



# ENGAGE

An Invitation To Delighting In God's Word  
Part 4 — God's Word Transforms

# REVIEW FROM LESSON 1

- The self-existent one God spoke, the Bible contains His Words, and He intersects in human history.
- The desire of God is to intersect in your life.
- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” (2 Timothy 3:16a)

# REVIEW FROM LESSON 2

- What God spoke is knowable.
- No one has an excuse to delegate the reading of God's Word to others on the basis that they cannot comprehend it.
- The Bible has clarity for those who come to it in faith.
- God provided us the resources we need through His written Word, the illumination of the Spirit, and good teachers, to learn His Word and grow.

# REVIEW FROM LESSON 3

- The Bible claims to be true, and that is supported by lines of internal and external evidence including (1) what the Bible says about itself, (2) the reliability of our copies of the books of the Bible showing they have not been corrupted over time, (3) the internal consistency of the Biblical writings, (4) that the Biblical writings meet the criteria of being reliable historical evidence, (5) the historical reliability of the Bible as confirmed from extra-biblical sources, (6) confirmed prophecies, (7) scientific evidence, and (8) changed lives.
- This theological word for this is infallibility or inerrancy.
- Because the Bible is true, we have good reason to make a diligent study of the Bible a routine practice in our lives.

# SELF-HELP

- A lot of people selling the secret sauce to a better you, but the best you can do with self-help is move the furniture around the same old room.
- Coming to the realization that moving the furniture around one more time will bring no lasting change is important.
- The one infinite self-existent God is there, He spoke, the Bible contains His words, He intersects with human history and desires to intersect with us personally, and His Word provides a means of real life transformation.

# BIGGEST LIE

- Far too many Christians experience little or no real life transformation.
- The biggest lie Christians believe is that “I know the truth and therefore I am experiencing the truth.”
- James illustrates this with the mirror of God’s Word in James 1:22-25.

# THE SECOND LIE

- Many and perhaps most Christians believe the Christian life boils down to a list.
- The 10 Commandments, a list of “Christian practices,” or some other list that we associate with the Bible
- The Pharisees were the best at lists and it didn’t do them any good

# THE SECOND LIE

- “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the **grace of Christ** unto another gospel.” (Galatians 1:6)
- “Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:3)
- Paul’s point to the Galatians was that if step one in the Christian life—becoming a Christian—is a work of the Spirit when we place faith in Christ, then it follows that the process of growing and maturing as a Christian must also be a work of the Spirit and not the flesh.



# THE TRANSFORMATION

- If it is not about a list, how shall we live?
- Paul wrote to the Galatians, “walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)
- The Christian walk is not works or a list, but an inward transformation that occurs as we walk in the Spirit and learn the Word of God experientially (applied to real life).

# THE TRANSFORMATION

- Back to James' mirror.
- Remember, we can read the Word and then leave the mirror and forget, or we can continue therein.
- We walk in the Spirit when we allow God's Word to change how we think and then God the Holy Spirit enables and guides our Christian walk (life) as we apply God's Word to the issues of life.

# THE TRANSFORMATION

- The apostle Paul said we should “not be conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of [our] mind.” (Romans 12:2)
- Elsewhere Paul wrote: “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)
- In a parallel passage, Paul exhorted his audience to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.” (Colossians 3:16)
- The Spirit influences us through God’s Word as we apply it to life, which presumes we know some of God’s Word.

# PRACTICAL BENEFITS

- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Doctrine — learning the truths God wants us to know
- Reproof — shows us where we went wrong
- Correction — how to get back on track
- Instruction in righteousness — we are in God’s training program

# WISDOM CRIES OUT

- The Bible presents God's wisdom so we can live skillfully.
- There are two kinds of wisdom (James 3:16-17)
- The source of wisdom is evidenced by what it produces in our lives
- “For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.” (Proverbs 8:11)

# FINAL THOUGHTS

- We have seen that the one self-existent God is there, He spoke, the Bible contains His words, He intersects with human history and desires to intersect with us personally, His Word is knowable and completely true, and His Word can renew our minds and transform our lives.
- There is no Plan B for life transformation — we must be people of the Book.“
- As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.” (1 Peter 2:2)
- You cannot do what you do not know.