



# ***FALL 2018 DEVOTIONAL***

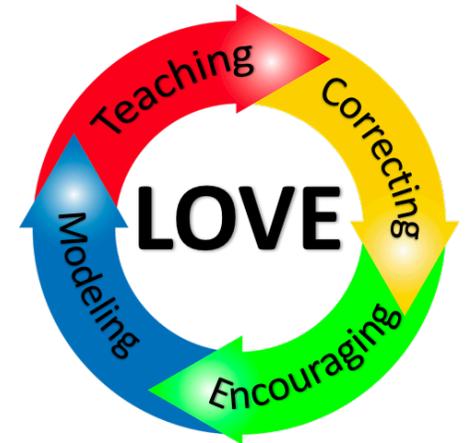
***WEEK 2: October 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>***

**DISCIPLES  
MAKING  
DISCIPLES**

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Helping Others Follow Jesus

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## ***I AM HOPE***

**Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
Dr. D.Z. Cofield, Senior Pastor  
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**Monday, October 15, 2018**

## **“A Habit of Diligence”**

*<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)**

I remember when I was in Seminary and we were beginning a test in one of my Pastoral classes. Just after the start of the test, my Professor looked up and he said to the class, “By the way, if you desire to one day teach others about the Bible, it’d be a good idea if you knew it.” This was a great challenge to me, that I do all that I can to make sure I became solid in knowing God’s Word. This was not only to pass the test, in this class; but most importantly, to pass the tests that myself and all Christians will face in life. Knowing and applying God’s Word helps you group in your discipleship.

In today’s text, Paul is writing to his protégé Timothy whom he left to pastor at Ephesus. He is admonishing him to remember the teaching that not only he has received from his mentor but to also trust the source of those teachings. That source was the sacred Scriptures that Timothy has known and has been brought up under from his childhood. This remembrance was going to be necessary in order for him to not only defend the faith against false teachers and pretend believers, but to build up the novice believers (make disciples) under his pastoral care. Paul reminds him that the reason the Scriptures are to be trusted is because

of what those Scriptures contain. First, it states that it is the word of God and all of it is inspired by Him.

Secondly, it is not only profitable for teaching what’s right (teaching), as it says, but it’s also reliable for teaching what’s not right (reproof), how to live right (correction), and how to stay right (training in righteousness). As a pastor, Timothy is required to not only care for his flock in those difficult days, but more importantly he would need to teach them sound doctrine, so that they would also be able to stand firm against false teaching. In order to do this, he would need to ensure that he is fully prepared and equipped for that said task. Just because Timothy is in a vocational ministerial position and is the focus of Paul’s writing in 2 Timothy, it doesn’t mean that it’s not applicable to us all today.

We too have been charged in the Great Commission to teach disciples. However, we must also be thoroughly equipped to do that, and it starts with a firsthand knowledge of the Word of God. That means we must be diligent and disciplined enough to read not only our favorite passages or just the New or Old Testament but the entire Bible. The Bible tells us that all Scripture is profitable, meaning that every book contains life changing nuggets and tidbits applicable to all circumstances of life. More knowledge of the Bible makes us all that much more effective in equipping other saints for their walk on this difficult journey. It also serves to further solidify our own faith and convictions as we tap deeper into the saving power of God’s Word. How about you? How often do you read the Word of God? Have you read the entire Bible?

2 Timothy 2:15 encourages us to study in order to rightly divide the Word of Truth. It can be anxiety provoking to think or to envision ourselves in a teaching role, especially if we don't believe we've been given that spiritual gift. From personal experience I know how much calmer I am when I have confidence; I'm adequately prepared. In 1 Peter 3:15, the Bible tells us to always be prepared to give an answer. That preparation begins with the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.

Let's make it a habit to be diligent in the reading of God's word in its entirety. It not only teaches us as we digest it, but it also equips us to teach others.

