

# The Power of the Word, Study 8

## The Divine Purpose of the Word, Part 5

In this study we will look at the 5<sup>th</sup> divine purpose of the Word of God. Let's review once more:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Divine Purpose

I Timothy 3:15: the Bible is able to make us wise for \_\_\_\_\_ through faith in Christ.

### 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Divine Purposes

II Timothy 3:16:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

This study looks at the 4th purpose listed in verse 16. Before beginning the study, again, as always, take some time to pray, that the Holy Spirit would make His Word go deep within you.

The definition of the fourth word in II Timothy 3:16 is this:

*παιδείαν (paideian) ἐν (en) δικαιοσύνη (dikaiosynē) tutorage or training in righteousness, right living, equity, especially justification*

"Training in righteousness" has the very personal connotation of a tutor. A tutor works with the student one-on-one. Through His Word, God gives us personal attention, specific instruction for our individual lives and needs. God speaks to us through His Word, counseling, guiding, and coaching us through life.

Read Hebrews 12:1-11. From these verses, I want you to see 3 key words.

### 1<sup>st</sup> key word:

vs. 1: "let us run with \_\_\_\_\_"

vs. 2: "who for the joy that was set before Him \_\_\_\_\_ the cross"

vs. 3: "For consider Him who \_\_\_\_\_ such hostility . . . against Himself"

vs. 7: "If you \_\_\_\_\_ chastening"

What will this "race" of faith and the chastening of the Lord require of us? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2<sup>nd</sup> key word:

vs. 5: "My son, do not despise the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord"

vs. 6: "For whom the Lord loves He \_\_\_\_\_"

vs. 7: "If you endure \_\_\_\_\_"

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vs. 8: "But if you are without \_\_\_\_\_"

vs. 9: "We have had human fathers who \_\_\_\_\_ us"

vs. 10: "They indeed for a few days \_\_\_\_\_ us"

vs. 11: "Now no \_\_\_\_\_ seems to be joyful for the present"

What is God doing in our lives? His is \_\_\_\_\_ us.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> key word:

vs. 5: "you have forgotten the exhortation that speaks to you as to \_\_\_\_\_"

vs. 5: "My \_\_\_\_\_, do not despise the chastening of the Lord"

vs. 6: "[The Lord] scourges every \_\_\_\_\_ He receives"

vs. 7: "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with \_\_\_\_\_"

vs. 7: "For what \_\_\_\_\_ is there whom a father does not chasten?"

vs. 8: "If you are without chastening . . . then you are illegitimate and not \_\_\_\_\_"

Who is God talking to in these verses? His own \_\_\_\_\_

Repeated words are like flashing signal lights informing us what the passage is about. Using these 3 key words, write a sentence about what these 11 verses are telling us:

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But there is one more key word that needs highlighting. It's in vs. 11. First let's unpack this verse that concludes the whole paragraph.

What does vs. 11 say about chastening or discipline in the present moment?

It is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_

But what is God's intent for the discipline according to this verse?

It yields \_\_\_\_\_

God is always after fruit in our lives. Isn't it interesting that righteousness is peaceable? Stop and think about that for a moment. What is it that leads to agitation internally within your soul and externally in relationships? Isn't it sin and its accompanying consequences? But when you know you've done the right thing, when there's no shame or regret, doesn't that bring peace? And what does that last purpose in II Timothy 3:16 say the Word of God does for us?

It \_\_\_\_\_ us in \_\_\_\_\_

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Righteousness is a big Bible word that we often don't define in our own minds very well. It simply means (though not so simple for us to do!) to do the right things, to say the right things, to think the right things, and to have the right motivations. It's being right in every way. We all like to be right, don't we? That is what God is doing in us, through His Word and through the disciplining trials of life.

Do you see how God's Word informs and instructs us about life and how to think about our trials and circumstances? This passage alone corrects our faulty thinking about trials. It gives them divine purpose and intention. It enables us to embrace them as friends instead of fighting them as enemies and trying to eradicate them ASAP. And that leads us to the 4<sup>th</sup> key word in Hebrews 12:1-11.

**4<sup>th</sup> key word:** Who bears this fruit of righteousness and receives the benefit of it?

vs. 11: ". . . those who have been \_\_\_\_\_ by it"

Some translations use the word "exercised," some use "trained," and some use "learned from." The Hebrew understanding of discipline is not about punishment, as we might tend to think, but rather training—like an exercise coach. Instruction is involved, and the discipline of exercise reps (which can be painful at first!). A coach will also work on correct form, etc., and stretch his students beyond what they think they are capable of. That, too, can be painful at the time and difficult. But afterward . . . the increased strength and skill and control is so worth it!

This is how God uses His Word, coaching us and training us to be righteous: to make right decisions, to adjust our thinking so it lines up with what is true, and to develop right desires, enabling us to respond to people and situations with right attitudes and actions. Are you willing to let God train you by applying His Word to your everyday circumstances? It is possible to reject the training, to refuse the coaching He gives in His Word, and to resent the circumstances that give us opportunities to practice what He's trying to teach us. In other words, we can choose not to work on the exercise reps He gives us.

Using the 4 key words from this study, we could summarize the exhortation in Hebrews 12:1-11 in this way: **Endure** the Lord's **discipline**, **son/daughter** of God. Let Him use it to **train** you in right ways of thinking and living.

Trust Him in every hard thing and let the Word of God determine your response. Take some time to think of every hard circumstance in your life and thank Him for each one, knowing He has a good purpose for bringing that into your life: He is using it to save your soul from entrenched sinful, selfish patterns. He is changing our default mode, you might say, from habitually self-centered reactions to transformed, Christ-centered, love-based responses.

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In conclusion, list again the 4 divine purposes for the Word of God from II Timothy 3:16 and write any particular thoughts or ideas that the Lord impressed upon you:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_

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Pray over these things for yourself and/or for others whom the Lord brings to mind.