



Key References:

Ephesians 4:11-14 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Hebrews 5:12-14 – For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 - I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

How did Mark use the example of his father still flying on his 93rd birthday as an example of devotion? What will you be doing on your 93rd birthday?

Have you ever known someone well who has been devoted to God's word? What did their life look like as a result of that?

1 – THE WORD IS *NOURISHMENT*

During the time of the early church there was an explosion of thousands of new believers who came to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Along was an intense hunger for the Word of God providing vital spiritual nourishment. **Just like a newborn baby needs milk, how important is it for believers to feed on the Word of God? What is the goal of 'spiritual nutrition'? (ref. Eph. 4:12-13)**

How often should believers feed on God's Word? What should this spiritual practice look like practically for individuals and this discipleship group?

Read Hebrews 5:11-14. **As it pertains to the word of God are we still drinking milk or are you consuming solid food? What are the consequences of bad nutrition? How does this apply to our spiritual lives?**

2 – THE WORD GIVES *DIRECTION*

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Just like the compass of a ship, the Word of God is extremely useful! It helps us find critical direction for our lives. While we are navigating through the storms of life, or when we must make important decisions, having the right guidance is crucial for success.

What are the best practices to let God's Word be your compass? Are there any difficult decisions you have had to make in your own life, how did the bible help you? Are there any Bible verses that really steered you?

3 – THE WORD OF GOD IS *PROTECTION*

How is sound biblical teaching under attack in our society today? What strategies do people use to point the compass of God's word off-course?

As we read scripture how can we make sure we are pure in understanding God's original meaning of the text?

When you've not been reading God's word how are we easily deceived? How does the Word of God protect us from deception?

Closing Thought: Get excited for NT25 as our Oceanside church family plans to read through the entire New Testament, January to June, in 2025!