

Making the Bible Part of Your Life - Part 3
How God's Word Changes Us
01/22/2023

- The reason it has the power to change lives is because it is the Word of God.
- It is God-breathed

John 6:63b (ESV) "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

- The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge; the Bible was given to change our lives.

John 8:1-11 (ESV) but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

The Word of God:

1st) Gives me **CONFIDENCE**.

John 8:2 (ESV) Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.

- They were encouraged when they heard him
- They gained confidence from hearing God's word taught
- God's word builds my faith

Romans 10:17 (NIV) "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ."

- They're informational not transformational

Eph. 3:20 (ESV) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

2nd) Challenges my **LIFE**.

John 8:3 (ESV) The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst

- It's the beginning of the Gospel
- This is where possibility starts
- It starts with knowing you need it
- Change happens when you're challenged
- You can't change what you can tolerate
- God's word gives me a chance to change

2 Cor. 5:17 (TLB) When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!

- He offers me a whole new life
- This is the Gospel!

3rd) Save me from **RELIGION**.

John 8:5 (ESV) Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

John 7:37 (NIV) On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

John 7:43 (NIV) Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

- He bends down and writes on the ground

4th) It gives me **WISDOM**.

John 8:6-7 (ESV) Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

Jer. 17:13 (NIV) Lord, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of living water.

- The writer wants you to see that Jesus is confronting an entire power structure
- Often the person gets killed

5th) Removes my **GUILT**.

John 8:10-11 (ESV) Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

- She didn't ask forgiveness
- She encountered Jesus

Romans 8:1 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

John 15: 3(NIV) "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

How to Gain the Benefits:

A) I've got to **LEARN** it.

Mark 12:24 (GNT) Jesus answered them, "How wrong you are! And do you know why? It is because you don't know the Scriptures or God's power."

- Every problem is an opportunity

B) I **ACCEPT** it.

John 8:10-11a (ESV) Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord."

- What changes us and our spiritual failures is a grace that can only be found in Jesus. We don't try to fix our guilt. And God doesn't sweep our guilt under the rug but destroys it with his love and grace and gives us the power to live a different life.

1 Thess. 2:13 (NIV) "When you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, – the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe."

C) I **ACT** on it.

John 8:11b (ESV) go, and from now on sin no more."

- This is no longer who you are
- You've encountered Jesus and it's changed you
- You have a new identity

2 Cor. 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- Now Go and sin no more