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GOD'S WORD

(God's Word is the foundation of our faith. It is our standard and final authority. This lesson is designed to teach us the inherent power in His Word and motivate us to make His Word continually reside in our hearts and mouths. We also learn the 3 steps in meditating in God's Word which is something all of us believers must practice, to have the Word of God produce in our lives).

God's Word Is the Foundation of Our Faith

The Word of God is very important to us believers. It is the foundation for our faith—the basis of what we believe in, what we live for and what we practice in our Christian lives. So, we need to lay ahold of the Word of God. The 66 Books of the Bible known as the Canon of Scripture is the inspired Word of God. So when we look at the Bible, we do not look at it as just another religious book but as the inspired Word from God.

All Scripture is 'God-Breathed'

2 Timothy 3:15,16

And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

This means that the Word of God is God-inspired and God-breathed. When we read the Bible, every story has a divine intent behind it. Everything recorded in Scripture is divinely purposed—there is a reason for it. Even people's failures have been recorded so that we can learn from them.

2 Peter 1:20,21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

All of Scripture was given to us by holy men of God who were moved or inspired by the Holy Spirit. So when we read the Bible, we approach it as the inspired Word of God, seeking to learn and receive from it. For example, the Book of Numbers is all about how many people were there in each tribe and which side of the tent these tribes had to be positioned and so on, but it teaches us that God is a God of order, of detail and had everything organized for the people to get to the Promised Land. And so He wants us to walk in proper order, as we journey with Him.

The Scriptures—Our Window into God

People may invite us to peep in through other windows but they may not be pointing us toward God.

When we want to discover who God is, we look at Him through the window of His Word

Psalm 119:18

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your law.

Reading the Bible is like sailing on the ocean. For many it is a boring thing to do, but if we want to see the amazing beauty that lies beneath which can't be seen from the surface of the ocean, we have to dive deep into the ocean.

Similarly, dive into the Word, pray and ask God to open your eyes to go 'deep sea diving' to see all the treasures that are hidden in the Word. The Word reveals more and more of God to us. It is true that God is bigger than His Word, so the Word does not describe God completely. It is also true that God is infinite but His Word is finite in the sense that it has 66 Books in it. Heaven holds so many surprises that are not revealed in the Bible, and we will discover so much more of God there but for now, for our journey here on earth, this Word of God called the Bible is enough. It is the window through which we look to discover our God.

The Scriptures provide insight into the Living God, revealing His nature, His character, His attributes and His heart. We find insight into who God is, what He does, His feelings and His desires. Any relationship is based on knowledge. Therefore to have a deep and close relationship with the Living God, one can know Him intimately as revealed in the Scriptures.

The Scriptures—Our Standard

Psalm 119:133

Direct my steps by your Word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

There are many standards that we can live by—earthly ones, some philosophy from a book or a New Age Movement. But for us believers, the Word of God is our Standard. Based on it, we live life, conduct ourselves and journey through life.

The Scriptures—Our Authority

Psalm 119:101

I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep your Word.

The Word of God is our final authority—it is absolute. When I have to make a choice, the Word of God instructs and I submit to the authority of the Word. It is the final authority in my life as a believer.

The Scriptures—Produce Faith

The Word of God is also the basis for our faith—it is the source of our faith.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When God quickens the Word to us, we believe the Word and it is the basis for our faith. We believe what we believe, because it is in the Word and we are so confident that this will come through for us because God has given us the promise in His

Sorry pal, .. The Bible says my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit..



Word. The Holy Spirit quickens that Word to us when we go through a certain situation and we know God is speaking to us from His Word, which births faith in us and thus we are confident of the outcome.

We Must Move from Revelation to Action

James 1:22,25

But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

God's Word: Its Purity and Power

God Exalts His Word Even Above His Name

Psalm 138:2

I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your Word above all Your name.

We know the names of God in the Bible and who He is and honor Him, but God exalts His Word more than His own Name and reputation.

