

# Absolute Truth Breathed From God To Us

## A Brief Study of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 -- Part 3

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Three weeks ago we studied the importance of the inspiration and authority of Scripture, especially considering that every word in the original inspired text was God-breathed, as if from the very nostrils of God.

Last week we took a closer look at some key words in verse 16 such as **"profitable," "teaching," "reproof," "correction," and "training in righteousness."**

Now, in this our final lesson in the three-part series on the inspiration and authority of Scripture, we will attempt to see the benefit and application of Paul's instruction to young Timothy and us.

Verse 17 reads as follows: **"that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work"** (NASB).

First and foremost, let us define the key words of the verse.

**"Man of God"** First of all, The Holy Spirit, through his receptor, Paul, says **"so that the man of God..."** It is not just any man or woman who will be ready and able to teach, rebuke, correct and train others in righteousness. It is a man who is born again, mature, and devoted to the cause of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. That type of man is the one who will pursue the work that God will bring into his life. I think of the quote by Dwight Lyman Moody, the great evangelist, when he said: "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to Him. By God's help, I aim to be that man." D. L. Moody has certainly been used by God to do great things for Him! One out of every eight missionaries in the world have come out of Moody Bible Institute, and Moody's zeal for personal evangelism was impeccable. Moody had made a personal commitment that he would not go to sleep on any night until he had shared the gospel with at least one person. One night he realized that he had not done so, and so he got up in the middle of the night, went across the hall in the building where he was living in Chicago, knocked on a door, and shared the gospel message with a person who was actually open to hear it! A person fully committed to God is the one who can be effectively used for "every good work." Are you willing to be a person like that?

**"Adequate"** The next major term here in verse 17 is presented many different ways in various versions. It is the word **"adequate"** in the NASB, **"fitted"** in Young's Literal Translation, **"perfect"** in the KJV, **"complete"** in Wuest, the ASV, RSV and NKJV, **"complete and proficient"** in the Amplified, It behooves the student to compare these translations in order to discern which one has the closest rendering of the Greek. The word here in the Greek is **"artios,"** ( pronounced **ar'** - tee - os ). Thayer defines it as "fitted", "complete", or "perfect." Interesting that Young's Literal has "fitted," Wuest and the NKJV has "complete," and the KJV has "perfect." When the translators strove to translate a word into the receptor language of English, they had to choose a word. So one can see that it can be a difficult task to get as close to the original word as possible. Hopefully the serious Bible student can see the value of comparing versions to get the clearest intent of the author in the earliest manuscripts.

Next is the word "**equipped**." It is "**exartizo**" (pronounced ex - ar - **teed**' - zo ). It means to completely outfit, fully furnish, fully equip or supply. When we think of what Ephesians 2:10 says, we should consider what God has supernaturally outfitted the Christian to do, and God had planned those works before we were even born! "**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them**" (Ephesians 2:10 NASB).

We, as Christians, are each given gifts by the Holy Spirit at the time of our regeneration. It is our responsibility to discover which gift or gifts are ours **and use them!**

The word "**exartizo**," ("**equipped**") is in the perfect tense. It speaks of the abiding condition. The scholars at Precept Austin say that "there is to be no lack of proportion and balance in any area of the '**man of God.**' The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit taking His Holy Word and applying it to our hearts, transforming and renewing our minds will make us holy and wholly fit and furnished for this relatively brief sojourn in this present evil age."

The famous missionary Hudson Taylor who was equipped and used by God in his "good (God) work" of opening inland China to the gospel as he served for 51 years in the 1800s echoed Paul's words in his declaration when he said, "*Depend on it. God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply.*"

I often hear people say, "I can't do this or I can't do that, because I am not skilled in this or that!" Or they may come up with many other excuses why they can't do a work for God. But the Bible tells us differently. **God can use anyone** who is fully committed to God, **if their heart is right**, and they are willing to **step out in obedient faith**, depending on the **One** who indwells them and equips them.

The last term is the phrase "**every good work**." The key word in that phrase is the word "good." "Good" is "**agathos**" (pronounced ag - ath - **os**' ). The word is used to describe any quality, thing or person that may be approved as useful, profitable or benefiting others. Be like a fruit tree. Even though the tree is (probably) not aware of the fruit-bearing process, it is just doing what it was created to do -- bear good fruit. When we observe creation, we see that the animals, birds and plants are working hard to produce the work which God has created them to perform. They probably don't think about it, but they put their all into reproducing, feeding and protecting their young, singing, playing, flowering, and producing fruit. You seldom ever observe any of creation rebelling against what God has created them to do. We humans are the ones who rebel against God by often not doing what we were created to do. Whether it be sins of commission or omission, we are prone to sin. We were born into sin, and nobody had to teach us to sin. It came about naturally because we were sinners. But God has made us new creatures in Christ and we are indwelt by God Himself. Therefore we can live a victorious, abundant life in Him, as we obey Him and yield to the indwelling Holy Spirit.

May you yield to the Spirit and not grieve Him. If you are born again, you have been given spiritual gifts -- you are equipped! You are completely furnished with an inexhaustible supply of resources, adequate for you, fitted specifically for you, and perfected in the Spirit of God, Who lives in you. You and I can teach, rebuke, correct, and train others in righteousness and be perfectly prepared to do the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do. We have the inerrant Scriptures, every word and thought of God, breathed right from His heart and mind, inexhaustively poured out of His eternal, infinite, all-powerful and holy Being. Cleanse our hearts, Lord. Let us obey. The time is short. Amen. As the song says, "***If just one more soul were to walk down the aisle, it would be worth every minute--it would be worth every mile -- a lifetime of labor would be well worth it all if it rescues just one more soul!***"