



Living Our Best Life [II Timothy 3:10-17]

LIVE a fruitful life [10-13]

- [1] Teaching [doctrine]
- [2] Conduct [manner of life]
- [3] Aim in life [purpose]
- [4] Faith [belief, trust]
- [5] Patience [self-control]
- [6] Love [unconditional, sacrificial love]
- [7] Steadfastness, [patient endurance]
- [8] Persecutions [pursue for suppression]
- [9] Sufferings

... be very glad – for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. I Peter 4:13 [NLT]

LOVE → The Journey [14-15]

LEAD with confidence [16-17]

Scripture is . . .

- [1] breathed out by God [divinely breathed]
- [2] and profitable for teaching, [beneficial]
- [3] for reproof, [leads to instruction with conviction]
- [4] for correction, [straightens us up]
- [5] and for training in righteousness [tutors us]

2 Timothy 3:10-17 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.¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it¹⁵ 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.

James 3:16-18 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Proverbs 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

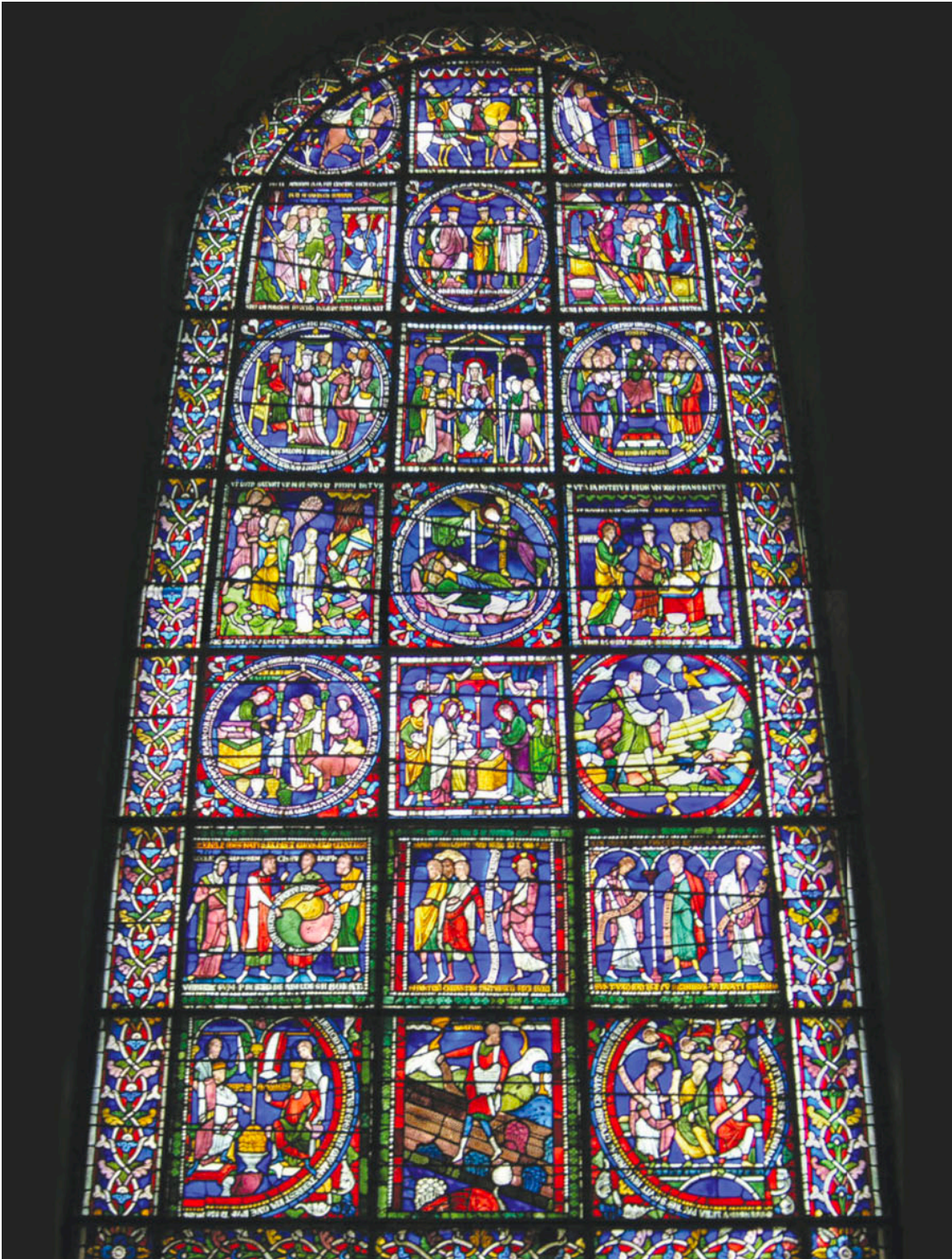
Proverbs 3:25-26 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,²⁶ for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