**If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. - Colin Powell**

- Aaron Simpson

**Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

### **"PASS THE BATON"**

*<sup>1</sup> You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

**2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)**

In the world of track and field, individual races are fun to watch, but it is the relays that are most impressive, because

they involve a team of runners. This relay of runners has to build trusting relationships, work relentlessly on timing, and the most critical part of all, learn how to have a successful handoff of the baton. The baton is what gives the next runner the right to advance. As believers in the gospel, we have been given the baton of God's truth to use in the making of disciples so that they too are able and willing to advance God's baton to others. It is the perpetual relay that God has ordained in making disciples. Disciples teaching disciples teaching disciples...

Paul commanded Timothy to allow the grace found in Christ Jesus to provide him the strength necessary for continuing in the ministry despite the suffering he was aware of in Paul's current circumstance. Paul connected the grace found in Christ with the teaching of the Word Timothy had heard from him and had been confirmed firsthand by many others. Paul next, issues Timothy a command regarding his responsibility to pass the baton on to other people who have demonstrated their trustworthiness. Those who in turn will have the ability in the future to diligently teach others. Think about when you first received Christ, who took the time to pour the Word of God into you or they invested in your biblical training.

Think about how excited you were to listen to and understand the truths of God's Word for the first time. How you were encouraged by the testimonies of others who modeled and lived out before you what they had believed and taught. Now you are in that very position. Will you in turn, pass on the baton to others who are faithful so that they too can some day pass the baton as well. That's what Christ did with His disciples who did it with their disciples who did it with their disciples, ... What will you do?

**God saved you through the hearing of the message concerning Jesus Christ. You grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ through studying the scriptures, listening to others teach, and teaching others what you have learned. HELP OTHERS TO COME - GROW - AND GO!**

**Passing the baton of God's Word is a perpetual event.**

- Min. Ronell Peters

***Wednesday, October 17, 2018***

### **"Seeing Things We Cannot See By Ourselves"**

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

**Colossians 3:16 (NIV)**

What will you do? Your daughter comes home and says, her coach doesn't like her, is mistreating her and is trying to create a negative disposition between her and the other team mates. Of course, we as parents could not believe it, but the question was staring us in the face. How do you respond to your daughter? This little girl was not one to be challenged with tears in her eyes and a rage of anger, a strong will to fight. My wife and I knew how to handle this

one! So How would you respond? We told our daughter to always be respectful and remember you are God's child. This was a teachable moment. We loved on her and pointed out the good in her. We focused on the value she gave the team with an understanding her strength comes from God. It was God who afforded her the talents and her personality, and He was using her for what we was doing! We didn't fight with the coach and we encouraged her not to as well. We did encourage her to show Christ's love to the coach and show empathy.

God gives us opportunities to share His wisdom and His love to all people. He gives us what we need when we need it. God allows us to partner with Him in some unusual ways and great opportunities. Our text points out that, we have to let Christ be with us always. When we focus on Christ always, when situations come up, we will already be in the mind set of Christ. While we are in Christ we can now be used by God to make disciples for Him or help someone to have a deeper relationship with Christ Jesus. We have to understand that when we first humble ourselves then Christ can dwell among us in a mighty way. Our text gives us reassurance in our hearts, when we reach out in love to one another. It is better to wash a person with the Word of God, as opposed to words of the world. Christ's will shall be done, and we have to be willing to put aside our worldly thoughts and seek the message Christ has for us to share. If we are honest with ourselves, a lot of times our first thought is not the best thought. Think about if a coach or teacher would play those types of games with your child, a conversation should take place, but only after you have gathered your thoughts. When we are dealing with any situation with our children and others, our priority should be how can God get the glory.

God has given us something very special in relationships. He has given us one another to love and to experience Christ through one another. I will never forget at our daughter's team banquet the following year, her senior year. At the high school girls banquet, the head coach shared a public apology to my daughter. She was so remorseful about how she treated her. With tears in her eyes she apologized and also shared how my daughter helped her to have a better relationship with God! We were so shocked. This was so refreshing to know, that all I could say was, "Look at God!"

