in His Word. It is impossible to mature in our walk with Christ and to make the choices that lead to true success if we fail to build God's Word into our heart.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
(2Ti 3:16-17 NAU)

¹³ *If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."* (Exo 33:13 NIV)

³ *No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.*

⁴ *Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; ⁵ guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*
(Psa 25:3-5 NIV)

²⁴ *Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.*

²⁵ *I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.*

²⁶ *I recounted my ways and you answered me; teach me your decrees.*

²⁷ *Let me understand the teaching of your precepts; then I will meditate on your wonders.*

²⁸ *My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.*

²⁹ *Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me through your law.*

³⁰ *I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws.*

³¹ *I hold fast to your statutes, O LORD; do not let me be put to shame.*

³² *I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.*
(Psa 119:24-32 NIV)

