

The Mt. Olive Worship Experience
"40 Days in the Word" ...
Pastor Barry Morton

Intro: (Life Change E-mail story) Why does this happen when the Bible is opened up and read...Because

This Book is unlike any other book. There a lot of good books in the world...but this book is unlike any other book! This book has a power that NO other book has...IT has power to change lives AND the reason IT has the power to change lives is because IT is the Word of God. Listen to this...

Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17

It says that "All scripture is God breathed." That word GOD-BREATHED in Greek is *THEOPNEUSTOS*. THEO, meaning God and PNEUSTOS, meaning breathed. The Bible is God-breathed. It is a book that is INSPIRED by God! It's NOT just a good idea! It's NOT a nice suggestion! It is God's INSPIRED Word to us!

Read Hebrews 4:12

The Word of God is actually alive. It is LIVING and ACTIVE! The word "living" there in Greek is the word ZAO. It means TO LIVE! It means the Word of God is living...It's alive...it's NOT just word.

And it's active. The Greek word there is the word *ENERGOS*, which is where we get the word energy from. It has energy...it has the power to change things!

Then it says, "It is 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." The Word of God has the power to cut right to the heart of any issue we may be facing in our life...it has the power to point out what's wrong in my life...and it has the power to point to EXACTLY what I am missing in my life and what it is that I TRULY need!!

In other words...the Bible has the POWER to change me! What I want to do is to look at THREE ways that the Bible changes us...

1 It transforms my mind

Read Romans 12:2

The Bible tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds! How do we renew our minds...it's by getting rid of the old way of thinking and replacing it with a new way of thinking!

Where does the new way of thinking come from? It comes from the LIVING and ACTIVE Word of God! You see...When I take the Word of God and I fill my mind with it...it washes my mind!! And for a lot of us...we NEED our minds renewed! Right Now there are some of you...

- 1 That are living with Shame and guilt from your past...1 John 1:9
- 2 That are feeling like excess baggage...Jer. 29:11
- 3 That are feeling like you are all alone...Matt. 28:20
- 4 That are feeling like you can't...Phil. 4:13

You see...the TRUTH cleanses the lies, the junk, the shame, the sin out of our mind and out of our life! It's a spiritual cleansing that takes place! And when this spiritual cleansing takes place...WE BECOME TRANSFORMED!!!

BUT, some say, "I have opened up the Bible and read it little bit but I am NOT getting anything out of it! It must NOT work for me!" And that may be the very thing that some of you are saying RIGHT NOW! If that is you...don't quit...listen to this...

Read Joshua 1:8

Did you hear that word, "Meditate?" Meditate means to ENGAGE in thought or contemplation!

(When I think of ENGAGE I think of having a conversation with my 7yr old)

You see MEDITATION is the key to TRANSFORMATION! Let me say that again...in case you didn't hear me, Meditation is the key to Transformation!

You see, it HAS to be more than opening it up one time a week while you are here! Sure you will get something out of it, but if you are seeking true TRANSFORMATION then that will come from meditation on the WORD when you are here, when you are at home, in the morning, in the evening...it's a total soaking of your mind with the Word of God!

(As we are going through the 40 Days in the Word...the workbooks)

2 It Gives me Hope

Read Acts 20:32

He says to the people in Ephesus I am getting ready to leave and I am going to commit you to God and to the Word of His grace...which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

What does that mean: "Give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified?" Well, let's look at what an inheritance is. An inheritance is what you get for being part of a family! Example...

Let's say your father is Warren Buffet...a very, very, very, wealthy man. He writes a will and he passes away. What if you never took the time to read the will? For whatever, you just never bothered to go and look at what was written in it! That would be called D U M B! Why? Because you would NOT be getting what belonged to you as a child of Warren Buffet!

When you become a follower of Jesus, when you make a decision to invite Jesus into your life and trust Him...you're NOT just a believer but you are now a BELONGER! There is an INHERITANCE that is now YOURS! You become a part of God's family! And as a part of God's family you have promises that are for you! Promises that are written in the Bible!

But what if you go through your entire life and never take the time to know the promises that God has for you...not knowing the power, the opportunities, the benefits that are available to you as God's child!? Again...that would be called DUMB! Because God says I have an inheritance for you as my child...I have

promises I want you to claim! And you discover those promises as you read the WORD!

AND when I discover the promises...It gives me HOPE! Hope no matter what I may be going through or facing that day...I have HOPE because I know the promises God has for me...promises I CAN STAND on because I am a child of the MOST HIGH GOD!!! But I will never know the promises AND will never be able to CLAIM those Promises and experience this kind of HOPE until I open up the Bible to read the promises!

3 It strengthens my Faith

Here is what I have discovered, I have discovered that a big reason why the church is NOT a Church on the Move today is that a lot of times we operate out of FEAR instead of operating out of FAITH! We are afraid to take risks, we are afraid of failure, we are FILLED with all kinds of fears and because of that we operate out of our fears instead of our faith!

Read Hebrews 11:6

By faith is meant a living, active faith, a faith that knows and follows God...AND without it you cannot please God! It is impossible to please God without faith! So, how do we move from fear to faith? Listen to this...

Read Romans 10:17

(Story of when I first became a believer and lost all of my friends...kept falling in)

For almost a year I read this book! And as I read it and read it and read it I found myself gaining more and more courage...gaining more and more strength...gaining more and more confidence...gaining more and more faith...my mind was being transformed as I learned the promises of God for my life! But that only came from reading and meditating on the LIVING, ACTIVE Word of God!

I have said this before, but I believe that many of you are sitting on a miracle! Meaning RIGHT NOW God wants to use you in a mighty way to make a difference for His Kingdom, but fear is keeping you from experiencing that miracle!

It's time for you to stop operating out of FEAR and activate your FAITH!

So how can you do that?

1 You learn the Word!

2 You live the Word!

You take what you are learning and you LIVE IT OUT! You put it into practice! Let us give you ONE...just one...practical and easy way to start LIVING IT! Serve...

Read John 13:14-17