

The Way of Wisdom

SM 2 Tim 3:16

David Sommitz
July 5, 2026

We have been going through a series on Scripture memory. The verse this morning says:

Since we are memorizing this verse, I want to help you to memorize and meditate about this verse. Here is my plan:

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Outline

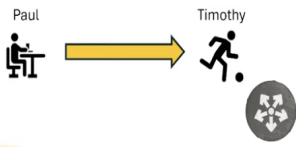
2 Timothy 3:16

- The What
- The Why
- The How

What is your Posture Toward Scripture?

My overall question today is: What is your posture toward Scripture? Are you slouching and inattentive?

The What:



The Apostle Paul is arguably the most prominent figure in the NT and he had a huge impact on the early church.

The What:

- 1) All Scripture is God-breathed
- 2) useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

What Why How

What do you mean by:

All
Scripture
Is
God-Breathed

What Why How

I want to take each of these words in this verse apart.
Scripture

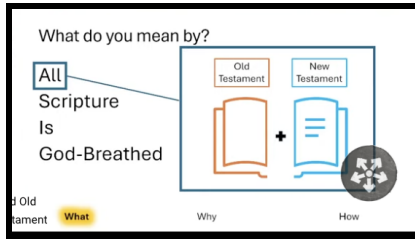
What do you mean by?

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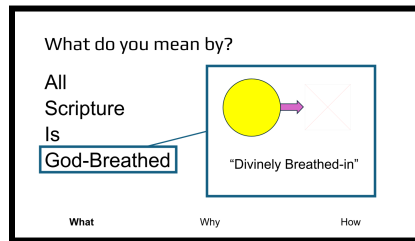
What Why How

Scripture is very, very special (“hallowed”) writings that make up the Bible.



All means both the Old and New Testaments, even though the full New Testament had not been written yet.

This is not just a nice pamphlet to read or throw away; the word ALL means both Old and New Testament.



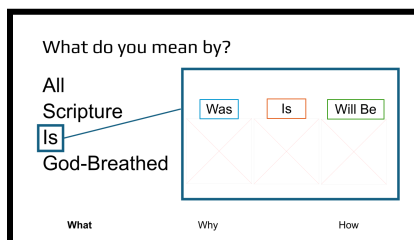
God Breathed is not a simple concept and very mysterious. Literally, it means "inspired" which is worth thinking about.

The **purple** arrow is the breath of God that is supernaturally breathing into the people who use the words physically. It compares to when God breathed life into Adam to make him alive.

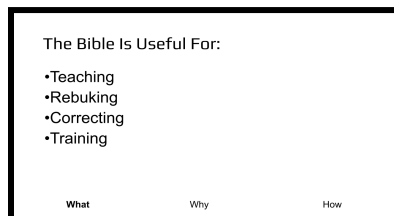
I'd like you to take a step back and think about the yellow circle in this drawing:

The God of the universe is somehow behind the source of these words.

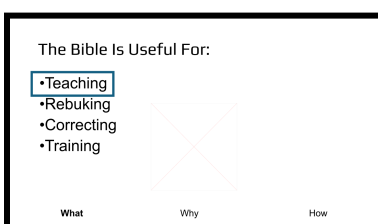
It's like a situation that happened to me in high school: I was so enthusiastic about starting my junior year. One day, I opened my locker to find a hand-written, mysterious poem from an unknown source with lyrics like "I'll follow you into the dark." I developed a powerful crush on a girl whom I think may have written it: then I found out my friend copie these Death Cab for Cutie lyrics in girlish handwriting to trick me. What can I learn from this? **I was drawn to find the person behind a fraudulent text.** But with the Bible, which is not a fraud, I want to invite you to sit in the idea of **discovering the person behind the words.**



IS is also an important word that applies to Past, Present, Future. A human example is the things we might want to erase from our Facebook page 15 years ago. With God, **he is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow and forever.**



I like to look at concordances to learn about words in a verse. The various definitions can be very helpful in uncovering misconceptions we might have when we hear the English words.



For example, when I think of teaching, I think of a classroom.

