

# Bible Study

## Quick recap

The group conducted a Bible study focused on 1 Timothy 2, where they discussed Paul's instructions on prayer, leadership roles, and spiritual authority in the church and home. The participants explored themes of men being called to lead in prayer and spiritual matters, with particular attention to the debate around women's roles in teaching and leadership according to biblical standards. The conversation evolved into discussing the difference between religious routine and true spiritual commitment, using Jesus's interaction with the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 as an example of the gap between following basic commandments and complete devotion. The group examined how modern Christianity in America often focuses on easy aspects of faith while missing the challenging elements that require true sacrifice and radical commitment to Christ.

## Next steps

- Michael: Give the book (Christian Devotedness) to Jonathan. 📅

## Summary

### Pastor Outreach Planning Meeting

The meeting began with Michael and Ryan discussing plans for Friday, where three pastors expressed interest in meeting and Jonathan wanted to participate. Jonathan suggested a simple outreach activity involving buying food plates from Shelby Cafe to distribute to the needy as an icebreaker for sharing the gospel. The group then welcomed Jason, who was invited by Jonathan, and confirmed they would continue their study of 1 Timothy, which they had previously covered in Germany.

### Bible Study: Men's Leadership Roles

Michael led a Bible study discussion focusing on 1 Timothy 2, particularly emphasizing men's leadership roles in prayer and household leadership. Ryan shared his perspective on verse 8,

highlighting how men should take responsibility for leading prayer in their homes and being spiritual leaders for their families. The discussion appeared to be a group study session where participants were encouraged to share their insights on the biblical text.

## **Father's Spiritual Leadership Influence**

The group discussed the influence of fathers and grandfathers on their spiritual development. Jason shared his experience of growing up with church-leading parents who were involved in community activities but didn't demonstrate much family prayer, highlighting the need for more bold and visible spiritual leadership. The discussion concluded with agreement on the importance of being bolder in spiritual practices, with Jason emphasizing that learning from mistakes is part of spiritual growth and that not making mistakes indicates a lack of boldness in one's faith.

## **Biblical Ordination and Divine Calling**

Michael discussed biblical ordination, citing 1 Timothy 2:7 where Paul describes his divine ordination as a preacher and apostle, and Luke 4:18 where Jesus refers to his anointing to preach the gospel. Ryan identified these passages as fulfillments of Isaiah 61 prophecy about the Messiah's mission. The discussion concluded with Michael reading from Acts 9:15 about Paul's divine calling as a chosen vessel to bear Christ's name before different groups.

## **Intercessory Prayer and Spiritual Resources**

The group discussed the importance of intercessory prayer and sharing spiritual resources. Ryan emphasized the significance of praying for all members of the body of Christ, not just oneself. Michael shared his experience of feeling compelled by God to give a book to Jonathan, illustrating the importance of sharing spiritual growth with others. The conversation concluded with a discussion about 1 Timothy 2:12-15, focusing on the debate surrounding women's roles in teaching and leadership in the church.

## **Biblical Roles and Church Leadership**

The group discussed the biblical context of 1 Corinthians 14, focusing on Paul's instructions about women disrupting church services and the proper role of male leadership in the home. Ryan shared an experience where his wife Sasha had a similar revelation about her role in

teaching, leading to him stepping back from reading during Bible study. The participants agreed that these biblical principles apply to modern times, with Jonathan emphasizing that men have a divine responsibility to lead spiritually despite it being easier to delegate family prayers to their wives.

## **Scripture Application and Divine Calling**

Brother Lesley emphasized the importance of applying scriptures in daily life rather than just reading them, stating that true discipleship requires denying oneself and following what leads to heaven. Michael discussed the concept of being ordained by God to preach, highlighting the difference between genuine divine calling and casual preaching, and referenced Paul's apostolic authority in his letters. The conversation also touched on 2 Timothy 4, where Paul instructs Timothy to "preach the word" and "do the work of an evangelist," while discussing the debate about whether salvation can be lost.

## **Active Gospel Sharing and Discipleship**

Jonathan discussed the importance of going beyond routine church activities and actively sharing the gospel, referencing 1 Corinthians 3 about building on Christ's foundation. Michael agreed, emphasizing the need for true dedication and commitment, and referenced Matthew 19 about the young rich ruler who realized something was missing in his religious practices. The group examined how Jesus challenged the disciples to understand that true discipleship requires forsaking all possessions, as demonstrated by Peter's question about what reward they would receive for leaving everything behind.

## **Christian Faith and Practice Dilemmas**

Michael discussed the discrepancy between the ease of practicing Christianity in America versus the challenging circumstances faced by Christians in Nigeria. He referenced biblical passages about sacrificing material possessions to follow Jesus, emphasizing that true faith requires living out one's beliefs rather than just attending religious routines. Michael concluded by highlighting the need for an authentic spiritual anointing that comes from actively practicing what one preaches, drawing parallels between Jesus's instructions to the twelve apostles and the early church's establishment in Acts.

## **Following Christ's Demanding Commandments**

Michael and Jonathan discussed the challenges of living as a follower of Christ, particularly focusing on the Matthew 19 verse where Jesus asks someone to sell all possessions and follow him. They identified that most people can easily follow basic commandments like not committing adultery or stealing, but struggle with the more demanding requirement to "not live for yourself." Jonathan suggested that Jesus reinterpreted the first two commandments to highlight the true challenge, while Antwan briefly joined the conversation to share a relevant scripture from 1 Corinthians about wisdom being foolishness to God.

## **Avoiding Worldly Wisdom Discussion**

The group discussed the concept of avoiding worldly wisdom and the importance of seeking God independently. Antwan shared insights from 1 Corinthians 3 about testing works by fire and the challenge of walking by faith, which may seem insane to others. Michael reflected on how worldly wisdom focuses on securing life's comforts, contrasting with Jesus's teaching about detachment from the world. The discussion highlighted the difference between what might be considered the "American Gospel" - a combination of capitalism and Christianity - and a more challenging, authentic faith that requires sacrifice.

## **Biblical Leadership and Spiritual Guidance**

The group discussed biblical themes from 1 and 2 Timothy, focusing on spiritual leadership, living for eternity rather than instant gratification, and the importance of actions over just words. Jonathan led a prayer asking for deeper faith, courage to act, and forgiveness. Kenneth mentioned he had been listening but was preoccupied with his son, and the conversation ended with participants expressing mutual appreciation.