



# INSIGHT

to biblical TEXTS

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## Slide #1

There are four major *Provisions for Successful Living* that God has provided each Christian in order to experience abundant living:

- Provision #1—the **Word**
- Provision #2—the **Mind**
- Provision #3—the **Choices**
- Provision #4—the **Spirit**

This article *Provision for Successful Living #1—the Word* addresses the content of 2 Timothy 3:16-17. In addition, a separate article *Word Supplement, Compiling the Word* discusses how the written Word was compiled.

## Insight to 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### WORD

## Provision for Successful Living #1

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1

## Slides #2

What was the primary factor God used to draw you to Himself? Was it a sermon you heard or an article you read informing you about the love of God in sending His Son to die for you? And why did you think that sermon or that article was true? Most respond, “Because the information was based on the Word of God.” In that case, the automatic assumption is that the Word is a reliable and trustworthy source of God’s communication to mankind. It is from God. Then if the Word is true, it applies to me and to you! But, many people think the Bible isn’t from God and therefore not valid. So, why should we think the Bible is true?

### WORD AND MIND

#### 1 Corinthians 2:10-3:4

#### REVELATION (THE WORD) FOR THE MIND (2:10-13)

10 For to us God revealed them [the things of God] through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

#### COMPREHENDING THE WORD BY THE MIND (2:14-16)

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. 16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

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### Slides #3

There are numerous reasons to trust in the *Reliability of God's Word*:

#### 1—Unity of the Bible

Written by 40 different authors using 3 different languages in 66 documents over a period of 1,500 years, yet it has the very same message from beginning to the end.

#### 2—Fulfillment of Prophecy

Examples of some 300 fulfilled prophecies regarding the life of Christ follow:

Born of a virgin

Isa 7:14 7—Matt 1:18-25

Born of the house of David

2 Sam 7:12; Jer 23:5—Matt 1:1;  
Luke 1:32

Born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2—Matt 2:1; Luke 2:4-7

His way prepared by a forerunner

Isa 40:3-5; Mal 3:1—Matt 3:1-3;  
Luke 3:3-6

A prophet

Deut 18:18—John 6:14;  
Acts 3:20-22

Triumphal entry

Zech 9:9—John 12:12-16

Betrayal price

Zech 11:12-13—Matt 26:15;  
27:7-10

Abandoned by His disciples

Zech 13:6-7—Matt 26:31;  
Mark 14:50

Beaten and spat upon

Isa 50:6—Matt 26:67

Hands and feet pierced

Ps 22:16—John 19:16-18

Crucified with transgressors

Isa 53:12—Mark 15:27-28

Resurrection and exaltation

Ps 16:10; Isa 52:13; 53:10-12—  
Acts 2:25-32

#### 3—Claims of the Bible

Concerning the *accuracy* of the Old Testament, Jesus said, “Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished” (Matt 5:18).

Concerning the *fulfillment* of the Old Testament, Jesus said, “All things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled” (Luke 24:44).

Concerning the *inspiration* of the New Testament, Paul wrote, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16).

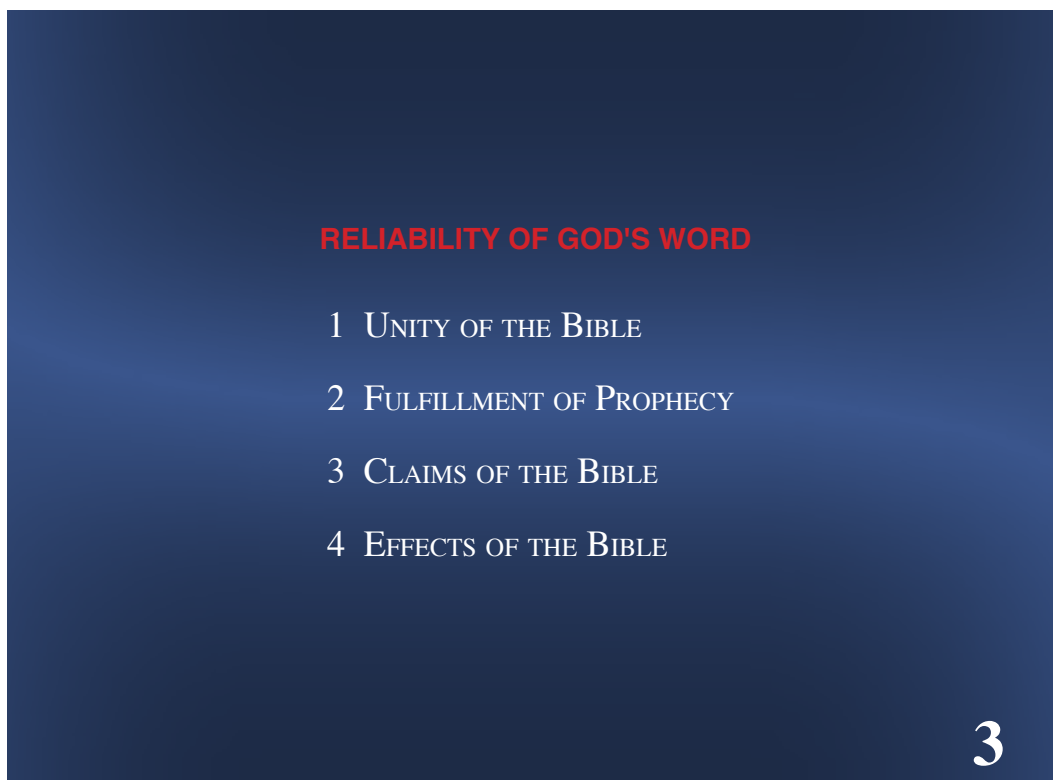
Concerning the *inspiration* of the New Testament, Peter wrote, “No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit from God” (2 Pet 1:21) and equated Paul’s writings with the “rest of the Scriptures” in 2 Peter 3:16.