The Bible Is Useful For:

- Teaching

instruction,
 διδασκαλίαν (didaskalian)
 Noun - Accusative Feminine Singular
 Strong's Greek 1319: Instruction, teaching. From didaskalos; instruction.

What Why How

But this word really means instruction and teaching with the goal of someone receiving knowledge and truth. So when we read the Bible, we receive knowledge, wisdom and truth.

The Bible Is Useful For:

- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training



What Why How

I think of rebuke like this: I punch someone who has wronged me.

The Bible Is Useful For:

- Teaching
- Rebuking

conviction,
 ἐλεγμόν (elegmon)
 Noun - Accusative Masculine Singular
 Strong's Greek 1650: A proof, possibly: a persuasion; reproof. From elegcho; proof, conviction.

What Why How

But this word means **persuade**. Rebuking is not just the initial point that someone is wrong, it also encompasses what they need to persuade them. The Bible is very good at pursuing someone in ways we cannot.

The Bible Is Useful For:

- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training

$2+2=5$

What Why How

I think correction looks like this:

The Bible Is Useful For:

- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training

$2+2=5$ 4

see me after class

What Why How

The Bible Is Useful For:

- Teaching

correction,
 ἐπανόρθωσιν (epanorthōsin)
 Noun - Accusative Feminine Singular
 Strong's Greek 1882: From a compound of epi and anorthoo; a straightening up again, i.e. rectification.

What Why How

However the Bible **orients us towards truth: it straightens us up.**

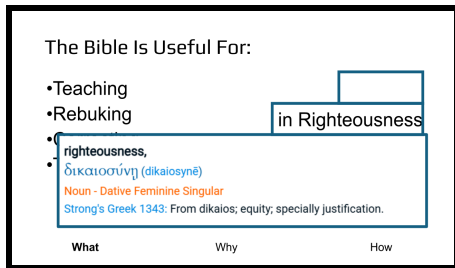
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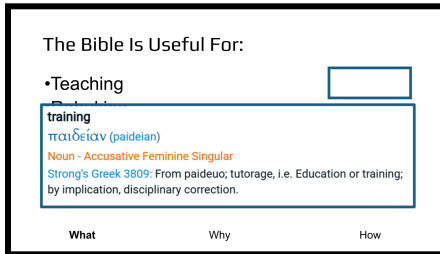


What Why How

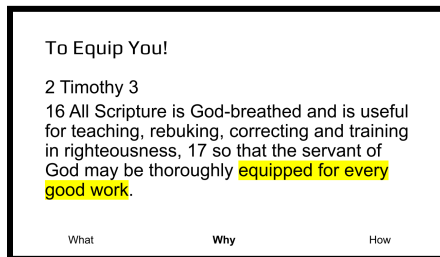
What do you think of when you think of training? Even potty training helps build muscles at doing something in the restroom that needs to be done. There could be discipline involved with this.



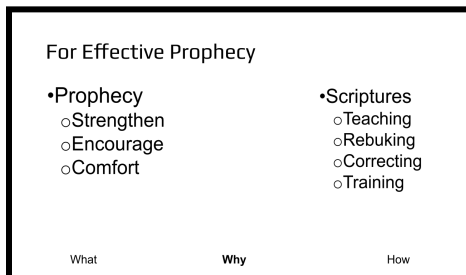
Similarly, the Bible helps us to **grow our muscles in RIGHTEOUSNESS**



I am always seeing things that aren't quite right: that is justification and the Bible trains us how to do this.

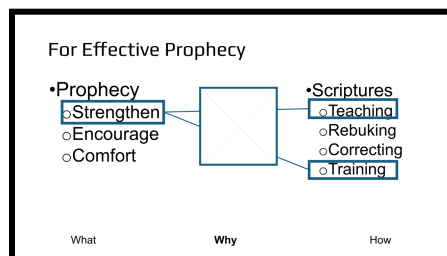


Verse 17 talks about equipping: we are equipped for good deeds but it's more than this. It's being a force of good for our community and our life.



