

## THE WORD ON THE WORD ON THE WORD

### I. Various Scriptures

**A. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV) are among Paul's last words to his son in the faith: 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 (**inspired**) by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man (**and woman**) of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

**B. Hebrews 4:12 (NASB) declares: 12** *For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**C. Matthew 24:35 (ESV) are red letters from Jesus: 35** *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*

#### **D. Here's some quotes on the Word of God and those who preach it...**

**1) Someone famously unknown said:** "Jesus is the Word; the Bible is the Word about the Word; and preaching is about the Word about the Word about the Word."

**2) The late R.C. Sproul said:** "Your task, O preacher, is to make sure that you are faithful to the text, that you are faithful to the proclamation of that gospel, that you are faithful to set forth the whole counsel of God, and then step back and let it happen."

**3) Billy Graham echoed:** "When we preach or teach the Scriptures, we open the door for the Holy Spirit to do His work. God has not promised to bless oratory or clever preaching. He has promised to bless His Word."

**4) Paraphrasing Charles Spurgeon regarding the Gospel:** "It's a lion that just needs to be let out of the cage." **So let's open up that cage..,**

**E. Now obviously the three Scriptures we began with are from the New Testament. There are some who will somewhat affirm the NT Scriptures but then wonder about the authenticity of the OT Scriptures. They might say things like 'God in the OT was harsh and mean but by the time the NT rolls around He's a kinder and gentler sort of God.'** Closer study will prove otherwise. Others assert that the OT is more fable-like and shouldn't be taken literally. They object to the notion of a big boat & giant flood, a talking donkey, a fish swallowing a man who lives to tell, a boy slaying a giant warrior with a sling and stone, and miraculous escapes from lions, fiery furnaces, and even invading armies. They muse: **"We'll take Jesus, you keep the fairly tales!"** But who is this Jesus who they claim to take? What did He have to say about these Sacred Writings?

**F. John 1:1-4 & 14 (ESV) is all about this Jesus: 1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In*

*Him was life, and the life was the light of men... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (The Word-Made-Flesh has a name: Jesus! It means He was the Law & Prophets made flesh; the Psalms & Proverbs made flesh; the Gospels & Epistles made flesh. So we take all the Word as His Word!)*

**G. We must therefore ask, what did Jesus think about all those OT stories? Did He accept and proclaim the OT literally or view them as mere myths & legends & allegories, i.e. novels or non-fiction? Here are some OT accounts He put forward as truth:**

- \* The Creation account, including man & woman given in marriage (Mark 10:6-9)
- \* Noah & the Flood (See Matthew 24:38-39; Luke 17:26-27)
- \* Jonah swallowed by a huge fish (See Matthew 12:39-41)
- \* Sodom & Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15; Matthew 11:23-24; Luke 10:12)
- \* Lot's escape from those cities and his salty wife not so much (Luke 17:28-32)
- \* Cain murdering his brother Abel whom some claim never existed (Luke 11:51)
- \* Father Abraham (John 8:56-58) and his offspring Isaac & Jacob (Luke 13:28)
- \* Manna--bread from heaven given to Israelites in the desert (John 6:31, 49, & 58)
- \* The notion that Moses, Daniel, Jonah, & Isaiah authored their own books...
- \* When Jesus rebuked Satan in the wilderness, rebuked the religious leaders, and when He taught His disciples & followers, He quoted the OT Scriptures...
- \* Likewise we should point out that Jesus fulfilled all the OT prophecies written about Himself; subjected Himself to the Law and kept it completely; and over and over and over again affirmed the authenticity and relevancy of the written Word.

**H. So when Jesus put forward the OT stories, was He being deceitful or telling the truth? When He spoke, was He merely telling bits & pieces of truth or was He telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help Him, God? If you can't trust Him in all that He said, what part of what He said do you trust Him? And if He didn't tell the truth, i.e. was deceitful, how could it be said He was the Righteous One? And if He wasn't the Righteous One, the Lamb without spot or blemish, how could His sacrifice achieve our atonement before an all holy God?**

**I. There was a Pharisee, a religious leader who believed the whole of the OT, who suspected Jesus was no ordinary prophet or rabbi. He came to Jesus at night. He either did so out of embarrassment or to have uninterrupted Q & A time with our Lord. His name was Nicodemus. Pharisees knew their Scriptures. They memorized the first five books of the law, the Pentateuch. But just like any book you read, it's possible not to grasp what the author means by what He wrote. So with much ignorance, Nicodemus seeks out**

Jesus, who's the Author of all this Pharisee had put to memory. Jesus blows his mind by talking about being born again and about how the Messiah must suffer. Then they head to ground zero.

