

Psalms - Commentaries by Tim A. Roach

St. Louis Conference: 2015, Guidance of the Holy Spirit (32:8)

Address—Tim Roach

Afternoon. Umm, let's start by seeing him number. 156 Praise ye the Lord again. Again the Spirit strikes the chord. Nor toucheth to our hearts, In vain we praise, we praise the Lord #156. Praise ye, the Lord. I can't. I am. Errors by me by the Lord. Nsnoise. Nsnoise. I want to speak today about the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in Psalm 32 verse eight it says I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye until the Spirit of God wants to guide us in our Christian pathway day by day. And there's different ways in which the Spirit guides us, and I wanna look at some of those. But the Spirit can guide us in the big things in life and can also guide us in the little details of life. Some of the DE, some of the decisions we have in life and and experiences that we have, they're big choices. They're big decisions and there's big consequences if we make the wrong decision. But then there's little decisions that it's not gonna make much difference in our life if we do one or the other. But can we be guided? My my point. I'm going to attempt to address the point How how can we listen to the spirit of God in the little things?

In life, and I'm sure some of these principles apply to the bigger things too. But let's go to Psalm Chapter 40. So practically, how do we get better at listening to the Spirit of God in this busy world? We all have busy lives, and so is it possible for us to be guided by the Spirit in our daily responsibilities and the decisions in life that we have. But first, before we can be guided by the Spirit, first we need to have the word of God. In our hearts. And then we will be able to do His will. So Psalm 40, verse eight, I delight to do Thy will. O my God, yeah, Thy law is within my heart. And so this key to being guided by the Holy Spirit in the daily things of life, that's what we have in this verse. That's the key. So now, instead of, instead of perhaps delighting to be led by the Holy Spirit in order for us to do the will of God, we might end up doing nothing because our life becomes controlled by other people. Or other things in life. And so we don't hear the spirit of God. There is a man in Maputo in Mozambique, and he was a quadriplegic and he was paralyzed. He couldn't do anything for himself and so he got pushed around by others every day. And another man was pushing him around through the traffic and they're going from car to car at a stop light and they were begging. They were using the paraplegic as a, uh, as a source of income and to try to get some money at the traffic lights and they were using this helpless man as a tool to generate money for the other man. And so the invalid, he couldn't even say, I don't want to do this. He was controlled by others and by outside forces. And so we often we often worry about the fear of really knowing what is the Lord's will for my life. And sometimes it results in paralysis and we get pushed around in life like the man in the wheelchair. And we never hear the subtle suggestions of the Spirit of God. Well, we get controlled by perhaps the standards of somebody we think is illegal brother or sister in the assembly. Or maybe we get controlled by our desire to be accepted at school or in our job, or accepted in this world. And we get controlled by pressures from our peers and by the demands of society. We get controlled by our job and our schooling, and by our daily desire for success and our quest for pleasure. And so let's go to Matthew, chapter 5. We we tend to look to the to look for the will of God for the future. Sometimes the future never comes. We were always looking for the next day, for the next day. But what we need to be concerned with is the question of what is the will of God for me right now? And if we're faithful, I believe in the little things now. We'll be guided in the future with of things for things later on in Matthew 25 and verse 21 Says, well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. So how do we know the will of the Lord for our life? We have the word of God that instructs us what to do. We also have the Spirit of God that dwells inside of us, and the Spirit guides us to do what the Word of God says. And so the two work together. The word of God and the Spirit of God, they work together. And so maybe you would say, I'm waiting on the Lord to know his will about what I should do, or when I should do it, or where I should do it. Or why? And so our search for the Lord's will in our life. It can sometimes be an excuse for inaction, and it might even be an excuse for disobedience.