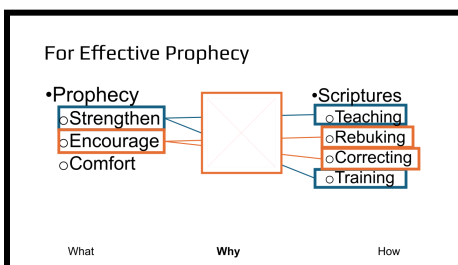
WHY is Scripture important?

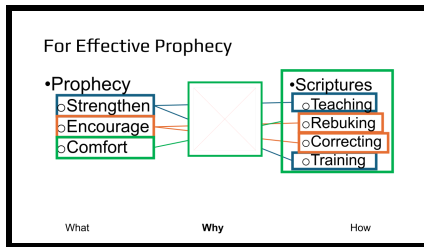
First, Scripture helps us with **prophecy**. This is not just a spiritual and narrow gift given to some people. I Corinthians tells us that all of us should long for prophecy. The three objectives of prophecy are to strengthen, encourage, and comfort.



With strengthening, we need to use the Word as a source for how to accomplish this.

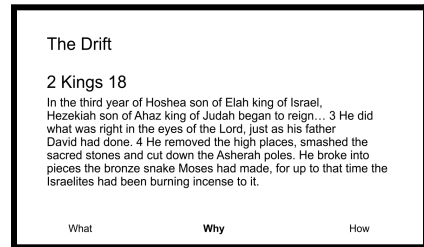
Encouragement: helping someone who is going down a bad path go down a correct path. Punching someone is not encouragement. But the deep truths of the Bible helps us do that.



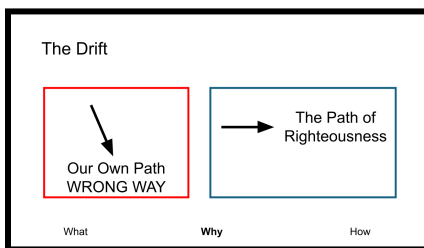


Comfort needs all of these things:

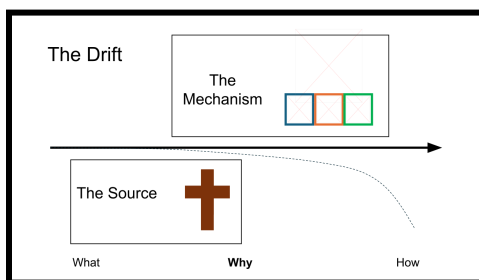
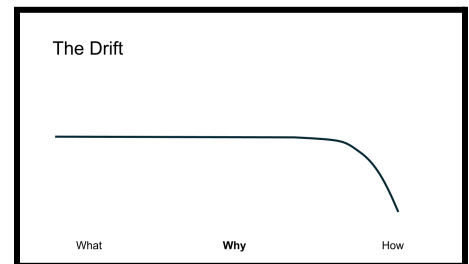
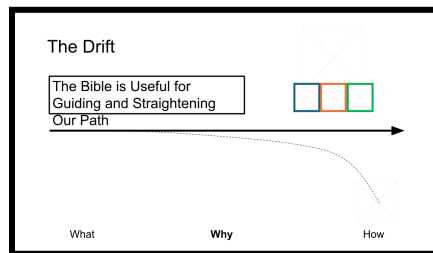
It's really easy to get comfort wrong. An example is when my 1 year old burned himself, I put ice water on him. This was not a good idea: it actually does harm. I did this because I did not have knowledge. Likewise, **I need biblical knowledge to truly comfort someone.**



Hezekiah was one of the only good kings in the Old Testament. One of the things he did was to break the bronze snake that Moses made. The context: Moses delivered the Israelites from Egypt and shortly afterwards, they complained and poisonous snakes came. Moses put up a bronze snake statue for the people to look at when they were bitten. The New Testament echoes this when we look to Jesus on the cross for healing. But in the middle of this, people started to burn incense and worship this snake.