His Word Is Pure

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Psalm 12:6

The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

His Word Is Power

Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerned of the thought and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is a carrier of the power of God—it has been designed to release the power of God into our lives. So when we connect to the Word of God, we are plugging ourselves into God's source of Power.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

The entire universe came into existence by the Word that God spoke. We need to grasp this: If the Word created this universe and is alive and has not lost any of its power, it can also 'create' in your world and mine, today. The world is also sustained just by the power of His Word. We need to understand that our lives are infinitely small compared to this vast universe and if there is enough power in His Word to uphold all things in its place, then there is definitely sufficient power in the Word to uphold our little lives.

It's not enough to just read the Word or hear the Word.

We must move from knowing the Word and receiving revelation of the Word to being Doers of the Word.

If the universe itself is sustained and upheld by the 'power' of His Word, then definitely our lives too can be regulated, sustained and upheld by that same 'power' of His Word.

When you feel everything is falling apart in your life and you cannot hold it together, know that there is Power in the Word to keep your life together, to uphold you, to regulate and make sure things are going the way it should be going. What is not in existence in your life can be brought into existence by the Word of God working in your life. Maybe healing does not exist right now in your body—there is pain, there is sickness but what you need is healing to be formed, fashioned and brought into existence in your body. The Word of God has the power to bring that healing into existence.

Hebrews 1: 3

Who [Jesus] being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power.

God's Word: The Miracle Seed

Take the seed of 'God's Word,' meditate on it and cause it to germinate in your heart to experience the power of the Word in your life. For, God's Word is the 'miracle seed' and it has been designed to produce fruit in our lives.

The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-20

And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.'" And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, then tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

God's Word is like seed (Mark 4:14).

The Word of God often refers to itself as a seed. There are a total of 44 verses in the New Testament where the Greek word "sperma" was translated "seed." This is the same word from which we derive our English word 'sperm.'

Our heart is the ground where the seed of God's Word is to be sown (Mark 4:15).

The seed must be protected and nurtured if it is to produce fruit.

**THE WORD OF GOD IS
ALIVE AND FULL OF
POWER**

*The Key is for us to make sure
to plug into the Power of
God's Word.*



*The seed must be protected
and nurtured if it is to produce
fruit*

We must understand the Word (i.e., get an understanding of the spiritual truth) to keep satan from stealing the Word.

Matthew 13:19

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Regardless of what hardship or persecution we face—from the world or the devil—we must hold fast to the Word and allow it to take root in our hearts, so that it can produce (Mark 4:16,17).

We must guard our hearts from the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust for other things. When we do so, we are providing a suitable 'environment' for the Word to produce (Mark 4:19).

When we understand (Matthew 13:23), receive (Mark 4:20) and retain (Luke 8:15) the Word in our hearts, we will bring forth fruit in our lives.

The Bible is our bag of miracle seeds. Every seed will produce after its own kind (the healing seed will produce healing, seeds that promise blessing will produce blessing).

Take the seed you require and sow it into your heart. When you hear the Word, it is important you understand what it means and receive a revelation. Jesus warned us that when the seed takes root, persecution and afflictions will. If we let those things clog our hearts by being frustrated and getting anxious and thus give up on the Word, then we are like the ground where the Word is actually taking root but because of all the stones and rocks, we fail to produce.

So when we face hardships, we must hold on to the Word, not give up and not let the cares of this world choke the Word in our lives. Our responsibilities, desires, pursuits of riches may consume us and become more important than the Word, thus choking the Word.

So let us guard our hearts for that is where the seed of God is taking root, germinating and getting ready to release its power to affect your world.

Matthew 13:23

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Luke 8:15

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

The Seed Is the Word of God

Luke 8:11

Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.

God's Word Has Been Designed to Produce

Isaiah 55:10,11

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the Word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God which also effectively works in you who believe.