In Galatians chapter 5. Is it possible to be led by the Spirit to respond in a way that is on an as needed basis, maybe with our friend, or a child, or a spouse, or an acquaintance, or in any circumstance or for any decision? In other words, is it possible for us to be led by the Spirit of God on the spur of the moment? Galatians 5 verse 25. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. If you are saved, you have the Spirit of God dwelling inside you, and that means that you are living in the Spirit. And verse 25 says that if we live in the Spirit, then we need to walk in the Spirit. And so I need to allow the Spirit of God to guide my actions, my every actions, and my every decision in my daily life. And sometimes we make decisions that are perhaps controlled by our carnal desires in the flesh. Is that how we make our decisions, or or do we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God? I suppose that, uh, if I get up in the morning and I listen to the news while I eat, and then I go to work and I turn the radio on all day long, then I come home to eat, I check the Internet, Maybe I play some game. I checked the news, I watch a movie and I go to bed. Well, the Spirit is not having a chance to be able to fill me, and the Spirit of God is not even able to have much space in my heart at all. And if I have not allowed the Spirit of God any space in my daily routine? How can I live in the spirit? How can I walk in the spirit? If the Spirit has no say in my life, how can I live by the Spirit so? If we don't give any, give the Spirit of God any recognition in our life. What happens when you're with your girlfriend and you begin to get intimate? You need to walk in the spirit, even when you are with your girlfriend. But if you are not walking in the spirit. Each and every day, it's going to be difficult for for us to keep ourselves pure. Suppose you have you feel homosexual lust growing within your soul. What do you do about it? Can can we say, well, God made me this way and God wants me to be happy? So I'm just going to pursue my desires. God will understand. We need to look into the scriptures. And to see if God pursues approves us of pursuing our desires. And if God says no? It might be a real struggle for us. But if we have the Spirit of God inside of us. We need to walk in the spirit. And we need to depend on the Lord Jesus Christ for the grace to overcome. Let's go to Galatians 5 and verse 16. This I say, then. Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. In one way this sounds very simple. But in another way, we may think, oh, this sounds awful, high and mighty. But the things that we are occupied with in our daily life can can prevent us or keep us from hearing the uh leading of the Spirit. And so the more that we commune with the Lord Jesus through the Spirit of God, the more we're going to be prepared for the Master's use.

Let's go to Romans chapter 12. And we'll consider receiving divine guidance from the Spirit through Scripture. And as we learn to do and to obey the direct guidance of the Spirit through the scripture, where it will begin to have our mind renewed. And so Romans 12, verse 2. Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. When you have had your mind renewed by the Spirit of God. You get to know the heart of God. And when the communion of the Spirit is a regular part of our day, I think we will be more ready to respond when the need arises. And so back to our question of allowing the Spirit of God to guide me in the little decisions of life. Such as? Do I go to Starbucks or McDonald's? That seems a trivial thing, and I don't want to over spiritualize going out for lunch or coffee. But it may be that the spirit of God gives you a word of encouragement. And does the carnality of my selfish desire for a latte take me to Starbucks? Or do I allow the spirit of God to lead me into McDonald's? Because the spirit knows that someone in the parking lot needs an act of kindness or a word of encouragement? And I know we can't sit down and analyze every spiritually analyze every situation. And should we stop at McDonald's or Starbucks? But. Just to get the idea that the spirit of God. If we allow him. He can even guide us in those little choices in life. As you pull into the parking lot of McDonald's, maybe you cut somebody off so you can get a good parking spot. And then you try to be led by the Spirit of God to talk to somebody, to encourage them in the Lord Jesus. Well, how does that work? Living by the Spirit? Should be a whole life commitment and not just something that we turn on and off. Uh, when the CER certain occasions occur. And these are things that I myself need to be aware of in my own life. And so the Spirit guides us in the little things. So what about in the gospel? Does the Spirit guide us for sharing in the gospel? Umm, how do you know to listen to the Lord when he's telling you to go? Perhaps again? To Burger King instead of Taco Bell. So you'll be able to give a track to the cashier who's been searching. Well, we don't know that cashier is searching, but the spirit of God does, and so we need to be willing and available for the Lord. And what would you have me to do today? When I lived in, we were visiting in Karanga some about a year and a half, two years ago and. We went into the market in and we went to a certain restaurant there and there were two white women who came into the restaurant and that's very unusual there. Usually we're the only white people there, but there they were in the restaurant. And later in the day we went to the Internet cafe and those same 2 white women were in the cafe and they had found out that we had had six gospel meetings that day in three different schools with more than 3500 students. And so they asked us, could you come to our school where they were volunteering and they wanted us to preach the gospel to the children at that school. And so we went the next day and somebody got saved. It was wonderful. Was that a coincidence? That we met these two women in the restaurant and that we accepted their invitation. Or was it the spirit of God at work? The Spirit of God. He is living. He is active in our hearts and our in our lives each and every day. Let's go to Romans 8.