**People grow when you teach them general truths, yes, but also when you correct their particular errors.**

**How awesome would it be for you to lead in a discipling relationship by inviting others to correct you and making it easy for them to do so.**

– Min. John Burroughs

**Thursday, October 18, 2018**

**“What Does That Look Like?”**

*<sup>8</sup>And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. <sup>9</sup>Keep putting into practice*

*all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.*

Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)

In our society today, we have products or services that someone is trying to sell us. Sometimes, these may be things that enhance our lives. At other times, these items add no value to our existence, and if bought, only enhance the sellers' lives. In any case, typically, we won't buy anything unless we can see "what it looks like." Viewing the product or seeing how it should or can be used typically helps us to know whether this is beneficial to us or not. Many times, a model is used to help us visualize the possibilities and make the item more appealing. How an item of clothing will hang, fit, or "pop", may be better understood using a model. A model home, fully decorated, gets our imaginations flowing about how things will look in our own home. The idea of a model is not only beneficial when thinking about retail, however. In the Christian life, a model can be a very useful concept to see what a certain Christian principle, practice, or discipline actually "looks like."

In the book of Philippians, Paul writes to encourage, commend, and correct the believers at Philippi. In the last portion of the letter, chapter 4, he points out what our minds should be focused on. In this world, that is so full of negativity due to sin, we need to keep our minds in the right place to be the people that God wants us to be. Paul is basically laying out a game plan based on the fact that we typically will behave, and function based on where our minds take us. This is not a new concept, however. He had earlier encouraged the believers in Rome in the same way

with the statement, “*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” in Romans 12:2. This simple yet profound truth needs to be implemented so that we can glorify our God and live a life that is pleasing to Him. Paul even goes on to point out that they can look to him as a model of this, in verse 9. Paul had been consistently practicing this principle for years. The evidence of this was all that He had accomplished for the kingdom of God. Churches had been planted, hardships endured, and souls saved through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In our lives, our mission field may not be as extensive as Paul’s. However, the enemy is just as busy as he ever was. The devil is selling people a mindset that all is lost, things are never getting better, and there is no hope. People need the joy, love and hope of our God through Jesus Christ. So, on our jobs, around our friends, or even at the grocery store, we can still be effective and impactful at changing lives for the Lord. The model that WE are, just may be the example of what’s possible, with God, in the eyes of someone that really needs to know Him and grow in Him.

**It’s been said before that, “The only Bible that some will ever read is the example that a Christian’s life gives” What will be their story of God when they see what you are modeling?**

**Will you be a supermodel for God?**

– Min. JP Whittaker

**Friday, October 19, 2018**

## **“The Power of Encouragement”**

*<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

**Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)**

Life has a way of throwing some curve balls, and frequently they come in the form of experiences that lead to discouragement. Personal failure, broken relationships, unexpected terminations, failed health, and financial hardships, all come when least expected. Sadly, some experiences not only deflate our confidence, they demean our person. If we are not careful the curve balls of life can cause us to lose hope; to believe that the present moment will define our future. This is exactly why we need *others* in our life; people that breathe hope in what seems like a hopeless situation.

From today’s passage, it’s clear there are times we need *others* to speak into our lives or for us to be the ones speaking into another’s life. Verse 24 reminds us that this needs to be something we put thought into, “...*let us consider how to stir up one another.*” God made us relational and one of the ways we benefit from this most is when we need encouragement. All of us need encouragement, but sometimes it’s at a crucial moment in our journey.

Walt Disney, the famed creator of Disneyland and Disney World was fired from his job because *his editor felt he lacked imagination and had no good ideas*. Clearly, that man was wrong, and the world knows Disney as one of the most creative visionaries in American history. What has often gone untold is how a neighbor helped Walt move beyond discouragement to keep dreaming.

Encouragement is important in our faith journey to give and receive. One of the greatest benefits of the corporate worship experience and our small group times is the encouragement we draw from one another. The good thing is it's not limited to these settings. Parents, teachers, coaches, and friends have all spoken words that changed the trajectory of someone's life.

**We need each other more than we know and encouraging words can inspire hop by changing our perspective.**

*Like apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances. - King Solomon (Proverbs 25:11 NASB)*

- Min. Dana Thomas