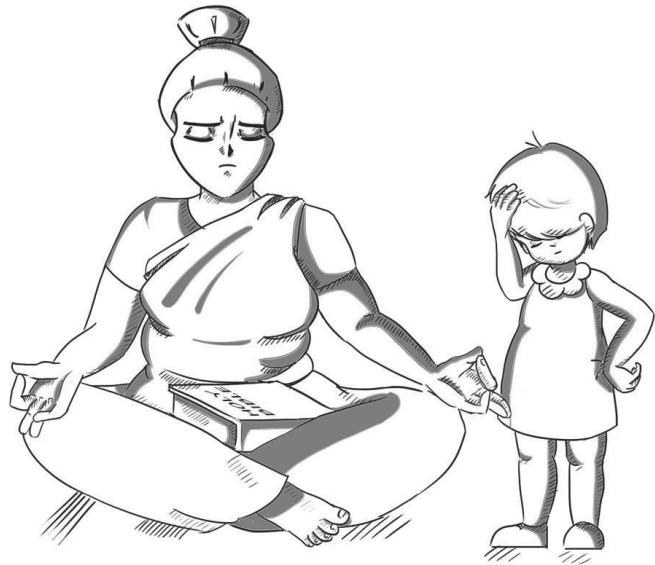
Meditating in God's Word

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Meditation is essentially an activity of the human spirit that reaches the soul (the seat of thought, intellect, imagination, feeling and will) and affects the physical body.

For the purposes of instruction, we would like to summarize the process of meditation thus:



Oh no, ... Is this your idea of meditation?

Contemplation—Thinking Within Yourself

Psalms 143:5

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.

Visualization—Seeing With Your Mind's Eye

Proverbs 4:20-22

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

Isaiah 54:13

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.

Visualize this Word—see your child living the kind of life that glorifies God and paint those pictures in your mind. You have a right to do it because the Word says all your children will be taught by the Lord. Visions and dreams are the language of the Holy Spirit. See yourself becoming, being and doing what the Word says.

There is enough power in the Word of God to transform anything or any circumstance in your life as His Word germinates inside you.

Confession—Saying What God Says

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

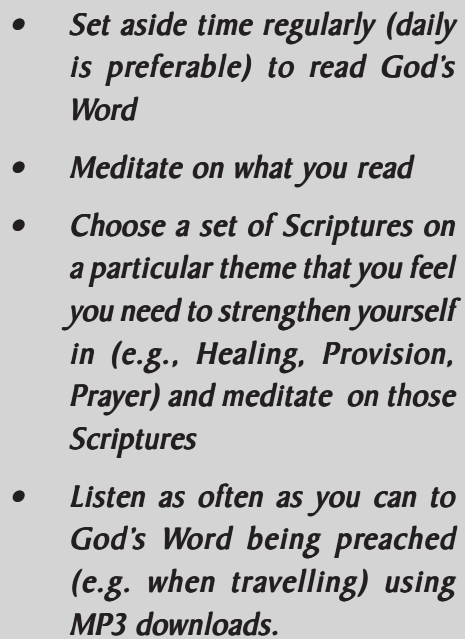
For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Developing the Discipline of Reading and Meditating in God's Word

Give God's Word its rightful place in your life.

Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

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- *Set aside time regularly (daily is preferable) to read God's Word*
 - *Meditate on what you read*
 - *Choose a set of Scriptures on a particular theme that you feel you need to strengthen yourself in (e.g., Healing, Provision, Prayer) and meditate on those Scriptures*
 - *Listen as often as you can to God's Word being preached (e.g. when travelling) using MP3 downloads.*

KEY MEMORY VERSES

Joshua 1:8

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For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerned of the thought and intents of the heart.

(Do take a copy of the APC Publication 'God's Word' and study it).

APPLICATION

1. God's Word is the standard and final authority—how would I apply this in everyday life?

2. God's Word is the miracle seed—how does this change my approach to reading the Word?

3. How can I develop the practice of meditating in God's Word?

4. Are there areas where I feel I question the purity and power of God's Word? In what areas and why?

5. How can I come to a place where I embrace God's Word as truth, and dislocate anything that hinders that in my life?