#### 4—Effects of the Bible

The effects of the Bible are stated in the following quote:

The message of the Bible has shaped the course of history, thought and culture in a way unparalleled by any other book. Its influence on the philosophy, morality, law, politics, art, music, literature, education, and religion of Western civilization is beyond estimation. It has also had a phenomenal impact on the lives of untold millions of people through the centuries. Its redemption message has consistently given help, joy, and meaning to everyone who has personally embraced it.<sup>1</sup>

Obviously, there is an enormous amount of evidence to trust in the reliability of the Scriptures.



#### Slide #4

How did we get the Bible? The answer to that question is discussed in detail in the article, *Provision for Successful Living #1: Word Supplement, Compiling the Word*. Our intent here is to provide an overview.

The content of the written record is the message of God given in revelation to mankind. The Scriptures are God-breathed based on 2 Timothy 3:16. This text will be discussed in detail later in this article.

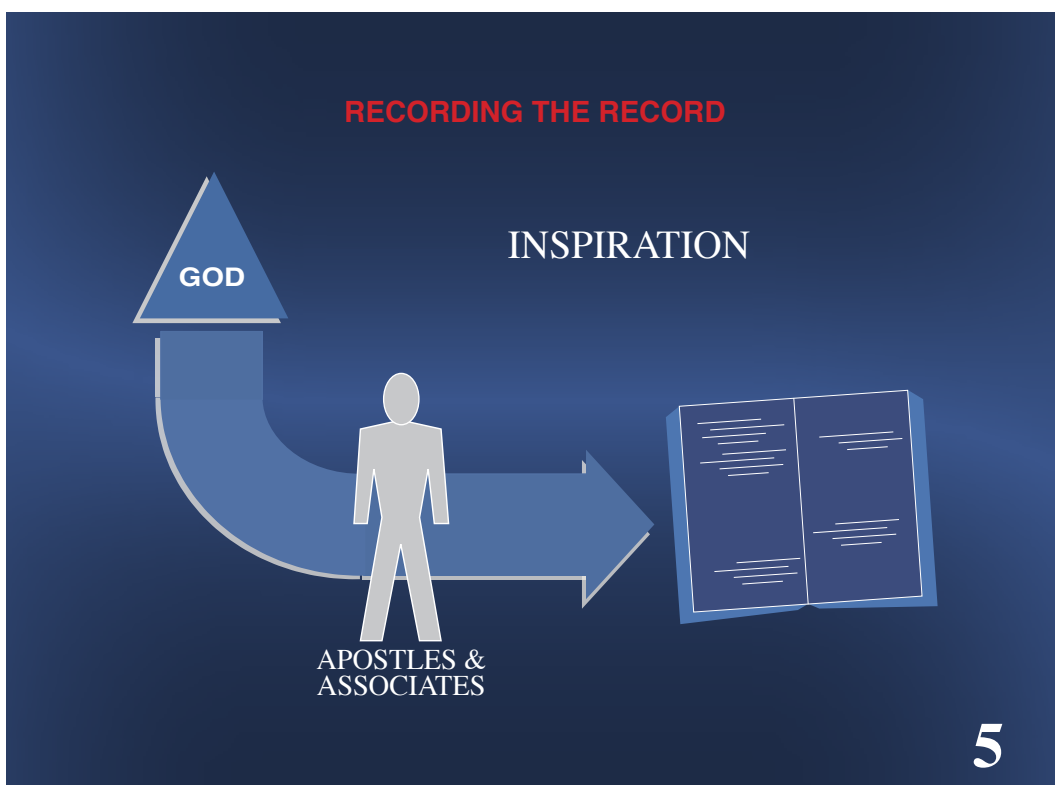


#### Slide #5

The content, the body of truth known as the Scripture, was recorded through the Spirit's moving of human authors. This is where inspiration comes into focus. The basis for inspiration is found in Peter's instruction in 2 Peter 1:21: "No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." One theologian properly defines inspiration in this manner:

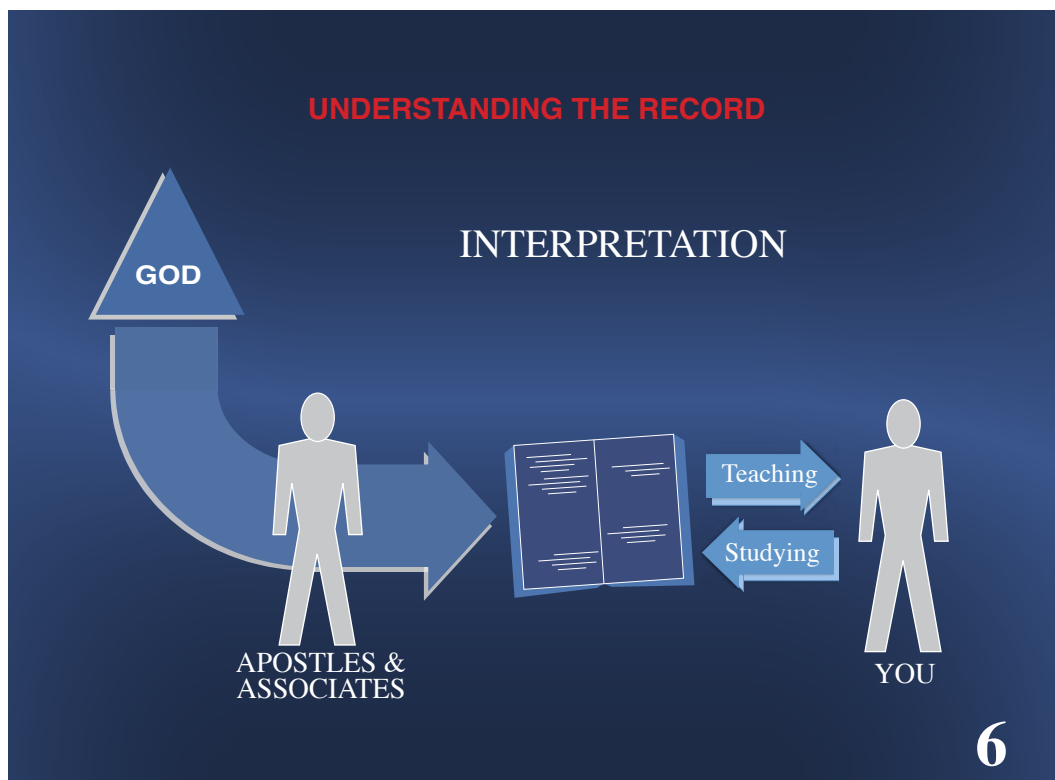
God's superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.<sup>2</sup>