And this question is about the Spirit of God guiding us in prayer. The Spirit of God is communicating with our spirit, and that is because God made us in their image. We have a spirit that can communicate with God. And so, in verse 16 of Romans 8, the Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. The Spirit of God can put a certain person in our thoughts at a specific time, and it may be that the Spirit of God wants us to pray for that person that pops into our mind. Have you ever prayed for a certain person at a certain moment, not knowing that that person needed prayer at that very time? Who knew they needed that special intercession at that time? Was it a coincidence? Or is the Spirit of God at work? You might get discouraged in praying. You may not see any evidence of your prayers. But don't give up because we may never know the outcome of our prayers until we get to heaven. So allow the spirit of God to guide us even in praying. And when's the spirit of God put somebody on your heart, Maybe you don't know anything about the situation of that person. Pray for them. It may be that the Lord wants you is putting that person through difficult time where they need the encouragement of your prayers. Let's go to 2nd Corinthians chapter 8. This brings us to a question of does the spirit of God guide us in our giving in Second Corinthians chapter 8? In verse 11. Now therefore perform the doing of it, that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have, for if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath. Not according to that he hath not. In other words, it doesn't matter to God if you only have \$50.00 to give to the needy, or maybe you have \$5000 to share. On a bigger scale, God can use both of them. And it may be that the \$50.00 that you have to share with the needy is a bigger gift to God than the person who just gave \$5000. But what does matter is that we have a willing heart. We have a willing mind so the spirit of God can communicate with your spirit, so God can guide your heart in giving. Let's read verse 13. Says for I mean not that other men may be eased and you'll be burdened, but by inequality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want, that there may be equality. Another example back in Africa. Uh, a sister there. Her name is Laura. And she had a difficult situation in her life. And one day when we lived there in Malawi, we received money. For Laura. And when we took it over to her that day, she was overwhelmed with thankfulness. Because one day previous to this her kids were walking home from school and her FA and their father who had beaten their mother and chased her away and he ran off with and he kidnapped the two children and wouldn't let them go back home for months and months. And so. But on this day, her kids, who had been kidnapped by her husband, were coming to visit her. She hadn't seen them for months, and her children were permitted on that day to come and stay with her for a couple of days. She had no money. She had no food. Her children needed clothes. And she wasn't able to care for her children. And that was the very day that we brought her the money. Residence or was that God at work?

We didn't know Laura had that specific need on that specific day. And the person who sends the money did not know the situation. But the Spirit of God knew and he arranged that all would work together for good. At just the right time. Are we in tune to the Spirit in order to give money by faith? You know, the needy they receive by faith. I have many people asking me, give me, give me. I say, have you? Have, have, have you talked to God? Have you prayed to him? Why are you asking me? You need to have faith. But sometimes we need faith to give, like what happened with Laura. Acts chapter 8 I want to go over some examples of individuals who are being who were LED in the in the Bible of who were led by the Spirit of God in their everyday life and how they could act in faith. You know, let's begin with Philip in Acts chapter 8. We're just going to read part of verse 26. And the Angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go. Well, an Angel of the Lord told Philip the Evangelist to go. To the road that went from Jerusalem up to Gaza. I don't know, Maybe it was the Gaza Strip, I don't know. But it was a remote, deserted place. And so Phillip was told to go there to speak to an Ethiopian eunuch who is passing by at just that moment. And the Ethiopian. Started listening to Philip and he was saved. Was it a coincidence, that coincidence, that Philip went off into the desert? Or was it the spirit of God? He was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness. Then there was Samuel. In uh, Samuel was living in the House of Eli the priest. And Samuel, he heard somebody talking to him in the night, and he thought it was Eli. So he got up out of bed and he went to Eli and said, you're calling me, what do you want? And so this occurred on three occasions. And Samuel heard God calling him Samuel, Samuel and Eli. After the third time, Eli sensed that it was the Lord. Speaking to Samuel. So after that Samuel responded to the Lord and and Samuel from that time on he was able to communicate directly with God. Well, Samuel had to learn to recognize when it was the Lord who was speaking to him. In First Samuel chapter 3, Samuel gradually learned to hear the voice of God when God spoke to him. We need to be

regularly in touch with God so that we know when He is speaking to us. Let's go to Romans 8. And we'll look at Paul. Uh, this one's Romans. Sorry. OK, the Apostle Paul. He experienced the leading of the Spirit in his daily life, and he learned a great spiritual principle in his Christian life. And he shares it with us in Romans 8 verse 14 it says as many as are led by the Spirit of God. They are the sons of God. This verse here says the sons of God. A child of God is a person who is saved. But the Son of God is one who is saved, but has also developed a an intimate relationship, a fellowship, a communication with the Father. A son or daughter of God is one who is led by the Spirit of God. That's what our verse says. As many as are led by the Spirit of God. They are the sons of God, and so a person who wishes to know the leading of God. Must yield himself completely to the control of the Spirit of God, and I believe this includes both our minds, our hearts, our personalities, our imagination, our will. We need to give it all to the control. Of the Spirit of God. Let's go to Acts chapter 16.

