



WOW: Word Of the Week

Scripture

March 23, 2022

Our word – Scripture, that which is written, writings, the living word of God, the sword of the Spirit. 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

The church that desires to be known as a Spirit-filled faith community will at its core be a church where the Scriptures are read, studied, and lived daily. It is through the written word that the Spirit bears witness to Jesus, convicting of sin, righteousness, and judgment, revealing Jesus, transforming lives, renewing minds. The living, active Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword and is the sword of the Spirit (Heb. 4:12, Eph. 6:17). When Christians do not have a healthy connection with Scriptures—the sword of the Spirit, the Spirit is weakened, perhaps grieved, resisted, quenched, and insulted. The gospel goes forth in the power of the Spirit, and when the gospel is not going forth, there is good reason to doubt the presence of Spirit-power.

Scripture is the result of the Spirit's work, it is also the medium through which the Spirit works. The New Testament writings reveal God through Jesus and shape believers through transformation and continuing renewal. Leonard Allen, *Poured Out* (p. 128) cites David Watson. "God's word...is the very ingredient that feeds our faith. If we feed our souls regularly on God's word, several times each day, we should become robust spiritually just as we feed on ordinary food several times each day, and become robust physically. Nothing is more important than hearing and obeying the word of God." N. T. Wright describes Scripture as habit-forming and character-forming.

Perhaps some of what is wrong with the contemporary church can be explained by the absence of a healthy connection with the word of God, multiple daily connections. The Spirit-filled church models transformation and commitment, speaks boldly, and is constantly on mission to fulfill God's eternal purpose.

[May I mention again that my book, *Dwelling in the Word*, is one tool that may help you and your family spend more time with the word of God.]