The Old Testament writers were Moses, the prophets, and some leaders of Israel, while New Testament authors included Jesus' Apostles, the "eye-witnesses" of His earthly ministry, and the associates of the apostles (e.g., Luke and Mark).



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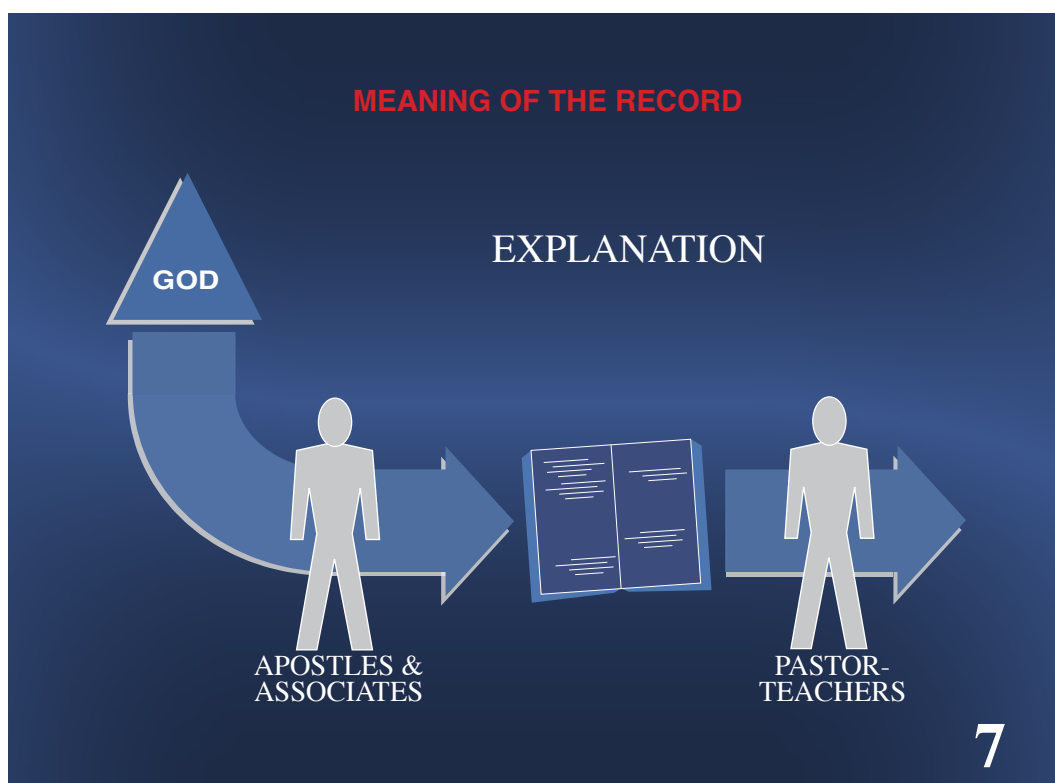
To properly understand or interpret the Scriptures, two factors come into play: (1) teaching by the Spirit through the Word and (2) diligent study of the Word by the believer. While teaching or illumination is the continual ministry of the Spirit in assisting believers to understand truth, insight is not automatically guaranteed.<sup>3</sup> Even though the Scriptures can only be accurately appraised by a believer (1 Cor 2:9-3:2), understanding the Word directly relates to our exposure to and our conscientious study. Teaching by the Spirit coupled with diligent study go hand in hand, being inextricably linked.



## Slide #7

Explaining the meaning of the God's Word requires that the teacher understands the text and does not deviate from the God's original, intended meaning. If not, it isn't God's word at all, but a mere conjecture, lacking the authority of Scripture. Therefore a teacher's first responsibility is to accurately interpret the revealed Word and then explain that truth to the body of Christ in order for believers to learn and apply it. Remember, however, biblical teaching is not just the transmission of facts; it concerns the transformation of lives. Biblical teaching is life changing.