Discussion Questions

1. Read II Timothy 3:10-13. Matthew Henry wrote, “Those who teach by their doctrine must teach by their life, or else they pull down with one hand what they build up with the other.” How does our understanding of God affect every area and season of life that Paul mentions in the list that gives us insight into how to live a fruitful life?
[Doctrine- instruction, especially as it applies to lifestyle application - Gotquestions.org]
2. Read II Timothy 3:14-15. What has your journey of faith been like - your testimony? Focus on: 1] Your life before you knew Jesus, 2] The day you embraced Christ as your personal Savior, and 3] Your journey since you made Christ the Lord of your life.
3. Pray for confidence to trust God and lean into His word in every season of your life.

ENGAGE THROUGH ART: POOR MAN'S BIBLE - CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL, ENGLAND [Abide Bible]

This 13th-century stained-glass work of art enabled an illiterate population to learn about the Bible. Located at the Canterbury Cathedral in England, the artwork is so named because few people other than the wealthy could read; they learned Bible stories through these illustrations. This window comprises three columns, each with seven levels illustrating seven biblical stories. The center row portrays New Testament scenes, and the side rows display Old Testament stories. Historically, stained-glass windows at cathedrals around the world have helped keep God's Word available to all.



In 2 Tim. 3:16–17. Paul taught Timothy that all Scripture is inspired by God and would equip him for every area of life. Just as each stained-glass pane shown here has individual scenes, the Bible gives us guidance for each aspect of life.

In addition, we can step back and marvel at the entire work.

The Bible proclaims a powerful big picture about God's eternal purposes.

[Artist Unknown, The Poor Man's Bible, 1200s, Stained Glass]

LIVE a fruitful life [10-13]

II Timothy 3:10-11 ¹⁰ You, (attention please) however, have followed . . .

[1] my teaching, (didaskalia - that which was taught - doctrine)

[2] my conduct, (agōgē -manner of life)

[3] my aim in life, (prothesis - purpose - set before - shewbread)

[4] my faith (piste - belief, trust, confidence, fidelity)

[5] my patience, (makrothymia - forbearance and fortitude)

[6] my love, (agapé - unconditional. sacrificial love . . .)

[7] my steadfastness, (hypomone' - patient endurance)

[8] ¹¹ my persecutions (diogmos)

[9] and sufferings (pathēmasin)

that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra (region where Timothy grew up - where he first met Paul)— which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

¹² [You will be persecuted] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

James 3:16-18 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Notes Page 4

[3:10] prothesis. Paul didn't merely write out a mission statement. The Greek term, prothesis, "setting before," held great significance to Jews, who used it to refer to the consecrated bread in the temple (Exod. 25:23-30; Lev. 24:5-9). The apostle's purpose—the goals of his life—had been "set before" God, just like the consecrated bread." (Swindoll)