**J. So let's pick up in John 3:16-18 (ESV) which I'll call ground zero: **16** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. **18** Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

**K. The Word-Made-Flesh takes Nicodemus to Bible School. By extension, He's taken all of us there as well. The Word on the Word on the Word shakes down to this: The Gospel. The Good News. The Good News amidst all the bad. Hope for the hopeless. Salvation for the sinner. Rescue for the perishing. Eternal life for those facing eternal punishment. All the Bible's books point to this! The flood lights of all 66 books have their radiant confluence here! So what will you do with that?! Accept it or reject it? Push it away or wrap your heart around it?**

**L. But then you might say, 'The Gospel got me saved but I've graduated to loftier, more spiritual truths and endeavors.' 'I'm working out my own salvation with fear and trembling.' And I will say, if the basis of your salvation was this Gospel of Grace, then the basis of your sanctification should be the same. The Gospel is as pivotal to our growth in Christ as it was to our new birth in Christ. As for working out your salvation with fear and trembling, if that's not being worked out under the umbrella of Grace and being powered by the same Holy Spirit that birthed you anew, then I urge you to delve into God's Word a little deeper.**

**M. Remember Philippians 1:6 (ESV): "And I am sure of this, that **He** who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (That Good news holds hands with John 3:16! The One who began it, is the One continuing it, and He'll be the One who finishes it! Theologians often call this progression: *justification, sanctification, and glorification*. The Gospel isn't just saving us from sin, death, & hell, it's making us into the children of God who will joyfully inhabit His Kingdom forever and ever and ever!)**

**N. The Word on the Word on the Word is this: Our salvation was made possible by Jesus Christ. Yet it was a Triune conversion. God the Father sovereignly orchestrated it through the sending and sacrifice of His Son who died for our sins. And our regeneration came via the Holy Spirit who opened our hearts up wide to receive and believe and even to come and dwell inside us.**

**O. And because we were made His own, He is transforming us into the likeness of Himself. Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV) should prove helpful as we close: **12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. That is the Word on the Word on the Word--for today, tomorrow, and always...**

**\* Close with Prayer...**

## **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

### **2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)**

**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.

### **Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)**

**12** For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

### **Matthew 24:35 (ESV)**

**35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

### **John 1:1-4 & 14 (ESV)**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### **John 3:16-18 (ESV)**

**16** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. **18** Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

### **Philippians 1:6 (ESV)**

**6** And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

### **Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)**

**12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

### **Quote by R.C. Sproul**

“Your task, O preacher, is to make sure that you are faithful to the text, that you are faithful to the proclamation of that gospel, that you are faithful to set forth the whole counsel of God, and then step back and let it happen.”

### **Quote by Billy Graham**

“When we preach or teach the Scriptures, we open the door for the Holy Spirit to do His work. God has not promised to bless oratory or clever preaching. He has promised to bless His Word.”

### **Sermon Excerpt from Charles Spurgeon**

"The Word of God can take care of itself, and will do so if we preach it, and cease defending it. See you that lion. They have caged him for his preservation; shut him up behind iron bars to secure him from his foes! See how a band of armed men have gathered together to protect the lion. What a clatter they make with their swords and spears! These mighty men are intent upon defending a lion. O fools, and slow of heart! Open that door! Let the lord of the forest come forth free. Who will dare to encounter him? What does he want with your guardian care? Let the pure gospel go forth in all its lion-like majesty, and it will soon clear its own way and ease itself of its adversaries.'

- Charles H. Spurgeon, sermon titled, "*The Lover of God's Law Filled with Peace*," #2004, Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington, January 22, 1888. To read the full sermon, go to:

<https://www.spurgeongems.org/sermon/chs2004.pdf>

### **Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment**

**You Need the Gospel Every Day - John Piper**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=909SuXGfWeo>

**The Transforming Power of the Gospel - R.C. Sproul (Full Sermon)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAN2wFQzGy8>

**The Ground of Our Assurance (Two Jews Talking the Day Before the First Passover)**

- D.A. Carson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJRz5fLCmM8>

**Not Easily Offended - Pastor Nick Batzig**

<https://www.feedingonchrist.com/blog/post/on-not-being-easily-offended>

**Six Reasons Reformed Christians Should Embrace Six-Day Creation**

<https://www.challies.com/sponsored/six-reasons-reformed-christians-should-embrace-six-day-creation/>

**Avoid the "Us vs Them" Trap - Cindy Matson**

<https://biblestudynerd.home.blog/2021/10/05/avoid-the-us-vs-them-trap/>

### **Hymn Lyrics by John Newton**

Precious Bible! What a treasure

Does the Word of God afford?  
All I want for life or pleasure,  
Food and medicine, shield and sword:  
Let the world account me poor,  
Having this I need no more.

### **This Book**

An unknown writer said, "This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.