James particularly directs his attention toward teachers in the church to diligently study the Word of God. He warned, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment" (Jam 3:1). To Timothy, Paul wrote, "Be diligent to present yourself

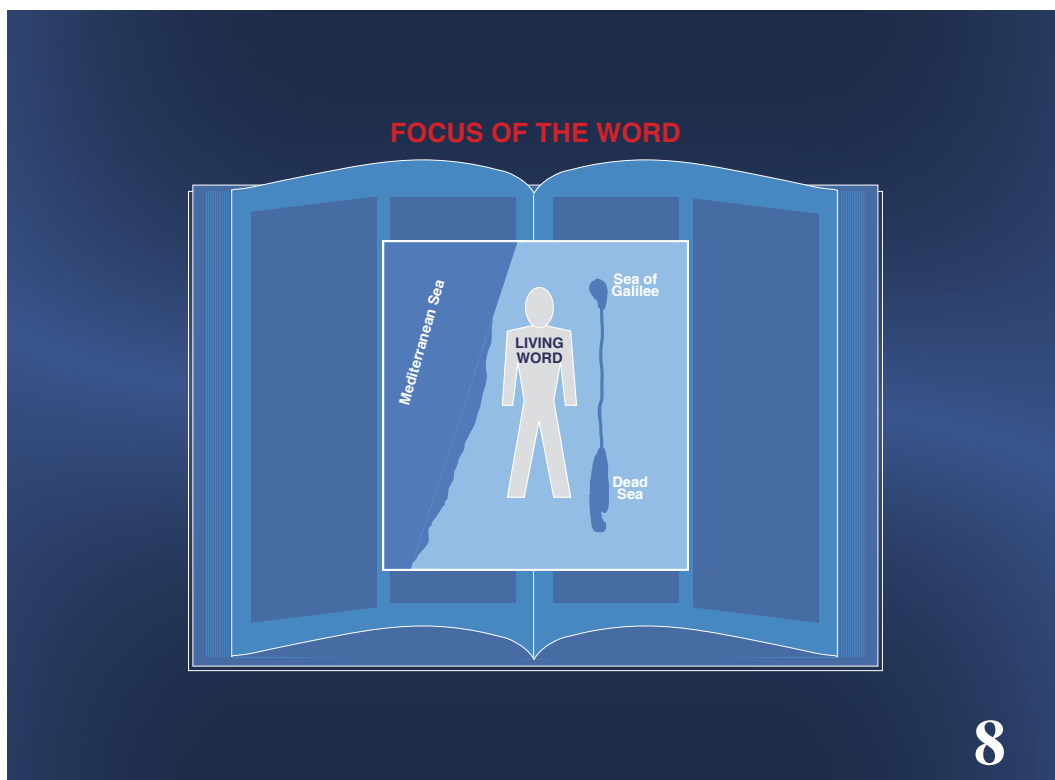


approved of God as a workman...accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15). This reminds us of Paul's building metaphor, warning that each workman/teacher must "be careful how he builds" on the foundation of the apostles (1 Cor 3:10), because "the quality of each man's work" will be evaluated by God (v 13). Certainly teachers in the church must be meticulous in the study of the Scriptures so that along with the teaching of the Spirit he may accurately handle the truth of God.

## Slide #8

Notice that the entire body of writings, the “Written Word,” focuses on the “Living Word.” The Gospels (Matt, Mark, Luke and John) provide the account of Jesus’ earthly life and ministry when “the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). For 33 years in an area no more than 100 miles long and 45 miles wide, He taught and modeled the ways of his Father. The Son of God came as the “Living Word” to die for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2) so that all can experience a relationship and then fellowship with God.

Leading up to the Gospels, the Old Testament writings prepare for and point to Christ, the “Living Word.” When the God-man stepped into human history, the Old Testament promises were fulfilled through Him. Now, the New Testament writings point back to Christ, His teachings and how to live in light of them.

