

# PASS THE FAITH ALONG

Part 2 of IMITATE ME. 2 Timothy 3:10-11.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 1, 2023.

## INTRODUCTION

### **The Great Commission Includes Teaching.**

- When Jesus gave his apostles their marching orders, he told them to make disciples and to teach them.

Matthew 28:16-20 (ESV) Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Paraphrase: Jesus said, “Pass the faith along by teaching the Bible.”
- Passing the faith along is the 2nd component in the spiritual growth path.

### **2 Timothy 3:1-17**

**The environment in which we pass the faith along.** But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive ...

**The spiritual growth process.** 10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra— which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me...

**Using the Bible to pass the faith along.** 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and

for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## HOW TO PASS THE FAITH ALONG

### 1. Believe the Bible Is Supernatural Revelation

- When the apostle Paul wrote, “*You have followed my teaching*” (2 Timothy 3:10), he meant:
  - Timothy heard Paul’s teaching
  - Timothy believed God revealed it to Paul
  - Timothy began to share, preach and teach it as God’s Word.
- Paul believed he received his teaching directly from Jesus Christ:

Galatians 1:11-12 (ESV) For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Paul puts his teaching into the same category of revelation as the Old Testament - the sacred writings in verse 15, the Scripture in verse 16:

2 Timothy 3:16a (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching...

- Today, we say the whole Bible is God-breathed Scripture; it is God’s Word, it is clear and it is true.
- We won’t pass the faith along until we believe the Bible is supernatural revelation. Three helpful books:
  - Taking God at His Word by Kevin DeYoung
  - Unbreakable by Andrew Wilson
  - Why We Believe the Bible by John MacArthur

## **Believe the Bible Creates Supernatural Transformation.**

- The Holy Spirit used the Bible to do two supernatural works: 1) save sinners, and 2) equip saints (believers, Christians).

- The Bible saves sinners:

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

- Timothy's personal experience of salvation:

- The Bible equips saints:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete (ready), equipped (prepared) for every good work.

- The Bible keeps our eyes on Jesus and spiritual realities, speaks truth, wisdom, and direction for godly living. It prepares us for God's work and transforms us to become more like Christ.

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY BY PASSING THE FAITH ALONG**

### **Pass the faith along by preaching, teaching, and communicating the Bible.**

- Spiritual growth is tied to the Bible. Where would you be without it?
- We learn the Bible, apply it, and share it with others.
- We share the Bible and pass the faith along at home, and with whomever and wherever God opens doors.
- In this way, we become more like Jesus Christ who:

Matthew 4:23 (ESV) ... went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom

# SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

## GET STARTED

- As an ice-breaker: What are your fall season traditions?
- What is one new thing you did in the last month or so? How was it.

## DIVE IN

- Review the study guide. What were Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related to passing the faith along?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15. Discuss the power of Bible teaching to lead people to faith. What has been your experience in this regard?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Share a time when Bible teaching helped to prepare you or others for a life-situation, challenge, or ministry.
- Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. In what ways is opposition to the Word, disinterest in it, or deception about it similar to what we're experiencing today at home, work, school, or in the community/country?

## MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

- Share helpful insights into how to communicate the Bible in various contexts, such as with our children, with friends, with ...
- How strong is your commitment to the Bible as God-breathed, sacred writing, possessing God's authority as God's true word. Discuss your questions, doubts, objections.

## PRAY TOGETHER

Pray that the Lord would help us to continue to communicate the Word in season and out of season. "Lord help us to pass the faith along by sharing the Bible at every opportunity." Also: Pray for each other, for the Cornerstone Church, and for our Outreach Partners.