

inspired!



Inspired! “Speak to me Word of God”

Allan Demond

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This week, Allan challenged us to read our bibles with huge expectation of God doing something important in us.

Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

In this passage, Peter reminds the followers of Christ that the words of scripture are breathed by God and that writers of scripture were “carried along by the Holy Spirit” (v21).

Much of the power in the Bible is because it is ‘breathed into’ by God.

Consider the following passages:

- Genesis 2:7
- John 20:21-23
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

What do each of these passages teach us about the significance and power of God’s ‘breath’?

Allan described four ways that the Word of God speaks to us as we read the bible. God’s word provides Encouragement, Awakening, Conviction and Transo

1 - Encouragement

God’s word provides help and can lift our spirits as we read.

*“The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above^o proclaims his handiwork” – Psalm 19:1*

- **Read Psalm 19.** In this Psalm David reflects on God’s faithfulness and goodness.
- **Can you describe a passage of scripture that has been a significant encouragement to you?**
- **What parts of the bible do you come back to for encouragement? Why?**

2 - Awakening

When we read God’s word, something happens in us that ‘wakes up’ our spirit and helps us come alive to God’s presence.

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“³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.” – Acts 8:34-35

Read Acts 8:26-40

Allan described the ‘awakening’ that occurred as the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip read scripture on the road from Jerusalem.

- **What do you see as the most significant aspects of this story?**
As Philip journeys with the Ethiopian, he explains scripture to him. So significant is the man’s awakening he asks to be baptised immediately.
- **Can you think of a moment when God’s word has “awakened” you to a new truth?**

Often we need a fellow believer to help us understand passages of scripture.

- **Is there someone who helped you understand scripture early in your faith? How did they do it? What passages did they help you understand?**
- **Are there people you know who may need your help to understand the bible as they read?**

3- Conviction

The bible is a source of rebuke, correction and confrontation: it helps us identify aspects of our lives that need attention.

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” – Hebrews 4:12

How would you explain this verse to a non-believer?

Allan reminded us that scripture is not only breathed into, by God, but that God’s word also breathes into us through God’s spirit.

**What passages of Scripture do you find challenging as they convict you?
You might like to start by reading James 4:1-10 or Romans 3:9-20**

4 - Transformation

We can become more like God by ‘marinating’ in his word.

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“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” – 2 Corinthians 3:18

Much of our culture is focussed on productivity and ‘doing more’. Allan challenged us to spend more time in contemplation of God’s word.

What habits do you have that have helped you read your bible more often?

What do you need to do to spend more time in God’s word?

What are you going to do to make this happen?

It might be helpful to establish a relationship of accountability with someone in your group so you can encourage each other as you spend more time in God’s word.



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