

HWMR: BEING A VESSEL UNTO HONOR, A FULLY EQUIPPED MAN OF GOD, BY BEING EMPOWERED IN THE GRACE WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS TO FULLY ACCOMPLISH OUR MINISTRY IN THE UNIQUE MINISTRY OF GOD'S ECONOMY (Week 5)

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 3:14-17

**Being a Fully Equipped Man of God
by Inhaling and Exhaling the Word of God as the Breath of God**

- 2 Timothy 3:14 But you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from which ones you have learned them
- 2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- 2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

Day 1

- Genesis 2:7* - Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
- John 20:22* - And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.

I. God's ultimate intention is to gain a corporate God-man for His corporate manifestation; God does not desire a good man but a God-man, a **man of God with the breath of God—John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim. 3:15-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17:**

- A. "Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath of life**, and man became a living soul"—Gen. 2:7:
1. The breath of life breathed into man's body became the spirit of man, the **human spirit**—Prov. 20:27; Job 32:8.
 2. The breath of life breathed into man's body was not the eternal life of God nor the Spirit of God, but because the human spirit came out of God's breath of life, it is very close to the **Spirit of God**—cf. Gen. 2:7-9.
 3. Thus, there can be a **transmission** between God the Spirit and man's spirit, and the human spirit is able to contact God and be one with God—Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. "He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the **Holy Pneuma**"—John 20:22 (lit.):
1. The **Holy Pneuma** is the **Holy Spirit**, or **Holy Breath**.
 2. In the Gospel of John there are three wonderful words: *Word*, *flesh*, and *breath*; the Word is **God**, the flesh is **man**, and the breath is the **Spirit**—1:1, 14; 20:22.
 3. The **Word became flesh** to accomplish **judicial redemption** and then **resurrected** to become the **Holy Breath** indwelling us and supplying us for our organic salvation— 1:14, 29; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 5:10; 10:12-13; cf. Lam. 3:55-56.

Many Christians misuse 3:16 and 17. They point out that the holy Scripture is for teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness and that it enables the man of God to be equipped, completed, and perfected. Although all this is true, it neglects the **element of life in the Word**. Those who regard the Bible as a book of teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction often ignore the life essence of the Word. As human beings we have a physical body outwardly, but inwardly we have a spirit and a soul. Our person is composed not mainly of the outward part, the body, but of the inward parts, the spirit and the soul. The principle is the same with the Bible. The Bible has not only a “body” of letters in black and white; **it also has a spirit, because it is God-breathed**. If in reading the Bible we exercise only our mind to study it, we shall not receive the life supply.

Most Christians **neglect the spirit** and take the Bible as a book of letters. The Lord Jesus once said, “*The words which I have spoken unto you are spirit and are life*” (John 6:63). Furthermore, we have pointed out that every word of the Bible is **part of God’s breath**. Thus, we should not only study the Word, but also **breathe in the divine breath embodied in the Word**. If we do not breathe the divine breath by exercising our spirit, we shall not receive life from our study of the Bible. But when we breathe in God’s breath, we are enlivened by a divine, heavenly, and spiritual element. (*Life-study of Second Timothy, chapter 6*)

Day 2

2 Timothy 3:14-16 - *But you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from which ones you have learned them and that from a babe you have known the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

- C. “**All Scripture** is God-breathed”—2 Tim. 3:16a:
 - 1. The Scripture, the word of God, is the **breathing out of God**.
 - 2. God’s speaking is God’s breathing out; hence, **His word is spirit**, or **breath**—John 6:63.
- D. This all reveals that being a fully equipped man of God with the breath of God requires the **exercise of our spirit**, the **continual receiving** of the Spirit, and the breathing in of God’s word—1 Tim. 4:7; Gal. 3:2; Eph. 6:17-18a.

II. The God-breathed Scripture is profitable for **teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction** in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work—2 Tim. 3:14-17:

- A. The **Bible is God’s breath**, this breath is the Spirit, and the Spirit gives life—John 6:63:
 - 1. Our **reading** of the Bible should be our **inhaling** of God to receive life, and our **teaching** of the Bible should be our **exhaling** of God to impart life—Acts 6:4.
 - 2. A **fully equipped** man of God **reads the Bible by means of all prayer and petition** in the spirit to inhale God and ministers the word as the Spirit to exhale God into others—Eph. 6:17-18a; Acts 6:10; 2 Cor. 3:6.

Day 3

2 Timothy 3:16 - *All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

Ephesians 3:9 - *And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,*

- B. On **God's side**, the Bible is God's **breathing**; on **our side**, the Bible is for us to **receive** the breath of God as our profit in four matters: teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness:
1. **Teaching equals revelation**; to teach is to roll away the veil so that others may see something of the Triune God and His economy—Eph. 1:17; 3:9.
 2. **Conviction comes from the revelation** that we have seen; whenever we see something of God, we realize our mistakes, wrongdoings, shortcomings, and sins, and the result is that we are **convicted and reformed**; the more we see God, know God, and love God, the more we abhor ourselves and deny ourselves—cf. Isa. 6:1-8; Job 42:5-6; Matt. 16:24.
 3. **Correction** follows conviction and is a matter of **setting right what is wrong**, turning someone to the right way, and restoring a person to an upright state—cf. 7:13-14; James 5:19-20.
 4. **Instruction in righteousness** is to be **divinely instructed** to enjoy Christ as our lived-out righteousness and to be divinely disciplined in being right with God and with man—Phil. 3:9.

From experience we know that in order for there to be much spirit in our reading and teaching of the Bible, we need much **prayer**. We must be a person of prayer. In other words, we must be a person who is **continually breathing the Lord**, a person who is always inhaling God. Our **reading** of the Bible should be a kind of **inhaling**, and our **teaching** of the Bible should be a kind of **exhaling**. As you are teaching a class in the summer school of truth, you should be exhaling God into your students.