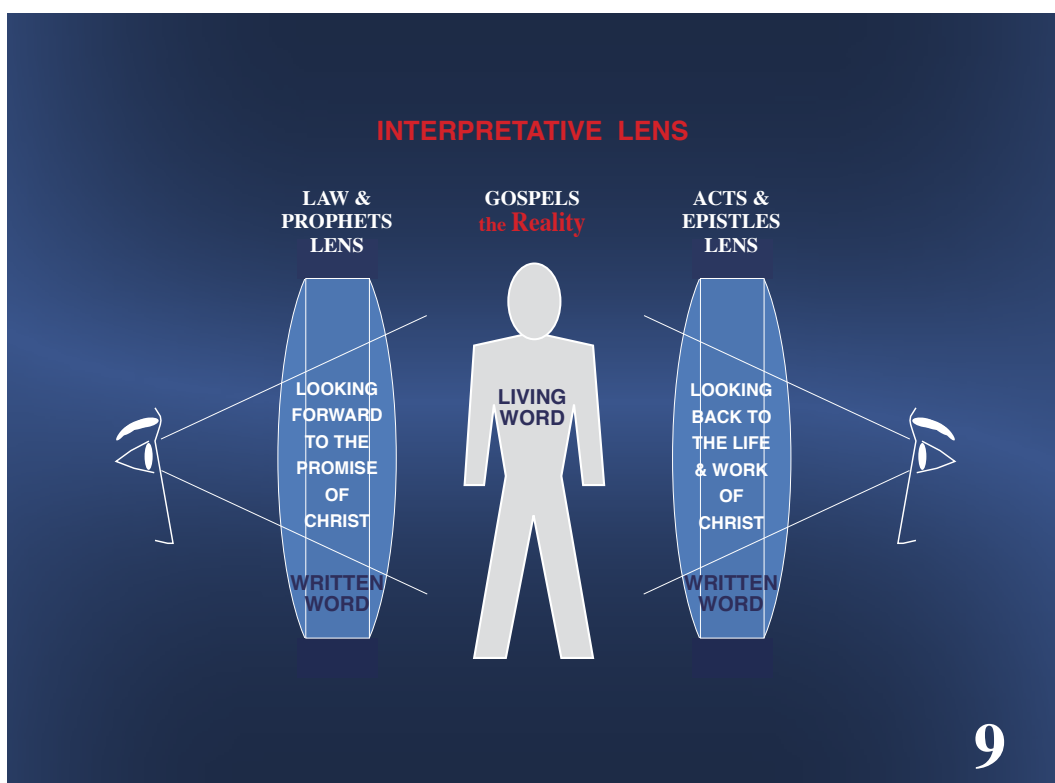


## Slide #9

To understand the biblical focus on Jesus, the student of the Word must be aware of two different interpretative lenses. From the viewpoint of the Law and the Prophets, the emphasis was on the expectation of the coming Messiah. A relationship with God was established through faith (nationally and individually) and fellowship with God was experienced by obedience (nationally and individually) to the Mosaic Law. The Law and the Prophets looked forward to the One (Christ, “the anointed”) who would deliver the nation and ultimately all mankind from all oppressors (sin and people).

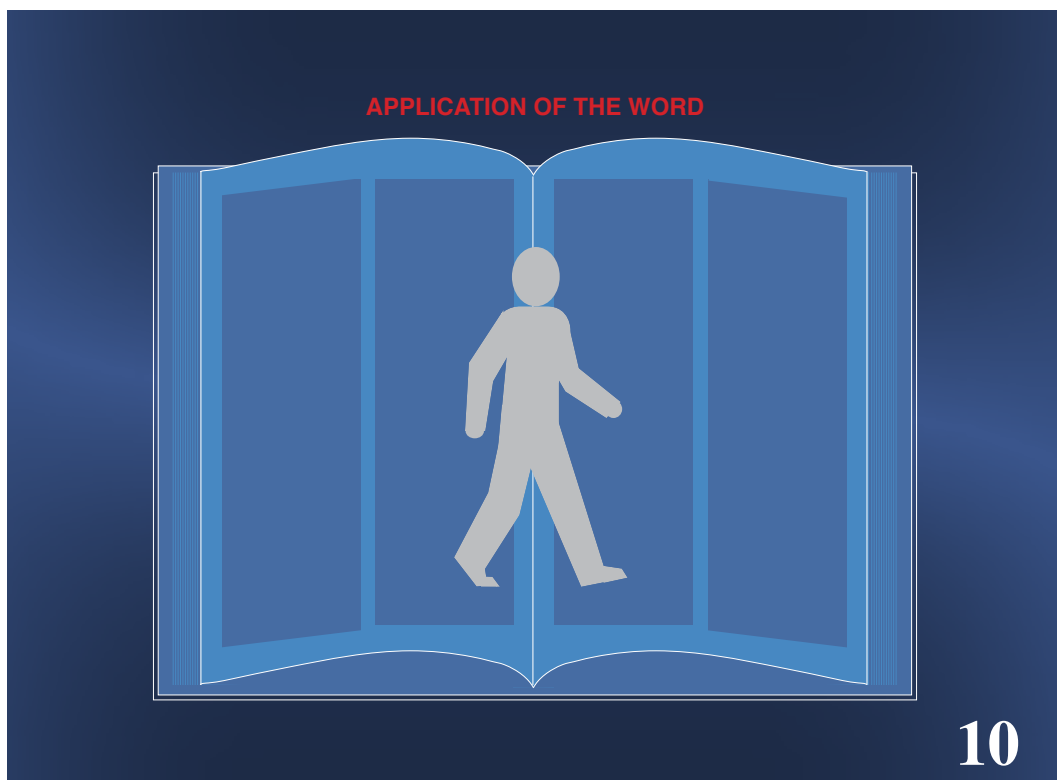
The 3½-year earthly ministry of Christ found in the Gospels is a transitional period where the central thought moves from the Nation of Israel to the all nations of the world. The Messiah came to reveal and demonstrate God’s character and grace toward mankind, and He died on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world.

Moving forward, the viewpoint of the Acts and the Epistles emphasizes the life and work of Christ. A relationship with God is through faith in Christ and fellowship with God is experienced by obedience to the “law of Christ” (Gal 6:2), the “law of liberty” (Jam 1:25; 2:12). Written primarily to Christians, these New Testament documents encourage believers to follow after the One who provided them with “eternal life” so that they might experience “abundant live” here and now (e.g., John 10:10b).