### **Isaiah 5:20-24 (NIV)**

**20** Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. **21** Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. **22** Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, **23** who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent. **24** Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

### **Matthew 5:17-19 (ESV)**

**17** Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

### **2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NIV)**

**1** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: **2** Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. **3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn

their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **5** But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB)**

**13** But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

### **Quote by Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

"We all therefore have to face this ultimate and final question: Do we accept the Bible as the Word of God, as the sole authority in all matters of faith and practice, or do we not? Is the whole of my thinking governed by Scripture, or do I come with my reason and pick and choose out of Scripture and sit in judgment upon it, putting myself and modern knowledge forward as the ultimate standard and authority? The issue is crystal clear. Do I accept Scripture as a revelation from God, or do I trust to speculation, human knowledge, human learning, human understanding and human reasons? Or, putting it still more simply, do I pin my faith to, and subject all my thinking to, what I read in the Bible? Or do I defer to modern knowledge, to modern learning, to what people think today, to what we know at this present time which was not known in the past? It is inevitable that we occupy one or the other of those two positions."

### **Quote by Salmon P. Chase**

"There came a time in my life when I doubted the divinity of the Scriptures, and I resolved as a lawyer and a judge I would try the Book as I would try anything in the courtroom, taking evidence for and against. It was a long, serious and profound study and using the same principles of evidence in this religious matter as I always do in secular matters, I have come to the decision that the Bible is a supernatural Book, that it has come from God, and that the only safety for the human race is to follow its teachings."

- Salmon Portland Chase (1808-1873) was a U.S. politician and jurist who served as the sixth Chief Justice of the United States. He also served as the 23rd Governor of Ohio, represented Ohio in the United States Senate, and served as the 25th United States Secretary of the Treasury.

### **Quote by Herschel Hobbs**

"The Bible contains truth found nowhere else. Human reason may discover certain truths about God. But the revealed truth of the Bible exceeds these so as to defy comparison. One may exhaust the meaning of the contents of other books, but not that of the Bible."

- Herschel H. Hobbs (1907-1995) was one of the leading Christian communicators of the twentieth century. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City for nearly twenty-five years and also wrote or edited 147 books and Bible commentaries.

### **Quote by John Flavel**

"The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying"

- John Flavel (1630-1691) was an English Presbyterian clergyman, puritan, and author.

**Quote by John Wesley**

"I now propose short, clear, and strong arguments prove the divine inspiration of the holy Scriptures. The Bible must be the invention either (1) of good men or angels, (2) of bad men or devils, or (3) of God. It could not be the invention of good men or angels; they neither would nor could make a book, and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, *"Thus says the Lord,"* when it was their own invention. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils; for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell to all eternity. Therefore, I draw this conclusion, that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration."

**Quote by Rosaria Butterfield**

"If God is the Creator of all things, and if the Bible has His seal of truth and power, then the Bible has the right to interrogate my life and culture, and not the other way around."

**Quote by Adrian Rogers**

"It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. Let me tell you something, friend, it is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth, than to be loved for telling a lie. It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was a power for God who did not have enemies and was not hated. It's better to stand alone with the truth, than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better to ultimately succeed with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie. There is only one Gospel and Paul said, 'If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed'."

**Quote by Steven J. Lawson**

"It matters to God what is preached. And it matters to Him how it is preached. No man is free to preach whatever and however he so chooses."

**Quote by John MacArthur**

"A failure to preach Scripture redirects people from a God-centered perspective to a man-centered perspective. It tends to undermine confidence... in Scripture."

**Quote by David Helm**

"Some preachers use the Bible the way a drunk uses a lamppost--more for support than for illumination."

**Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"There is an infinite majesty about every line of Scripture, but especially about that part of Scripture in which the Lord reveals Himself and His glorious plan of saving grace in the person of His dear Son Jesus Christ."

**Quote by Thomas Carlyle**

"The Bible is the truest utterance that ever came by alphabetic letters from the soul of man, through which, as through a window divinely opened, all men can look into the stillness of eternity, and discern in glimpses their far-distant, long-forgotten home."

- Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) was a Scottish philosopher, satirical writer, essayist, translator, historian, mathematician, and teacher.

### **Quote by Charles Colson**

"The Bible--banned, burned, beloved. More widely read, more frequently attacked than any other book in history. Generations of intellectuals have attempted to discredit it, dictators of every age have outlawed it and executed those who read it. Yet soldiers carry it into battle believing it more powerful than their weapons. Fragments of it smuggled into solitary prison cells have transformed ruthless killers into gentle saints."

### **Quote by Albert Baird Cummins**

"The empire of Caesar is gone; the legions of Rome are smoldering in the dust; the avalanches of Napoleon hurled upon Europe have melted away, the prince of the pharaohs is fallen; the pyramids they raised to be their tombs are sinking every day in the desert sands; Tyre is a rock for bleaching fisherman's nets; Sidon has scarcely left a wreck behind; but the Word of God still survives: All things that threatened to extinguish it have only aided it; and it proves every day how transient is the noblest monument that men can build, how enduring is the least word that God has spoken"

- Albert Baird Cummins (1850-1926) was American lawyer and politician. He was the 18th Governor of Iowa elected to three consecutive terms and U.S. Senator for Iowa serving for 18 years.