And we'll consider here divine guidance from the Spirit through circumstances. And how how were Paul and Silas led to give the gospel to Lydia and to the jailer there at the Philippi prison? Well, here in Acts 16, I'm not going to read a specific verse. I'm just going to tell you what it says here. Paul and Silas, they were forbidden by the spirit of God to teach the word in Asia. They were forbidden by the Spirit of God, and then the Spirit did not allow them to go into Bithynia. And I have been invited to share the Gospel in the countries of Burundi and the DRC Congo. And to encourage the Christians there, well, the visa applications have been sent to the embassies in the in Washington. DCI don't know if the visas are going to be approved. I have my tickets, but I don't know if I'm gonna be able to go to to these countries. I may be forbidden by the spirit from going to these countries through the circumstance of having my visa denied. And so we do not know always what method, the spirit of God. I'm sorry, we don't know what method the Spirit of God used. To forbid Paul and Silas from going to Asia and Bithynia, but somehow they were led by the Spirit to not go, and later on the Holy Spirit directed Paul and Silas to go to the city of Philippi. Into the region of Macedonia and we get that in verse 12 here of Acts 16. And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia in a colony, and we were in that city certain abiding certain days. And so Paul and Silas, they were led to go there. To to Philippi by the Spirit of God. Well down in verse 13 we read about Lydia. Lydia and the Holy Spirit had LED Paul and Silas to go to a prayer meeting down by the Riverside where he met Lydia. And verse 13 tells us about that. On the Sabbath day we went out of the city by a Riverside. Where prayer was won't to be made. And we sat down and spake unto the women, which resorted thither. Was it a coincidence that the spirit of God LED Lydia, or Paul and Silas to meet Lydia there at the Riverside? Or was it the Spirit of God? I think it's the Spirit of God who guides and directs and allows us to come into contact with certain people at certain times in certain places. So we need to allow the Spirit of God the freedom to guide us and direct us where to go and. If we if we meet someone there, will we speak to that person? And I know it's easy for some people to to get a conversation going with somebody you don't know and for some of us it's rather difficult. But be willing for the spirit of God to be able to use you whenever he desires. And acts 16 verse 23 here we talk about the the jailer the Philippian jailer and while while Paul and Silas are in the same city of Philippi. Paul and Silas were put into prison because of preaching the word of God, and this was a circumstance. It was the Spirit of God guiding through circumstance that led to the jailer's salvation. Verse 23 says. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. And so Paul and Silas, they've been preaching the gospel here in the in the city. And they were arrested. They were thrown into the prison the the. They were whipped and beaten and they were thrown into the stocks and chained there and the door was shut and locked. And round about midnight Paul and Silas started singing hymns and praises to the Lord. And as they were singing the. There was a great earthquake and the whole building shook and the chains fell off the prisoners. The doors, the locks broke open off the doors. The doors were thrown open and the people, they easily could have escaped. Well, the jailer, he got frightened. And so he came and got his sword, and he was ready to fall on his sword and to kill himself. But Paul crawled out and said, do thyself no harm, for nobody has escaped. We are all here. Don't. You don't need to kill yourself.

And so the the jailer. He comes running in to Paul and Silas, and he's trembling. And he says, Sir, what must I do to be saved? Well, the answer was Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. The jailer was saved. The next thing is, is Brother Jim mentioned in the gospel last night after salvation a believer should be baptized. And so the the Philippine jailer, he was baptized and he was so happy. He he had his whole household baptized along with them. He wanted them to follow Christ too. It didn't matter that they weren't saved. They had to be baptized because they lived in his house and he wanted them to follow the ways of Christ as well. And so there were good reasons why the Spirit of God sent Paul and Silas to Philippi. And subsequently an assembly was established in this city. And later on Paul wrote the book of Philippians to these Christians. And we are able to benefit from that circumstance that happened there in the city of Philippi. 1St Corinthians 2. And we can receive divine guidance through reason, through our minds, and so now that we are saved. It is possible for us to think in godly ways, because we have been given the mind of Christ in First Corinthians 2 verse 16. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him, but we have the mind of Christ. As we read the word of God and we become familiar with it, we are able to understand its meaning and and we are able to understand it through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who who dwells within us. And so the Spirit, it guides us and directs us into truth and it guides us into our actions. And so when we have the word of God in our hearts, our minds can then bring to us that which we should be doing. And so Romans chapter 5 of chapter 8 and verse five, it says for they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded as death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. When we allow the Spirit of God to be active in every aspect of our lives, and I believe our thinking will also be guided by the Spirit of God. I know that none of us are infallible because we still have a carnal mind, we still have the flesh, and so we're still capable of having wrong thoughts or missing the mind of the Spirit. And we might even pray. Or say or even do the wrong thing. How many, how many times have we prayed about something that we really wanted to do, about something that we really wanted to buy? And The funny thing is that if it's something that we really want, the answer is always yes. Is that the carnal mind? Or is it being led by the Spirit of God? I remember a Christian husband and a wife and they were having some, uh, marriage difficulties and they were struggling and they talked to us and they said they were praying about buying a \$7000 diamond ring that they found on Craigslist and they thought it would solve their marriage problems. Well, they're praying. Well, guess what the answer was? The answer is yes, buy that ring. And so they were so happy. And now they are divorced. That ring didn't help them. Was that really the spirit of God they were listening to? We need to be careful what we pray for because we might get it. And so we need to be aware that we believers are guided by either the Spirit of God. Or our carnal minds. Let's go to Romans chapter 14.

