

R.O.I.

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In the business world, R.O.I. refers to one's Return on Investment, how much profit or what percentage of your investment is returned over a set period of time. It's one of the most important factors to be considered in managing your assets.

Let's apply that same idea to your spiritual life. There are so many valuable assets that God has given us as believers in his Son. These assets come to us as gifts the moment we trust Jesus as our Savior. But to benefit from them, we must first know what they are and then, by faith, begin to use them.

God has given us these riches for our benefit or for our profit. Of all of them, three stand out to me: his Spirit, his People, and his Word. Let's consider them in reverse order, beginning with the inspired Word of God.

*"Every scripture is God-breathed and **profitable** for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness in order that the man of God may be adequately equipped for every good work."*
(2 Tim. 3:16,17)

You'll notice that the purpose of the ministry of the Word to us is that we be enabled to do good works. We have been saved by grace through faith ... unto good works. (Eph. 2:8-10) These don't automatically flow forth from the believer. Our fallen nature remains with us and wants us to disregard God and his will. He has so much He wants us to do for other people, and it is through knowledge of and obedience to the Word that we are equipped to do these things.

Note the ways in which Scripture is profitable: *doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness*. Let's consider how these are profitable and beneficial to us.

Doctrine simply means the content of teaching. The Word tells us the truth, what is real, what is false (sin) and enables us to see things as they really are. The world feeds us lies, and in contrast the Word shows us reality. It shows us what God's will is.

Reproof refers to the profitability of the Word in showing us our sin; where and how we have failed to do the will of God. It's used by the Spirit of God to call us out when we sin. The Word of God establishes what is right and wrong in life, not the world. The Word clearly points out the problem. But it doesn't stop with showing us the standard and showing how we failed it.

Correction is the way the Word benefits us by showing us how to fix the problem. While it's profitable to point out what is wrong, it's still more profitable to show us how to take care of the sin we see.

Galatians 5:16 tells us to “walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the passionate desires of the flesh.”

It’s by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are enabled to say “No!” to sin and “Yes!” to God. He uses the Word to lead you to repent (change your mind) about what you thought, did, or said and to trust the promise of the Word that God forgives you (1 Jn. 1:9). If what you did affected other people, then you must seek their forgiveness too.

Training in Righteousness Having been shown his will, reprovved when we miss it and forgiven and restored to fellowship by confession and repentance, God continues his work in our behalf. He uses the Word to continually guide us, inspire us and teach us by way of his constant training program. He, like any good father, trains his children. The word Paul uses is the very word for child training. This is a continually loving investment He makes in our lives. His goal (and it WILL be reached) is to rear us up, help us to grow and ultimately be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:28-30). Wonderfully, He is always faithful and never stops investing in us. (Phil. 1:6)

So, what is our response? Are we taking time each day to let God speak to us in the Word? Do we talk to him about our day, our problems, successes and failures? Remember, we can always be totally honest with Him because He loves us with the same love He has for his son, Jesus. And besides, He already knows everything about us anyway!

Each of us has 1440 minutes each and every day. I hope you’ll decide to commit yourself to spending time in his Word daily and begin to get your own R.O.I on that investment. It’s the one investment that has guaranteed benefits!

In my next installment we’ll discuss the second great gift God has given us: his Spirit!