

<p> ◆◆◆◆◆ After the conference, I am so worn out physically, mentally, and emotionally that I head into a tailspin until God gently pulls me out. One night I found myself terribly disgruntled about working so hard all the time and never getting ahead. I could not sleep because I was feeling so crummy, so I looked for a book to read. Trying not to wake anyone, I turned on the light just enough so I could find the bookshelf in our bedroom to see what new book I had not read that might perk me up. Squinting so as to read the title in less than readable light, I pulled a book off the shelf which I thought was entitled Profiting from the World. Ah ha, I thought, just what I need. My family already knows how to work incredibly hard; we just do not know how to make enough money to make us comfortable, so I could use some instruction on how to profit from this world. But the more I read, the more bewildered I became on how this book was going to help us profit from the world, to the extent that I closed the book to see if I had read the title correctly. Nope! God had known that I needed something far more important like a good spanking and a shove in the right direction. Like a good Father, he did not leave me in my self-pity mode, but brought me around to the essential point in life—Profiting from the Word. Allow me to share some of the essential instructions the Lord gave me through A. W. Pink in hopes that it might help you as well.<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ Profiting from the Word by A. W. Pink: It begins with “Scriptures are given us...to furnish unto ‘all good works,’...by teaching, reprovng, correcting us.”<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ The verse about God calling us to good works that He had prepared beforehand came to mind. So, I asked myself, did I really want to make money or continue to work for God’s kingdom, in the work that He had called me to before I was even born. Was I going to defy God by quietly grumbling about all the things I could have if I spent all my time working for money instead of working for advancing God’s kingdom? Exactly whose kingdom did I desire to advance, mine or God’s? God certainly knows how to turn me back in a hurry.<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ A. W. Pink continues: “An individual is spiritually profited when the Word convicts him of sin. This is its first office: to reveal our depravity, to expose our vileness, to make known our wickedness. A man’s moral life may be irreproachable, his dealings with his fellows faultless; but when the Holy Spirit applies the Word to his heart and conscience, opening his sin-blinded eyes to see his relation and attitude to God, he cries, ‘Woe is me, for I am undone.’...brought to realize his need of Christ.”<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ I was undone. I cried and cried.<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ “Each time that God blesses His Word to my heart, I am made to feel how far, far short I come of the standard which He has set before me, namely, ‘Be ye holy in all...’”<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ “An individual is spiritually profited when the Word makes him sorrow over sin...pricked in their heart...humbled before God...brought into a closer walk with Him.”<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ I was! I was! I was!<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ “Does your study of the Word produce a broken heart and lead to a humbling of yourself before God? Does it convict you of your sins in such a way that you are brought to daily repentance before Him? The paschal lamb had to be eaten with bitter herbs....Revelation 10:9 ‘...take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.’ This is ever the...order...mourning before comfort.”<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ “An individual is spiritually profited when the Word leads to confession of sin. ‘He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.’”<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ I confessed!<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ “An individual is spiritually profited when the Word produces in him a deeper hatred of sin. ‘Ye that love the Lord, hate evil’ Psalm 97:10.”<br /> ◆◆◆◆◆ “An individual is spiritually profited when the Word causes a forsaking of sin. ‘Having therefore these promises,

dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit' 2 Cor. 7:1. Here is another important rule by which we should frequently test ourselves: Is the reading and studying of God's Word producing a purging of my ways?"  
◆◆◆◆◆ "An individual is spiritually profited when the Word fortifies against sin... 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee' Psalm 119:11...It is particularly the commandments, the warnings, the exhortations, we need to make our own and to treasure; to memorize them, meditate upon them, pray over them, and put them into practice. The only effective way of keeping a plot of ground from being overgrown by weeds is to sow good seed....Nothing else will preserve from the infections of this world, deliver from the temptations of Satan, and be so effective a preservative against sin, as the Word of God received into the affections....None of us know when he may be tempted: therefore it is necessary to be prepared."  
◆◆◆◆◆ "Sin is rebellion against God, the determination to have my own way (Isa 53:6)...sin is...anarchy...Scriptures were given: to make known the path which is pleasing to God...Are my thoughts being formed, my heart controlled, and my ways and works regulated by God's Word? This is what the Lord requires: 'Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves' (James 1:22). 'If ye love me, keep my commandments' (John 14:15)...David prayed, 'Make me to go in the path of thy commandments' (Psa. 119:35)...it is the path of thy commandments; not a self-chosen course...Has your study of the Bible made you more humble, or more proud—proud of the knowledge you have acquired? Has it raised you in the esteem of your fellow men, or has it led you to take a lower place before God? Has it produced in you a deeper abhorrence and loathing of self, or has it made you more complacent? 'Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear unto all' (1 Tim. 6:15)."