In verse 17 tells us what happens when we allow the Spirit of God to have control in our lives. Verse 17. The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The natural man. We do enjoy the physical pleasures of meat and drink. And that is OK if we do not allow it to control us or distract us. But the natural man needs to be controlled in the light of the Kingdom of God. By righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in the Holy Spirit and John John 14. Let's look at another verse in John 14. In this in this verse it shows us another effect. In our life when we allow ourselves to be submitted to the will of God in verse 26. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I

have said unto you. Imagine the change in our meetings if we were occupied with Christ in our personal lives and we learned to listen to the Spirit of God in the little things in life. I think the Spirit of God would be given more liberty when we come into the meetings. And he could bring to your remembrance those things that you have learned in your personal study time. So you could be a help to the assembly. Maybe you're younger, maybe you don't know very much, but the spirit of God wants to use you to be a help in the assembly, and he wants to draw from your knowledge of what you have understood and learned and practiced in your life so that you can be a help to the assembly. But before you can be a help like that, first. You need to study, you need to read, and you need to meditate. So the Spirit of God has something to draw from, and the Spirit of God is able to draw from those things that you have learned both in the perhaps in the meeting, but also in your daily interaction with other believers or other situations, perhaps with other people, that you might experience every day. And so let's go to 2nd Corinthians chapter 13. And. So if we if we want to be led by the Spirit of God in the many decisions of life. We need to have a good fellowship with God. A good communion with God. And so in 2nd Corinthians 13 and verse 14 we are called to a communion to a fellowship with God through the person of the Holy Spirit. And so verse 14, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. And the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. And so the more that we are in communion with God through the Holy Spirit, the more we will be filled with the Spirit, and the more we will be able to respond to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the little things. In our life. That's all I've had today, so but I just want us to understand that. When we are filled, our minds are filled, and our hearts are filled, and our life is filled and guided by the Spirit of God. If we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh and will be ready and available for the Spirit of God to use us. When we even in the little things, even in the little decisions of life, let's close by seeing #23. Is Jesus the 1St and the last? Whose spirit shall guide us safe home, will praise him for all that has passed and trust him for all that's to come. Nsnoise. That's great.

Pella Conference: 2007, Reading the Word of God (12:6)

Address—Tim Roach

Started please. And. Hey Cortana, how long do you want to know? Like to start by reading a couple of verses as to the word of God. One is in Proverbs chapter 30. Proverbs, chapter 30. And verse 5. Every word of God is pure. He's a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Think of the first part of it. Every word of God is pure. Similar verse in Psalm 12. And verse 6. Psalm 12 verse 6. The words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified 7 times the words of the Lord. Now I've been. Impressed by some. I don't know what you call them, statistics or not, but an earlier meeting someone was saying a certain percentage of people don't read their Bibles, and I'm amazed that it's such a big percentage. I don't know how accurate the figures are. But it struck me that we really need to get the word of God for ourselves. It's nice to come to meetings and have someone else preach to us, or even a reading meeting and so on. But the important thing is for each of us in our own private lives to be reading the word of God. So let's just go to a verse a few verses in Exodus chapter 16. And we get a little instruction here on something else that seems to me to fit.

The subject of reading the Word of God. Exodus, chapter 16. And we'll start. Let's start at verse 15 or 14. Exodus 16 verse 14. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as a hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, it is manna, or what is it? For they wish not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread. Which the Lord has given you to eat. This is the thing which the Lord has commanded. Gather of it every man according to his eating, and Omer for every man according to the number of your persons. Take ye every man for them that are in his tents. And the children of Israel did so, and gathered some more, some less. And when they did meet it with an Omer, he that had gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack. They gathered every man according to his eating. And Moses said, Let no man leave of it until the morning. Notwithstanding they hearken not unto Moses, but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank. And Moses was wroth with them. And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating, and noticed this When the sun waxed hot, it melted. What do you get from that? You know, if someone slept in and waited too long and the sun was hot, they wouldn't get their manna for the day. They wouldn't have their food for the day. And I'd like to relate this gathering of the manna to every individual of us reading a part of the word of God every morning. And you know, you say, well, Yep, I have something else I have to do first. And that's something else. Takes up all your time and you don't get to read you the manna has melted. You've lost it for the day. And it's a very important thing for each one of us to recognize that we need to gather this for ourselves. I have the privilege of being brought up in a Christian home. Where Dad used to read the scriptures to us. Breakfast time and supper time. You always have a portion of the word. And he wasn't brought up in a Christian home himself. He was 12 years of age and he had gone to an outreach. Sunday School of the Brooklyn Assembly. And he heard St. preaching. And the worst that exercised them about his sins, as 12 years of age was the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. That was a verse that the man was preaching on. And it was another preacher at another corner one time when he did get saved. And I don't know the verse that exercised him, but he did take the Lord as his savior, and he seemed to be, right from the start, a student of the word. And so we had a lot of good instruction at home. I'm not sure how much we valued at the time, but we were getting little by little, day by day. The Word of God. And I'm thankful for it. It didn't be. It didn't seem ever. I don't recall ever being thinking it was a chore. Oh, we have to sit and read. No, it was part of our daily routine. I have to check that out with Jesse. See if she felt the same way. Anyway, we had the word of God read to us on a daily basis, and still some of those verses are the ones I remember. You know, we got them early in life. The point is here in this portion, if they waited too long, they missed it. And we don't want to let anything interfere with the reading of the word. I notice it said. He that gathered much had nothing over. He that gathered little, had no lack. It might be on some occasion that.