### **Quote by Samuel James**

"'Doctrine divides, Jesus unites' may be a catchy slogan, but it's actually nonsense. Theology is simply what happens when thinking carefully and deeply about what God has told us in Scripture. Doctrine is not a stumbling block but a rock solid foundation on which to base our hearts and minds. Jesus says that true worshipers worship in "spirit and in truth." That means that in order for Christian readers to truly worship God they must think truthfully about Him, and that means doing theology."

- Samuel James, Associate Editor at Crossway Publishing, excerpted from article titled, "*5 Myths about Christian Publishing.*" To read the full article, go to: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/5-myths-about-christian-publishing/>

"Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them." - Unknown

### **What Role Does Sanctification Play in Salvation?**

David S. Whitney - 9Marks Journal

<https://www.9marks.org/article/what-role-does-sanctification-play-salvation/>

How important is this question? This is not an abstract question about theology; it is a down-to-earth issue for both evangelism and ministry. It is at the heart of one of the great plagues of evangelicalism—the unconverted church member. This question is at the root of the “Lordship Salvation” controversy as well as the so-called “Carnal Christian” conundrum, two intensely practical pastoral issues. Moreover, this matter

relates directly to Christian parents who long for the conversion of their children. To phrase the question another way, can a person go to Heaven who doesn't live like a dedicated Christian? If not, and we say that Christian living is necessary for salvation, aren't we contradicting the Bible's teaching on salvation by grace and not by works?

What is sanctification? According to question 38 of The Baptist Catechism, "Sanctification is the work of God's free grace (2 Thess. 2:13), whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph. 4:23, 24), and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness (Rom. 6:4, 6)." (This is identical to the Westminster Shorter Catechism question 35.) Regeneration is the new birth, sanctification is the growth that necessarily results from it. Justification is God's declaration that a believing sinner is righteous because of the merits of Christ imputed to him. Sanctification is the believer leaving the courtroom where God has once and for all time declared him righteous, and immediately beginning the process whereby God's Spirit enables him to increasingly conform to Christ's righteousness, both inwardly and outwardly. Jonathan Edwards said of the Christian's inevitable desire for sanctification, "'Tis as much the nature of one that is spiritually new born, to thirst after growth in holiness, as 'tis the nature of a newborn babe, to thirst after the mother's breast.'"\* The process is progressive, but is never completed in this life. Sanctification is ultimately fulfilled in glorification.

In one sense we may say that sanctification has nothing to do with regeneration or justification, and yet it has everything to do with demonstrating that one has experienced them. (Notice statements similar to "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because . . ." in the letter of 1 John.) Sanctification alone doesn't save, but there is no salvation without it. As Paul told the Thessalonian believers, ". . . God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth." (2 Thess. 2:13). The experience of salvation begins with regeneration and justification, continues with sanctification, and is fulfilled in glorification. All who are regenerated and justified are being sanctified. All who are being sanctified will eventually be glorified. While we may distinguish between regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification, we must not separate them. In other words, the person who truly experiences one will experience them all (and in the order listed).

So the old theological shorthand that "we have been saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved" applies here. Sanctification isn't included in the "we have been saved" part of salvation, but it is synonymous with the "we are being saved" part. And without sanctification, there is no "we will be saved." For as Heb. 12:14 teaches, "Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord."

How do I "Pursue . . . the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord"? Unlike regeneration, there is much Spirit-filled human effort involved in sanctification. On the one hand, "it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). "On the other hand," we're commanded in 1 Tim. 4:7, "discipline yourself for the purposes of godliness." God uses means of grace to sanctify us, chief of which are the personal and corporate spiritual disciplines. In the personal realm, these

include intake of God's Word, prayer, private worship, fasting, silence and solitude, etc. These are balanced by disciplines we practice with the church: public worship, hearing God's Word preached, observance of the ordinances, corporate prayer, fellowship, etc. And all along, our confidence is not in ourselves, but in God. As Paul put it, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

**Additional Reading:**

Biblical: Galatians; 1 John

Theological: Jonathan Edwards, "*Religious Affections*"

Practical: Jerry Bridges, "*The Discipline of Grace*"

\*Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, vol. 2, Perry Miller, gen. ed., Religious Affections, ed. John E. Smith (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1959), page 366.

- Donald S. Whitney is Professor of Biblical Spirituality at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He has authored nine books, including *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, and is a popular conference speaker. He served in pastoral ministry for 24 years.