

## **The Bible Is Active in Four Ways**

*Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

### **The Bible can do four things for everyone who reads and believes it.**

First, it will teach you... if you approach it with a teachable heart. The Bible is useful for teaching. This is God's intention. This is what He says about the Bible.

The Bible will instruct your mind about things that no one, except God, knows anything about. It will tell you things about yourself that only God knows. Everybody wants to know these things. But there are many who refuse to let the Bible be the authoritative source of all Truth.

For instance, commonly, everyone wants to know what lies beyond death. People are hungry to know what lies beyond it, asking, "Is this life all there is?" The human mind has been questioning this subject through history. But there is only one Book that will tell you the answer to that question. In fact, the Spirit of God who speaks out this Book has alone empowered the Lord Jesus who died to come back from the grave. He knows what is beyond. He did His greatest work there. This Book reveals areas we know nothing about, areas that life experiences cannot teach us.

Second, the Bible has the power to rebuke. The Greek word may best be translated "convict." How many have had the experience of reading the Bible and becoming aware that something you had done, perhaps something you did not think was too wrong, was the reason why you were hurting others? The Bible suddenly made you aware of it. In order to be free, to escape the heaviness of your guilt, you had to change your thinking and you had to commit yourself to a different direction. That powerful change is conviction. The Bible has tremendous power to point out to us the areas of wrongdoing in our lives. It is wrong only because God says it's wrong...and He will one day hold us accountable for doing it.

Third, the Bible, if allowed, will correct you and make you walk in ways of a life which ways keep you from judgment. The amazing testimony of this Book is that, when taken seriously, it leads people to freedom and to life. Those who engage in practices and attitudes that this Book warns about are always led to degradation, to enslavement, to loss, to a narrowing and limiting of the joys and the beauties of living.

Finally, the Bible is for training, but training in righteousness. The Bible has the power to finely tune you, like a skillful coach, to enable you to walk day by day in a more righteous way. A righteous walk with God is blessed and productive. The Bible is able to train us, to lead us along into ever-expanding experiences of righteous living.

All of this is for a purpose: so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17). This Book alone is sufficient to do this. Nothing man has thought or written can produce this quality of life that produces present blessing and joy for eternity. The Bible alone produces a man or woman who is whole. That is the purpose of this Book. It is the instruction Book that will work out all your kinks and quirks, and enable you to be a whole person as God intended you to be. It will teach you how to know God. It will teach you how to receive the miraculous work of God from heaven, the New Birth. The Book is the only source that produces faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whom to know is abundant living and eternal life.