You have to go out and shovel snow or clear the car or whatever. There's something that takes up a good bit of your time, and you only get to read a verse or two and that can nourish you for the day. If you have time, you want to read more. So I just, I'm not. I hope I'm not coming across as whipping you, but encouraging you, each one young and old, to be reading the scriptures for yourself daily and try not to miss a day. Well, I want to go over to Ezra. Where there was a man of God, Ezra himself. Ezra. I can't find the first verse I want to look for. It was Ezra was a ready scribe in the word of God and then it says in the 10th verse of Ezra 7. I guess the other was. Anyway, we'll start at verse. Where is it? Verse 10 Yes, Ezra 7 Verse 10 Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. The first step was that he prepared his own heart. And then it says and to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it. He wanted to learn what it was so he could do it. He could practice what he read. And this is very important, not just to read it for head knowledge or to say

okay, I got it done for this day. This is something that should be of interest to us. And Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and he was willing to do it, to do what it said. And then to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. You know, if you read up on some subject and you try to teach somebody what it is, if you haven't done it yourself, you really can't answer the questions. You must try it for yourself, no matter what it is. Some machine or or whatever it is you want, you must do it for yourself. And then you have first hand knowledge. So Ezra not only wanted to fill his head, but he did. He acted on what he learned there. Now let's go over to Nehemiah and we'll see this put into practice. Nehemiah, chapter 8. And verse one. And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the Watergate. And they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation, both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding upon the first day of the 7th month. And he read therein. Before the street that was before the Watergate from the morning until midday. Before the men and the women and those that could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. And as were the scribes stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood various others will skip to verse 5. Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered Amen. Amen was lifting up their hands, and they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Now, Ezra. He taught the people, he stood before the congregation and it, says the men.

And the women and those that could understand. I wonder what he meant by that. Suppose it was the children, the men and the women, and those that could understand. And children can understand the word of God, and they may not understand as much as an adult. They may not understand everything that's said. But there are verses that they've learned in Sunday school and those are the ones that stick with you for life and they can't understand that and they can even apply it. So it it was a wonderful thing that it was only the men and women. It was the children too. And it's been so happy here to see so many children and some real little toddlers that aren't maybe taken in a word, they don't understand what we're talking about. But they're here, and it's going to be a familiar thing to them to be present when the word of God is read. And so in time, they will begin to learn, and they will begin to take it in. Now. It says it was before the Watergate. That's that's interesting, the Watergate, and we often think of the scriptures as water, the water of the word. And if we went back to Nehemiah chapter 3 where they were rebuilding the wall and repairing the gates, when you come to the Watergate you don't find any repairs needed. There's no repairs needed for this. But we have repairs for the Sheep Gate and Valley Gate and so on. They all needed repairs, but not for the Watergate. So the word of God is pure and it's perfect. We can't fix it up. We can't paraphrase it. We'll lose it. We'll lose some part of it if we do that. So this was done before the Watergate. I noticed the respect of the people, that when Ezra opened the book, they all stood up. And we don't seem to have that habit. We don't need to do that now, I don't think. But that was the respect that people had, whether they were sitting or it must have been sitting because they stood up when the book was opened in respect for the word of God. Well, I hope that we have a good respect for the word of God. We never want to make jokes about it. It's a serious book, and it has a lot to do with our lives and understanding the Lord. Ezra opened the book in The Sight of the People. And again, it speaks about all those that could hear and understand. Now verse 6. All the people answered Amen, Amen. I'm amazed that so little is heard of Amen, even when someone prays at a conference. Went over there, went over there. We're not in the habit, maybe even our home assembly. We don't hear about a lot of amens. Sometimes we do. It means I understand an agreement. It stands for an agreement. I think it's actually the Hebrew word for truth. It's like you're saying truth. I agree with what you said. It's true. So it says all the people now there were men and women and children, and it says all the people. Said Amen. And I don't want to start any kind of a controversy, but I think it's interesting that in First Corinthians 14, the verse that says that the women are keep silence in the in the assembly not to teach, but it says as also Seth the law. Here's part of the law, the Old Testament and they were all saying Amen. They all sing. They were men singers and women singers, and we're glad that the sisters are singing. I don't see any reason why they shouldn't say Amen to. It's not teaching, it's agreement. Well, these are the things that. Are so much of interest. As to the word of God, and are keeping it. Teaching it to our children. And reading it regularly. That's that's the point I want to really make as to the regular reading of the word of God. That we would all take it to heart.