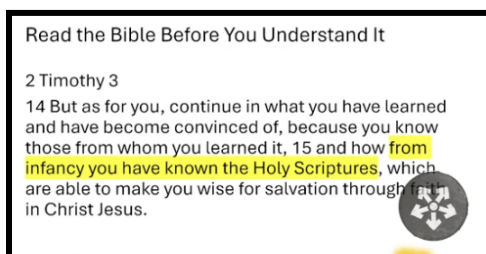


How do we get from a good place to a bad place: it's a slow drift.



The Bible is useful for restoring people when this happens.

The Bible is the **mechanism for restoration**: Jesus is the source. The Bible doesn't save us: that is similar to what the Israelites did when they burned incense to the bronze snake.



Reading the Bible and being exposed to the Word is good; we don't have to fully understand it.

An example is my son Luke likes to listen to Village songs when he goes to bed. I hear him singing Armor of God even when he doesn't understand what it means.

Memorize the Bible Before You Understand It

2 Timothy 3

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how **from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

What

Why

How

It's also worth taking real estate in your mind and putting the Bible into that space.

How NOT to Read the Bible

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will **gather around them** a great number of teachers to say what their **itching ears** want to hear.

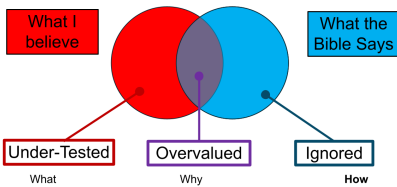
What

Why

How

I sometimes think that “itching ears” applies to OTHER people. But I’m in that camp: you are too. We have itching ears: we now have Youtube algorithms to make us feel good about ourselves.

“Itchy Ears” Syndrome



Think of what the Bible says, represented by the Blue circle. What I believe is the red circle. I will focus on where they overlap. I try to google the verses that support my own beliefs and views: this is like gathering teachers around us who say what we want to say.

Put it into Practice

James 1

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.** 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

What

Why

How

We also need to move beyond being readers of the year: we need to apply what we read. It's not just a way to get knowledge and feel good about ourselves.

What is Your Posture Toward The Bible?

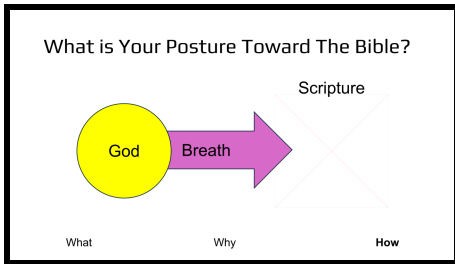


What

Why

How

What is your posture towards the Bible? Notice the one in the middle: she looks pretty thoughtful but I think she's thinking of her next response before actually listening. She's missing out; I do this too. I want to be focussed on the yellow circle who considers the source of these words: someone who created me and deeply loves me. I want to be excited about finding the truth.



My children like to drink the bath water when they take baths: I tell them not to but they have thought about all these reasons why they can do this. I wish they saw themselves as my children that I love and want the best for. Jesus dying for us and rising again: we put our trust in him who gives us salvation and a new identity. We get to be heirs and receive but we also also get to be children of our benevolent father.

Let's review today's verse together:

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

What is your posture toward scripture?

I want to emphasize our posture towards Scripture: if you have a conversation or communication with someone, your posture is slumped, it's not only rude but it's more difficult for you to receive the fullness of the message. I'd like to talk about our posture toward Scripture.

Two parts: All Scripture is God Breathed: this is from a letter from Paul to his spiritual mentee Timothy. He's talking about his mission and he makes this statement to Timothy.

The first section is

All: it means any kind of; here Paul is presenting what Scripture is, both the concept and what we know now to mean the NT as we know it.

Scripture: No, holy writings, It's talking about the Bible. In this moment Paul was writing when the text was not fully canonized so what was Paul referring to? Jesus fully embraces the OT

Is: this is implied by the Greek: It is appropriately in the translations. We may have a tendency to think that Scriptures apply to me today: IS means that this word is breathed out today.

God-Breathed: this is a profound idea: Divinely breathed in. Two points: this is pointing to the way the Scriptures came forth from God and second, there is life that is breathed in. Heb 12:2: God has brought these documents to life. This is more than I can wrap my mind around: if I have a letter that has life breathed into it from God, I should be incredibly interested and amazed by this.