# Slide #10

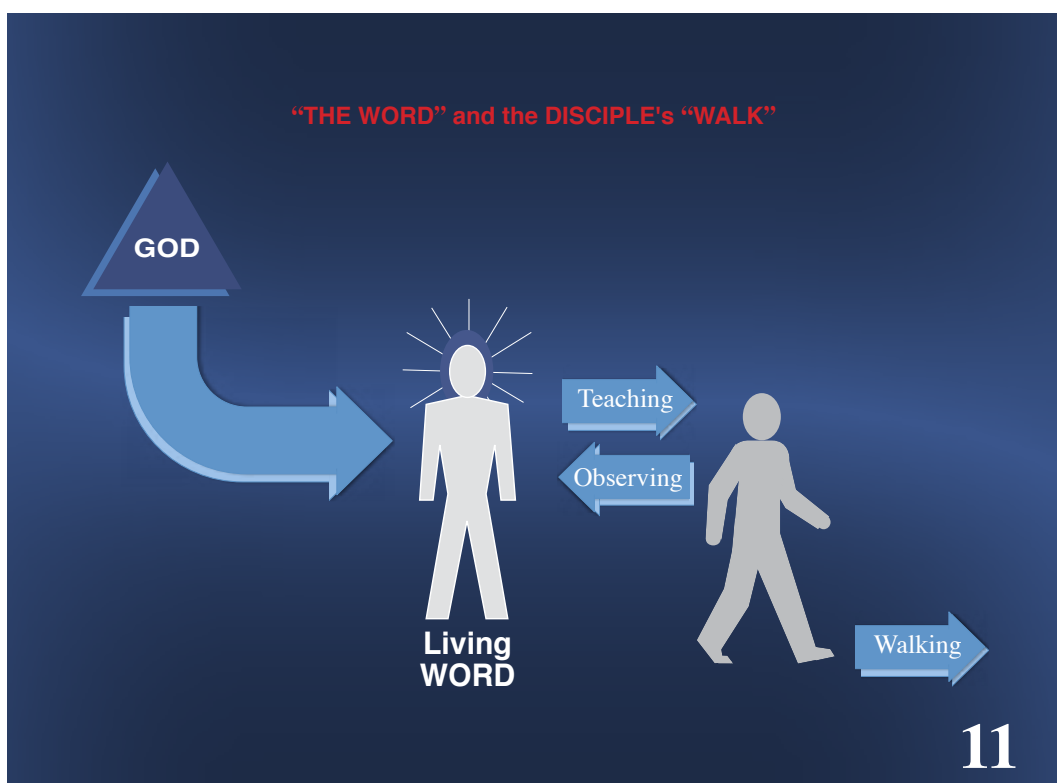
God's communication to mankind reveals the very character of God. His love and concern for His creations is no more evident than in the sending of His Son to die for you and me in order we may have a relationship with Him through faith. But further, God desires those who *come to faith in Christ* to then *walk in faith with Christ*. Putting into practice the new life spelled out in the Written Word leads to growing intimacy with Christ.



# Slide #11

When Jesus began His public ministry, He selected twelve men from a crowd of many disciples who followed and learned from Him. Mark 3:14 teaches that Jesus appointed the Twelve to be His intimate companions and learners so that they would be prepared to be sent out for ministry: "He appointed twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them out." Jesus prepared them through an on-the-job-training program to become like Him. Jesus said, "A pupil [a disciple] is not above his teacher, but everyone, after he has been full trained, will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40). They were to learn what Jesus meant since He also said, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45).

As you might expect, this divine training program involved *teaching by Christ*: both instructing truth and modeling truth. At the same time, *learning by the disciples* took place



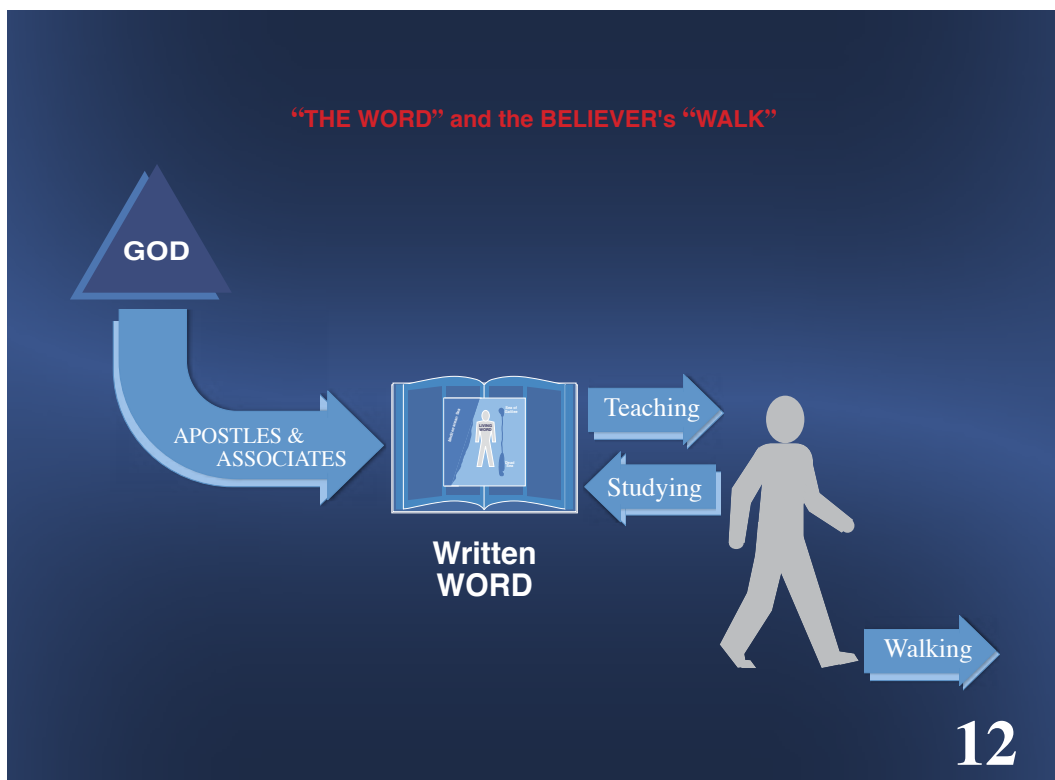
through understanding what was revealed and observing what was demonstrated. As a result, learning is a process not only of grasping biblical truth that is integrated into life principles but also incorporating that content into godly behavior. Consequently, the training program produced disciples whose walk imitated the manner in which Jesus walked—they became "like their teacher." This group of twelve became the very ones who Jesus sent out as servants following His return to the Father.