No. New Testament. First Timothy. Yeah, First Timothy, Chapter 4. And verse 12. Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in Word, and conversation, and charity, and spirit, and faith, and purity, till I come. Give attendance to reading, and to exhortation to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate. Upon these things give thyself wholly to them thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine continue in them. For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. That's good advice, isn't it, For Timothy? From Paul the age of Apostle. Called Timothy, his son son in the face. Let no man despise thy youth. You might say. Well, that's beyond his control, isn't it? I don't think it is, or it wouldn't say that. You know, sometimes we get to carrying on and acting foolish. I'm guilty of that myself. And you could lose your respect. Your respect of others. If you're not careful. So Timothy was to be careful in his life. And he was to be. An example of the believers in Word, in Word and conversation, the things that he spoke. It's interesting when someone speaks in scripture terms, isn't it? We hear somebody saying something on scripture terms, even even a stranger. You hear somebody say something and say that sounds like scripture. It's interesting, You know, you look around and see who it is. And then verse 13 it says till I come. Give attendance to reading. I've heard that that refers to the public reading of the word. And so here we are, more or less of a public reading of the word. So we come to the reading meeting and we hear the word. Even if we'd ever speak up, we hear the word someone's teaching us. The Word of God. And we are learning little by little here, little there, a little. And then it says. Well, Timothy had a special gift from God, verse 15. Meditate upon these things. I think it was Gordon Hajo a number of times. Said meditation is a lost art. It used to be, when traffic wasn't like it is today, that you could drive along and meditate. But now you keep your wits about you and watch out. For the bad drivers as well as the good ones. But meditate. So we don't just open our Bible and say read some verses and say, OK, that's it. Think about what you've read. Maybe read some ministry with it. Or discuss it with your family, whoever is there. We always enjoy that if we have visitors, Well, we read together, ourselves, my wife and I, and then we have visitors. Why? Maybe they contribute a little bit too, when we have a nice conversation over the scriptures that we've read. Much enjoyable. Meditate on these things. Give thyself wholly to them that they profiting may appear to all.

And it's not a question of I'm going to learn some things so people will respect me, but it would happen. If if Timothy was to read the scriptures and meditate on them and people would be saying that Timothy is growing, I can see that he's learning. He's he's growing in his soul. And you don't do it for that purpose. But it will happen unconscious to yourself. Others will notice. So it was a wonderful thing for Timothy to do what the apostle said, to read the Word regularly, to meditate on it, and to put it into practice in his life. As it says, take heed to thyself. Sometimes we want to put self. We should be putting self out of sight. But here it says take heed to yourself. It's not like reading the scripture and say, well that would be good for so and so. That's good for me. Take heed to thyself. And to the doctrine continue in them. In doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee so. It would be an example to others. Be a shame. If we taught people

something from the Scripture and didn't obey it ourselves, it would be empty. But Timothy was not to do that. He was to continue. On and what he would have learned and been assured of. I think there's one on 2nd. Two Timothy, Chapter 3. And we'll start at verse 14. I suppose we could go back a little bit. To verse 12 because we were talking about it when we were reading in Peter about Peter. Verse 12 Yeah, all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Evil but evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them. And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. And is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction and righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Well. Timothy had to endure some persecution too, no doubt. And evil would be increasing around them. But in verse 14 the apostle says to him, but continue Val and the things. In the holy sorry, continue thou the things that I was learned have been assured of knowing of whom thou hast learned them. That's quite a lesson in that verse. First of all, you know some object to those old English words, but. In English, I heard common English. We don't know the difference between singular and plural. If I say you, it could be a whole bunch, it could be everybody here, it could be just you. But when you say thou is Speaking of one person, the T words are singular, the Y words are plural. And so we have it here that Timothy was the one that's under surveillance. Here continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of. And then it says, Knowing of whom thou hast learned them. Well, that's maybe a little bit broad, but we know that Timothy's grandmother and Timothy's mother were godly women. And he probably learned a lot from his mother. And grandma. And maybe they sat down with them and talked to him about the Scriptures. We don't know those details, but he learned them from those who are godly people, and he learned more from the Apostle Paul. Knowing of whom thou hast learned them, I think that's an important thing to recognize. Those from whom we hear things and we learn, should be those that are walking in the truth.