[3:11] Paul adds two more things that Timothy knew about: "persecutions" and "sufferings." These things had happened throughout his missionary career (cf. 2Co 11:23-29), beginning in Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra (Ac 13:50; 14:2, 5, 19)—cities in the Roman province of Galatia where Paul had founded churches on his first missionary journey. In Lystra, he was actually bombarded with stones and left for dead. Since Timothy was a young man in Lystra at that time and had evidently just been converted under Paul's ministry, he had poignant memories of this incident. But out of them all the Lord had delivered Paul, even reviving him from the stoning. (Swindoll)

[3:12-13] Timothy needed to realize, as all Christians do—especially those to whom "prosperity theology" appeals—that when a person determines to live a godly life he or she will suffer persecution. With his or her commitment to follow Christ faithfully the Christian sets the course of his or her life directly opposite to the course of the world system. Confrontation and conflict become inevitable (cf. Matt. 10:22-23; Luke 21:12; John 15:20; Acts 14:22; 1 Thess. 3:4). [Constable's Notes]

[3: 13] This statement does not contradict what Paul said in verse 9. In verse 13 Paul meant that evil becomes more intense as time goes on. In verse 9 he meant that the teaching of evil does not necessarily become more extensive and capture a wider audience as evil becomes worse. In other words, God will allow false teachers to go only so far and then their true character will become obvious to all. [Knight, George W., III. *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text*]

LOVE - the Journey [14-15]

II Timothy 3:14-15 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.

Proverbs 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. 8 He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

[3:14] But as for you. Timothy not only learned from Paul but also home influences (1:5) and doubtless others in the church. *We also learn from others' trials in the faith, so that God can enable us to survive and even thrive.* [EBC]

[3:14-15] Rather than being led astray by these impostors, Timothy must continue in the teachings that he had learned and of which he had "become convinced." [EBC]

[3:15] These Scriptural teachings he had learned from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (see II Timothy 1:5) right from the time he was a baby. Jewish children were customarily taught the law at an early age, and they had to commit parts of it to memory. [EBC]

"The holy Scriptures" renders "the sacred writings," i.e., what we now call the OT Scriptures, which were able to make him "wise" in preparation "for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." They disciplined him in obedience to God and also pointed forward to the coming Messiah, through whom salvation by faith would become available. [EBC]

LEAD with Confidence [16-17]

II Timothy 3:16-17 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.

Proverbs 3:25-26 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, ²⁶ for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

All Scripture is . . . [In Paul's time the OT, but also the NT as it was being composed. The Bible both contains and is, in whole and in part, God's Word. - BTSB]

[1] is breathed out by God (theopneustos - divinely breathed -Inspiration)

[2] and profitable for teaching, (ophelimos - beneficial)

[3] for reproof, (didaskalian - instruction with conviction [or leads to])

[4] for correction, (epanorthōsin - straightening up; rectification)

[5] and for training in righteousness, (paideia - tutoring)

¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, (artios = perfect, ready) equipped for every good work. (exērtismenos - finish out)

[16] The doctrine of inspiration refers to the process by which God oversaw the composition of Scripture, guiding the authors to write exactly what he wanted them to write without error. The Greek word translated inspired is literally "breathed out by God." Our God communicates, and he has worked supernaturally through the Holy Spirit to communicate perfectly to us (see 1 Cor 2:9-16; 2 Pet 1:19-21). When we read the Bible, we are reading the very words of the living God.

All Scripture is profitable for teaching (instructing you in the truths that you need to know), for rebuking (reproving you for what you've done wrong), for correcting (showing you what it right), and for training in righteousness (guiding you to approach life as God intended) (2 Tim 3:16). Everything a believer needs to become all that God has redeemed him to be has been deposited in the Scriptures. [Tony Evans Study Bible]

[17] 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 4:6 says, remarkably, that right now by faith we can "behold the glory" of Christ. And this beholding is linked to the Spirit's work in our hearts as the Word of God is read and heard (2 Corinthians 3:12-16).

For years I thought that God could be active in my life through the Spirit and that the Bible was a book I had to obey if God was going to come in. I now realize that Bible is the way that, through the Spirit, God is active in my life. [Keller - The Bible is Alive and Active]