## Slide #12

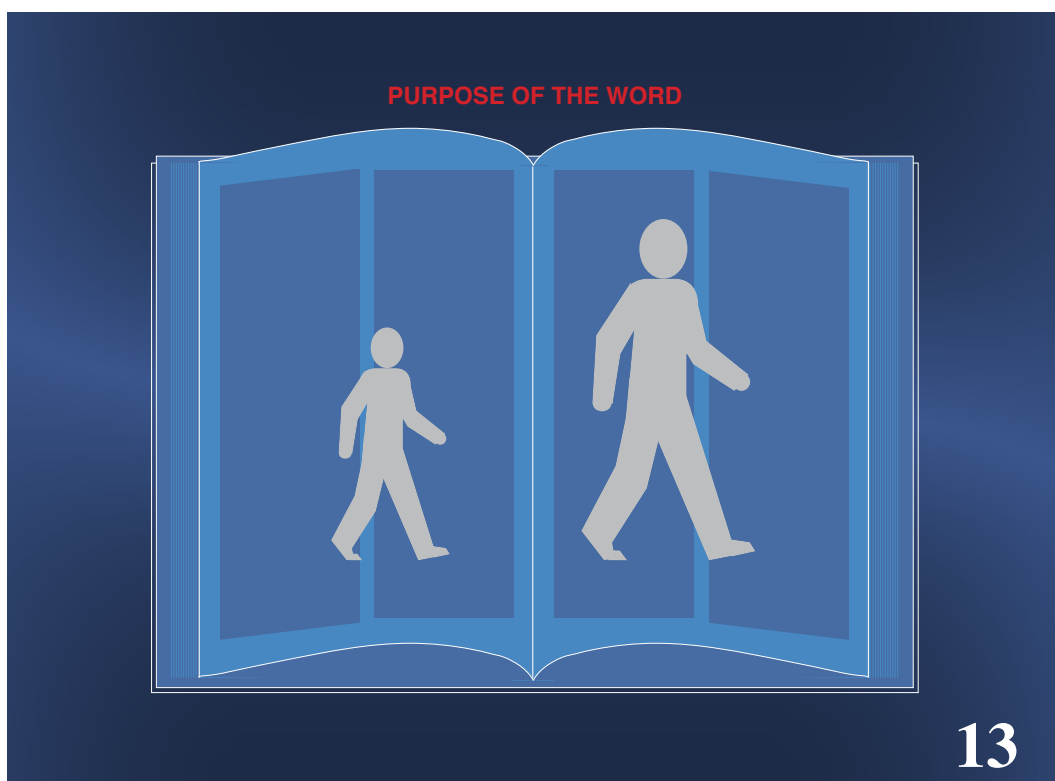
In the Written Word, those same men, along with some of their associates, provided us with the teachings of Jesus. What Jesus both instructed and demonstrated is available so that we can assimilate and internalize the truth from the Living Word. With Jesus being the focus of the Bible, the Law and Prophets and the Acts and Epistles provide clarity to His purpose and teaching during His earthly ministry. Consequently, the Written Word is our resource for grasping, integrating and applying biblical principles into our daily walk. Obviously, this process requires each believer to be exposed to the Written Word primarily through personal study.

While teaching by godly men in the Church is critical, remember that biblical teaching is not just the transmission of words. Biblical teaching involves both instructing and modeling the truth that leads to a transformation in living.



## Slide #13

The overarching purposes of the written Word are to provide (1) the means to establish a relationship with God and then (2) the manner in which to experience continual fellowship with Him. Second Timothy 3:16-17, which is written to believers in Christ, addresses the second purpose—that being spiritual growth.



## Slide #14

In the The blueprint for spiritual growth is the Scriptures. Second Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that the Scriptures are our guide for every decision and our manual for conduct.

### BLUEPRINT FOR LIVING 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

14

## Slide #15

Notice first in the grammatical layout of 2 Timothy 3:16-17, that “all Scripture,” being “inspired” is given directly from God. “Inspired by God” is a compound word (*Theopneustos*) that connects the action word *to breath something out* (*pneuo*) with God (*Theos*).<sup>4</sup> Therefore, “God-breathed” is a better representation for the source of the writings of the Scripture being from God [see LQ's article *Word Supplement, Compiling the Word* for further insight]. Then we are told that the Scriptures are given for the purposes of:

1. *Teaching*—providing godly instructions, with expectation of compliance.<sup>5</sup>
2. *Reproof*—providing disapproval, when expectations are not met.<sup>6</sup>
3. *Correction*—providing correction, with view to restoration.<sup>7</sup>
4. *Training*—providing training or guidance, for responsible living.<sup>8</sup>

Obviously, the order of these activities refers to the process a good father would employ to develop his own son's thinking that would lead to *successful living*. When the right principles are not lived out, intervention and further guidance would then hopefully result in appropriate conduct in living.

If right living is the result of right thinking, how do we begin the process?

### PROVISION FOR LIVING 2 Timothy 3:16-17

16	All Scripture is inspired	Source
	by God	
	and	
	is profitable	Purpose
	for doctrine,	
	for reproof,	
	for correction,	
	and	
	for training	
	in righteousness,	
17	so that the man may be complete,	Result
	of God	
	having been thoroughly equipped	



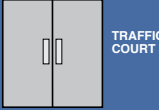
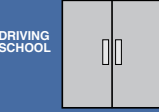
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Slide #16

This chart addresses the four purposes of Scripture found in 2 Timothy 3:16. The *first purpose* of “teaching” is illustrated in a traffic sign that points out and makes plain the will of God. As an earthly father wanting the best for his children, these instructions are for the child’s protection and character development. If understood in that manner, God’s children should be motivated to follow the will of their heavenly Father. Yet, going the way of our own desires is seen in the *second purpose* of Scripture—“reproof.” If you go the wrong way down a one-way street, the police will stop you and there are consequences. Likewise in life when we go down the wrong path, God confronts us (e.g., Heb 12:9-11). Going further, the Scripture provides “correction,” the *third purpose*, showing the procedure for changing one’s pattern of living and being restored. And then the *fourth purpose*—“training” gives us the process for changing our thinking, leading to godly living.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16  
Illustrated

ILLUSTRATION	MEANING	IMPLICATION
	TEACHING	Reveals Desires of God
	REPROOF	Reveals Wrong Desires of Men
	CORRECTION	Reveals Procedure for Changing Desires
	TRAINING	Reveals Process of Change

Original Source: Unknown

16

Slide #17

Returning to the layout of 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we have learned the Scripture is our guide for every decision and our manual for conduct—our blueprint for spiritual growth. Following the procedure just spelled out in verse 16 provides the intended result (v 17). That *result* is that believers “may be capable or proficient,<sup>9</sup> thoroughly equipped for every good work.”<sup>10</sup> A better translation, which captures the idea of the text, would be “may be competent for every good work.”