Personal story: in my Jr. Year of HS, I was so excited to start school. In my locker I find a handwritten note, a poem that I don't understand. I'm really curious about where it came from and I see someone walk by and I develop a crush on this person who paralyzes me. It turns out this note was written by a couple of friends who were pranking me by writing out lyrics from a song. I was very drawn and captured by this fraudulent message. I connect this to Scripture: I want to know who this person is behind these words. I want to invite you to take this type of posture of desiring to know the person that it came from.

We can explore context and translations. I like looking at a concordance to find the Gk word

Part 2:

I jump over these concepts that I think have a narrow, specific meaning. But what does it really mean?

The Bible is useful for

TEACHING: a thing you experience in school; people are teachers. But that is the mechanism...we are gaining instruction to help us better understand reality.

REBUKING: I picture rebuking a metaphorical punch to the face: You should change your ways and feel bad about what you did. But there is a persuasive aspect of this that is really difficult that I cannot do on my own. The Word is useful for doing this deeper work.

CORRECTING: Similarly, I think you say $2+2=5$ and I correct you. But there are extra points which mean straightening up, like a rectangle setting at rights. This goes way beyond just giving the right answer.

TRAINING: Somewhat similar to teaching but teaching is about mind and heart knowledge but training is about building muscles to do something. Physically, we train our muscles but here, training means training in righteousness. Not like a Pharisee which would be self-righteousness. We see things in our lives that we long to set right and bring back to a good place: we need to go through training to accomplish these things.

Now, Let's jump into the WHY?

1. The bible is here to equip us. 17 So that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Consider where you are in your life, your work, your neighborhood: where do you see things that need good work? To accomplish these things, we need to turn to the Bible.

2. Prophecy is a concept about fortune telling

Strength: I Cor 14 it brings up 3 points to strengthen, encouragement, and comfort. These are things we can step boldly into. This is a good thing for us to do. This goes well with teaching and training.

Encouraging: if you see someone going in the wrong direction, you should help encourage them back to the right path. Rebuking and correcting aren't adversarial but restorative and persuasive.

Comfort needs all of the concepts because comfort is easy to get wrong. When Mark burned his foot outside, I heard him crying, I knew immediately that maybe a coal had been left behind and Mark had stepped on it. I put ICE on his foot which is actually harmful with a 2nd degree burn because it creates frostbite. Instead you're supposed to run cool water over it for a good duration. My desire was to comfort him but I did more harm because I didn't have the knowledge and training of what was required for that. As we boldly step into prophecy, we need to double down in the Scripture and make sure we are grounded in scripture.

II kings 18: Back to the e and E sermons. Hezekiah was 100 yrs after Elisha, one of the very few good kings. He destroys the bronze snake that Moses made, shortly after the I were delivered and they complained and God sent poisonous snakes. Moses put up a bronze snake for the people to look at and be healed. This was an echo of what Jesus did on the cross: if we

look to him we will be healed. It was astonishing to see that I was burning incense to the snake and turning a good thing into evil. This doesn't happen overnight: we receive good things and slowly drift away from them. This happens to me and why I need to constantly look back to Scripture to combat my insanity.

II Tim 3:14-15 hold onto your teachings from your parents and we give that to our children...yet we need this for ourselves because we don't fully understand the Bible ourselves. If we think we fully understand it, we won't spend time reading it.

II Tim 4:3: Itching ears, gather around them. Youtube algorithms gather things around us and feed it back to us to the point that you see an entirely different side than someone who disagrees with you will see. We need to avoid this approach to reading the Bible, googling all the verses I can to counter them. I need to let the word be living and active and speak to me.

Finally, I need to read it not just for head knowledge. Essentially, if all we do is memorize and keep it in our heads, we need to put it into practice.

What is your posture toward scripture? How do you view it?

An exciting thing about being a child of God, we are given an identity as heirs of God which means partly that we have good promises but also that we should recognize that we are the child. My children like to take baths together and my kids like to drink the bathwater. They kind of obey but the next day, they have rationale of why it's OK for them to drink the water. I wish they would just trust me and obey them. This is the posture I want

