

Guided by the Holy Spirit - January 19, 2022

In the last installment of the Holy Spirit series, we were reminded that as believers the Holy Spirit lives inside of us. What a blessing, because these are very challenging times, don't you think? We don't know what the next minute will bring. As fragile humans living in tumultuous times, how comforting it is that the God who knows everything will guide our steps!

Pastor Zack encouraged us to look up the scriptures that are shared from the pulpit to make certain that the message is right and so that we can get everything that the Lord wants to share with us. It is becoming my habit to not only read the scriptures in multiple versions but to write out the ones that stand out to me. The last passage PZ shared was 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Here it is in "The Passion" translation:

(16) God has transmitted his very substance into every Scripture, [a]for it is God-breathed. [b] It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness. (17) Then you will be God's servant, fully mature and perfectly prepared to fulfill any assignment God gives you.

God sees and knows ahead of time the challenges and trials that we will face. But He is a good Father! He sent the Holy Spirit so that He could strengthen us to walk through each day in His strength. The scriptures are God-breathed. It is our privilege to have His Word available at our fingertips. He wants us to be prepared for each and every assignment that He has laid out for us.

Look what Jesus says in John 14:26. This is from the Amplified Version:

(26) But the [a]Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

The Holy Spirit teaches and brings to our memory the living Word of God. Remember that the whole of the Bible is living, Old and New Testament! From Genesis through Revelation!

Backtrack to 2 Timothy 3 and read the whole chapter. Look how the Apostle Paul encourages Timothy to prepare for the difficulties ahead in verse 14. Here it is in the Passion Translation:

(14) Yet you must continue to advance in strength with the truth wrapped around your heart, being assured by God that he's the One[ij] who has truly taught you all these things.

God's Word, brought to life in us by the Holy Spirit equips us. It is balanced, confirmed by the whole of the Bible.

Oh, how we need to walk in the truth of God's Word, in His Spirit, and His love!

Now is the time to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. To love the people God puts in our path with His love. To avoid walking in the flesh.

We are living in truly difficult times.

He already knows in advance what is ahead for us individually and as a church. There are no surprises to Him.

He is with us! He is in us. He loves us.

Jesus, be glorified today and forever!

Your sister in Jesus,

Liz