PROVISION FOR LIVING  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

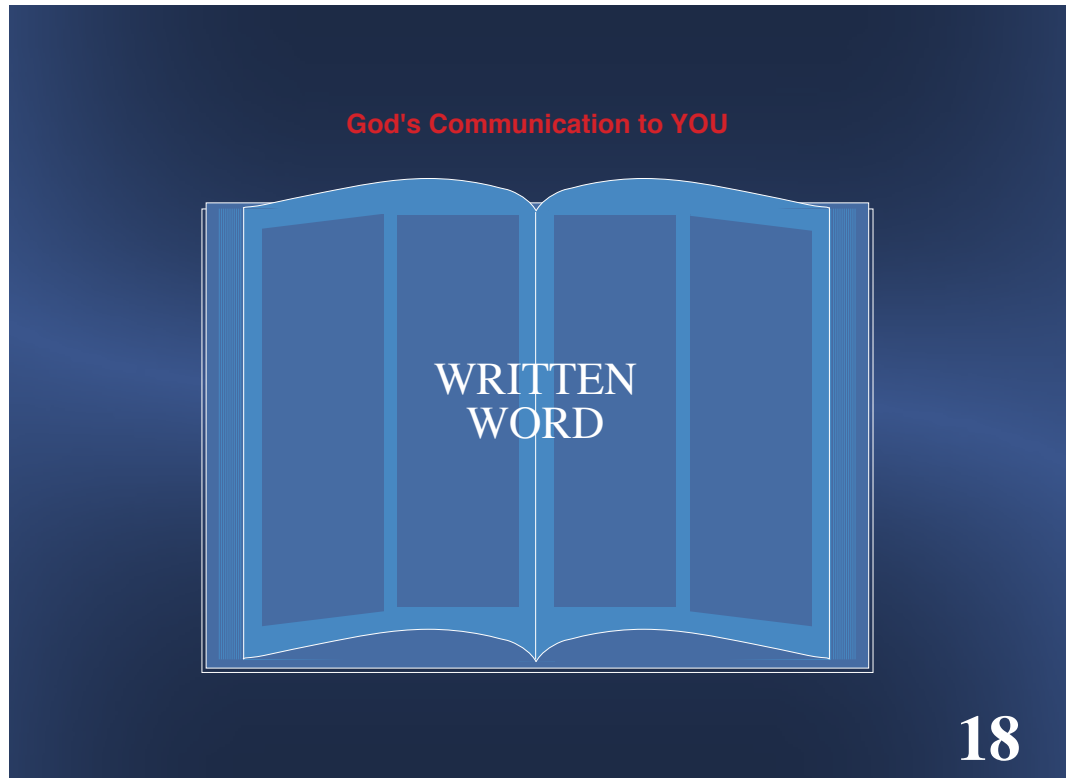
16	All Scripture is <b>inspired</b> by God and is <b>profitable</b> for <b>doctrine</b> , for <b>reproof</b> , for <b>correction</b> , and for <b>training</b>	Source  Purpose
17	in righteousness, so that the man may be <b>complete</b> , of God having been throughly <b>equipped</b>	Result

17

**Slide #18**

Did you catch that? Paul tells us that God's Word provides each one of us with all that is necessary to be "competent for every good work"—the very good works for which we were created (Eph 2:10). Nevertheless, the choice is ours as to whether those good works become a reality. In order for that to happen, our thinking has to be aligned and be in sync with God's. Knowing and living in harmony with God is key to everything we do, we are and will become.

The Written Word has been passed on to us so that we can truly know God. Then having come to know His character and His love for us, out of gratitude we will obey Him in order to please Him in everything we say and do.



**Endnotes:**

1. Kenneth Boa & Larry Moody, *I'm Glad You Asked* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1982), 84.
2. Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *A Survey of Bible Doctrine* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1972), 38.
3. Zane C. Hodges, *The Epistles of John* (Irving, TX: Grace Evangelical Society, 1999), 111, 116-117.  
Illumination should not be confused with some special act of "anointing." John wrote that believers "have an anointing [indwelling Spirit] from the Holy One [God or Jesus Christ]" (1 John 2:20) and that "His [God's or Jesus Christ's] anointing [indwelling Spirit] teaches you about all things" (v 27). In both instances the anointing refers to the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Spirit is "the anointing" Who teaches. We then should not confuse "the anointing" with an endowment of fresh revelation to dispense to a local body of believers. That concept is foreign to the New Testament.
4. Walter Bauer [BDAG–Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich], *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 450, 838.
5. BDAG, teaching (*didaskalia*), 1, 240.
6. BDAG, reproof (*elegchos*), 1, 315.
7. BDAG, correction (*epanorthwsis*), 359.
8. BDAG, training (*paideia*), 1, 748.
9. BDAG, capable (*artios*), 136.
10. BDAG, equipped (*exartizw*), 1, 346.