That are growing, that are, that are following the truth themselves, knowing of whom thou hast learned them. And Timothy had the privilege that many of us here did of growing up in a Christian home. At least a godly home. That from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures. I'm going to stop there a bit. I don't know how many still memorize verses. We don't have any small children in the assembly, so I don't have a Sunday school. But it's wonderful to hear those little guys stand up and say a verse. And they may not know many words, they may need help all the way through, but they're committing the word of God to memory. That from a child that was known the holy Scriptures that are able to make thee wise unto salvation. You know, and that can turn into salvation as they grow up and they learn that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, not just a short verse. And then begin to realize, yes, Sinner, I'm a Sinner. Or they. They learn a verse in which the Lord Jesus is, is the Savior. He's the only Savior. The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanses us from all sin. And they begin to learn those things and it turns into faith and they believe. And then it's very interesting, isn't it? All scripture. So the purpose of reading daily is because all scripture is given by inspiration of God. It was not what men wrote. You know, I remember some while back this foolish thought that somebody was putting out was that the reason there is differences in the Gospels is that each of the four writers wrote what they could remember. That's false, and it's very false in that if they had to write what, they would have remembered. Matthew, Mark and Luke would not have been able to write about the Transfiguration because they weren't there. And John was, but he doesn't say anything about it. You know, this is, this is God's inspiration inspired word. And so three men write about the amount of transfiguration. They weren't even there. To see it, but they were given the words from the Holy Spirit and John who was there doesn't say anything about it. That's strange, isn't it? You think you forgot it? Oh, he never could have forgotten that. But it wasn't in character, the character of his book, he's writing on one who was. Continuously on the mount. There wasn't any special occasion. He's writing about the Son of God. And so it would have been out of character for John to mention it. And the only eyewitness that mentions it is Peter. When we were with him on the Holy Mount. But he didn't write a gospel. The other gospel writers got it from God by the Spirit of God. Well, this all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine. For reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. I picked up an old calendar leaf. Very old. It was a different format than what we have them today and but it had this on this verse on it and it said. Doctrine tells us what is right. Reproof tells us what is not right. Correction tells us how to get right. And instruction in righteousness how to keep right A. I think I got those straight. I don't have them written down. But it's interesting that the the word of God is profitable for all these things. It tells us what is right, and that's why we need to keep reading it so we know it's right. We also know what's wrong. And then it tells us how to keep right, keep on. And then it says for instruction and righteousness, that's how we can keep right. So this is important that we continue to read the word of God. And it says in the last verse of that chapter that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. I'd like to see that think that that word man is kind of generic word. It's all people, everybody, men, women and children.

That the person of God going on with God may be perfect. Thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Well, that's part of the the word of God. It was one other thing I was going to speak of. And as to the Word of God. In the 4th chapter, Second Timothy. And verse 13. Paul says the cloak that I left at Trois with Carpus, when thou comest bring with thee. And the books, and especially the parchments. He left something behind back there. I wonder if the parchments might have been some of the books of the Bible that he was writing. I don't know. But he missed the books. And be ashamed if you came to the conference and you're halfway here and you said got to bring my Bible. When when you feel out of place, even if you pick up a a meeting room Bible, it's not the same as you're all. Well, he left something behind and he missed it. So we we want to be sure that we. Keep her Bible close at hand and that we read it and that we meditate on it and we pay attention to it. And that we'd be happy people. Let's sing another hymn. Thinking of the Journey #290. And where it says in second, the second verse, though the shore we hope to land on only by report is known, yet we freely all abandoned, led by that report alone. And with Jesus through the trackless, deep move on, none of us has seen heaven. We've got a report, we've got a faithful report, and it's so marvelous it can't give any details, just tells us where Jesus is and that it's a wonderful place. OK, someone could start that Please #290. Why those serious behold? I understand. That's why I'm glad that I saw information you need to do this little business. And then I went to the middle of the world and I was going to do love you. I hope you don't mind if I tell you a little story about this verse. Jim would remember Lawson Richards from Pleasantville, Nova Scotia, and he used to go back to the days of the sailing vessels when they would be out in the Grand Banks fishing for two or three months. When they got their load of fish, they would come home. And this one time they were on their way home and it was a bit stormy. And the wind was contrary and the tide was against them and they were trying to make headway. You know, the sailing boat, you just don't have the power to go straight ahead into the wind. So they have to attack back and forth. And so they went out 10 miles, turned and came back. They're in the same place. I tried again. They weren't making any headway. Finally, the captain says we're going to go into the port here. And what you don't realize when you hear a story like that is all the time they're out there, they're pounding over waves and they're keeping their balance, you know, and it's wearing out for people. And so as soon as they went past the breakwater into that harbor, perfect calm. And Lawson said, just like reaching heaven at last, that was his kind. Well, he's reached it by now. He looked at me 96 and he's

with the Lord now.

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