

BENEFITTING FROM GOD'S WORD

2 Timothy 3:16

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The Bible (Scriptures, Word of God) is totally supernatural and is God's divine revelation. God directs man's thoughts and elevates the mind of man. In giving His Word, God directed the writers of His Word in every thought, in every word they wrote. God's divine image is clearly upon every page therefore removing the thought that man thought up the Scripture. The Bible is directly from God to man.

I. THE SCRIPTURES ARE SUPERNATURAL

1. The Scriptures clearly reveal the supernatural God.
 - God of the Bible is so perfect and has attributes that nobody with human knowledge could have possible invented God or His attributes.
2. God of the Bible can only be known by His supernaturally revealing Himself to man.
 - **1 Corinthians 1:21; Acts 17:23**
 - It takes more than just written words to come to know God for He is known only supernaturally and that by His revealing Himself to one's heart.
 - **2 Corinthians 4:6**
3. God can be known only through a supernatural means.
 - **John 3:3**
 - Unsaved people have no spiritual knowledge of God. (**1 Corinthians 2:14**)
 - One must receive eternal life before God can be spiritually known. (**1 John 5:20**)
 - A spiritual understanding by being born again spiritually must happen before God can be known in a spiritual way.
4. Knowing God in a spiritual, supernatural way produces a supernatural experience.
 - Jesus spoke often of the Jews of His day being born as God's people, yet they didn't really know God. (**John 7:28; 8:19, 54-55**)
 - They were well acquainted with God in theory, but did not have any spiritual knowledge.
 - Many today associated with the Christian Church believe in the "trinity" but are completely ignorant of a supernatural, spiritual knowledge of God.
 - The fruit of a tree reveals the character of the tree and thus a person's life reflects what the heart is truly like.
 - In the genuine Christian, child of God, he/she is indeed a miracle of grace, a "new creature in Christ Jesus" and his/her life is supernatural.
5. Those knowing God in a supernatural way have a unique attitude toward God.
 - They love God, the things of God, what God loves and then hate the things that God hates.
 - The supernatural change in a person is produced by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.
 - The Holy Spirit never works apart from God's Word.
 - By the Word the Holy Spirit awakens a person.
 - By the Word the Holy Spirit produces conviction of sin.
 - By the Word the Holy Spirit sanctifies.
 - By the Word the Holy Spirit give assurance.
 - By the Word the Holy Spirit helps the believer to grow.
 - A believer's spiritual maturity depends upon his/her reading and studying God's Word.

II. THE TRULY SPIRITUAL PERSON BENEFITS FROM GOD'S WORD, THE SCRIPTURES

1. A spiritual person sees and recognizes God's claims.
 - One recognizes that God is God and not Satan or man.
 - Sin has separated man from God, set man's heart against God but salvation means to be restored to God and a spiritual person recognizes these truths. (*Ephesians 4:18; 1 Peter 3:18*)
 - The spiritual person yields him/herself completely to God with no reservations.
 - To have God as one's God is to give to God the throne of one's heart.
 - It is God's Word that one learns who God is and what God requires and therefore in yielding one's self to God, one is truly being blessed.
2. A spiritual person has a greater fear of God's majesty.
 - *Psalm 33:8; Proverbs 9:10*
 - Fearing God is the beginning of wisdom for God is so high above all things that it should make a person shake and His power so great that one should be terrified and He is so holy that the very thought of doing sin should fill one with horror.
 - When God is truly known, He will be feared.
 - The truly spiritual person will be afraid of disobeying and defying God nor even want to.
 - The truly spiritual person wants only to please God in all things and in all places.
 - The Word of God teaches one how to fear God.
3. A spiritual person has a deep reverence for God's commandments.
 - Sin started when Adam disobeyed God's law and ever since then mankind has followed Adam's disobedience.
 - Salvation is deliverance from sin, it's guilt, it's power and it's penalty.
 - A truly spiritual person will obey God's commands and Jesus said that *"...if a man love me, he will keep my words..." (John 14:23)*
 - One's love for the Lord is expressed in keeping His commandments.
4. A spiritual person has a firm trust in God's abilities.
 - What a person trusts most is his/her "god."
 - Health, wealth, self, friends, etc.
 - A truly spiritual person relies upon God to provide, protect and bless him/her.
 - Sometimes one's faith wavers, but that truly spiritual person will not be totally down.
5. A spiritual person has a delight in God's perfections.
 - Whatever a person's "god" is, he/she seeks for that "god" to satisfy his/her pleasures, pursuits and needs.
 - The truly spiritual person knows that God will meet and provide all that he/she will ever need.
 - The worldly person has many desires and ambitions but the truly spiritual person has only one thing and that is that he/she may dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
 - The truly spiritual person does not rely on the world for his/her needs, but totally upon God.
6. A spiritual person submits gladly to God's directives.
 - It is natural to complain when things go wrong but it is "supernatural" to hold one's peace.
 - It is natural to be disappointed when plans do not work out but it is "supernatural" to accept God's directives, God's ways.
 - It is natural to want one's own way but it is "supernatural" to say, *"...not my will, but thine be done..."*
 - It is natural to rebel when a loved one is taken away, but it is "supernatural" to say as did Job, *"...The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord..." (Job 1:21)*
 - A truly spiritual person will learn from God's Word what is best and will enable a person to accept whatever God sends or with holds.

7. A spiritual person praises God for His goodness.
 - "Praise" is natural for a person who is truly spiritual, no matter what happens.
 - *Psalm 34:1*
 - The more one knows of God's Word, the more one will adore Him, as long as the Word of God is studied and obeyed.
 - The more one's soul is drawn out of true worship, the more one will thank and praise God and in doing so, give clear proof that he/she has benefited from the Word of God.

CONCLUSION:

1. There is no question as to the benefits of God's Word.
2. Only through God's Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in understanding and applying God's Word can one ever come to know the Lord God as He wants everyone to know Him.
3. Only through living according to God's Word can a person live as God wants him/her to live.
4. Studying and applying God's Word enables a person to truly grasp the greatness and graciousness of God.
5. How is YOUR study of God's Word? Do you apply it? Do you live by it?