The Bible is God's breath, this breath is the Spirit, and the Spirit gives life. When you breathe the Spirit, you receive not only unveiling, rebuking, correcting, and instructing—you **receive life**. Whenever you touch the Spirit as you are reading the Bible, you receive life. Likewise, as you are teaching in the summer school of truth, you need to **touch the Spirit**. You should have the sense that you are touching not only the Spirit but also the spirits of your students. You should have the sense that **you are exhaling God** and that **they are inhaling God**. This means that there is a **communication** between your exhaling and their inhaling. This indicates that your way of teaching is right, for you are exercising to minister life to the young people.

In teaching the Bible to others, you must be very strict with yourself, adjusting yourself again and again. During one class session you may need to adjust yourself a number of times. If you experience failure the first few times that you teach, you should go back to the Lord with much prayer. **Pray yourself into the Lord, breathing God into you**. Then, having become a praying person, a person who inhales God, go back to your class and exhale what you have received of God. (*Teachers' Training, chapter 2*)

Day 4

- Philippians 3:9* - And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
- 2 Timothy 3:17* - That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

- C. The **issue** of God's breathing out of Himself through the Scripture for teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness is that the **man of God becomes complete, fully equipped for every good work**—2 Tim. 3:17:
1. A man of God is a God-man, one who **partakes of God's life and nature** (John 1:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:4), thus, being one with God in His life and nature (1 Cor. 6:17) and thereby expressing Him.
 2. God's breathing produces God-men; we need to **continually inhale** the Triune God by **reading** the Scripture with prayer to receive revelation, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

Ephesians 6:17-18 - And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

III. To receive the word of God as the breath of God in order to be constituted with God is also to receive the word of God as the sword of the Spirit in order to slay God's adversary—Eph. 6:17-18a:

- A. Satan is not only the enemy outside of us but also the adversary inside of us; to deal with this inward adversary, we need to experience the killing power of the word, praying over the constant word of the Bible so that it becomes the instant word of the Spirit—John 6:63; Eph. 5:26; Rev. 2:7.
- B. The sword, the Spirit, and the word are one; when the constant word in the Bible becomes the instant word (the applied word spoken at the moment by the Spirit in any situation), that word is the Spirit as the sword that kills the adversary—Heb. 4:12.
- C. The more we take the word of God by means of all prayer in spirit, the more the negative elements in our being are slain; eventually, the self, the worst foe of all, the enemy of the Body, will be put to death—cf. Rev. 1:16; 2:16.
- D. Whenever we are troubled by something negative within us, we should take the word of God by means of all prayer in spirit; when the negative things in us are killed through praying, the Lord is victorious.

At this juncture I would ask you to consider how, in a practical way, the word of the Bible can become the sword of the Spirit for fighting against the enemy. Can you give an illustration of this or a testimony concerning it? Ephesians 6:12 reveals that our enemies are the evil spirits, “the world-rulers of this darkness,” “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.” Can you testify from your experience how you have slain these enemies by taking the word as the sword? In order to give such a testimony, we need to understand Ephesians 6:17 experientially by handling the Bible in the way of the Spirit and not merely in a mental way. I am concerned that in the summer school of truth you will teach the young people merely in a mental way, as if you were teaching in a secular school. We all have to learn to teach the Bible in the way of the Spirit.

Ephesians, a book on the church as the Body of Christ, talks about the Body life, the oneness of the Body, and the Body being the fullness of the One who fills all in all. We need to realize that things such as our opinion, thought, temper, emotion, natural life, and point of view are often used by the powers of darkness in the air to damage the Body life. As brothers and sisters in the church, we all have our emotion, thought, opinion, and natural life, and we all have our own point of view. Quite often we are offended, not due to the wrongdoings of others but simply due to our emotion or opinion. A chair cannot be offended, because it does not have feelings. No matter how you treat a chair, it will not be offended. However, it is easy for brothers and sisters in the church to be offended.

Due to their emotion, sisters are easily offended. Suppose an older brother speaks a word to a particular sister and she is offended because of her emotion. Then the evil power in the air comes in to take advantage of her emotion, and she determines not to forget that she has been offended. Apparently, the problem is her emotion. Actually, the problem is that her emotion has been taken over by the evil force in the air. This means that the real enemy is not this sister's emotion but the evil spirit in the air who takes advantage of her emotion in order to damage the church life. Because of the enemy's use of her emotion, this sister first has a negative effect on her husband, and then she goes on to have a negative effect on several others. As a result, part of the Body is poisoned. If the enemy is to be defeated in this situation, the sister must learn to receive the word as the Spirit, which becomes the sword to deal with the enemy.

Day 6

<i>Revelation 1:16</i>	<i>- And He had in His right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face shone as the sun shines in its power.</i>
<i>Hebrews 4:12</i>	<i>- For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.</i>

- E. We are **preserved** in the church life and in the ministry by **receiving** the word as the Spirit to be the killing sword, which is a spiritual antibiotic to kill the “germs” within us so that we can live a healthy Body life, a healthy church life.
- F. The **overcomers** keep the Lord’s word by **always coming to the Lord to contact Him** as the living word in the written word so that He can become the applied word as the dispensing Spirit in them—3:8; John 1:1; 5:39-40; 6:63.
- G. The **overcomers are fully constituted** with the Spirit as the word of God to be the bride of Christ and the new man, the corporate man of God with the breath of God as the killing sword for the destruction of the enemies of God and the manifestation of the sons of God—Rev. 2:7; 22:17a; 19:13-15; 2 Thes. 2:8.