

The Word of God

I. God's Words: Alive, Powerful, and Profitable

A. *Alive—and thus worthy to impart life*

John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

1 Pet.1:23

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever

B. *Powerful*

Heb.4:12

the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword

1. **Creative power**

Ps.33:6, 9

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth... For He spoke, and it was *done*; ^[SEP]He commanded, and it stood fast.

Heb.11:3

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

2. **Reproductive power**

1 Pet.1:23

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever

Luke 8:11

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

C. *Profitable*

2 Tim.3:16-17

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Ps.19:11

Moreover by them Your servant is warned, ^[SEP]and in keeping them *there is* great reward.

1. Providing knowledge of God and wisdom for salvation

2 Tim.3:15

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.

Rom.10:17

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

Ps.119:130

The entrance of Your words gives light;^{[[[]]]}
It gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:98-100

98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies;
For they *are* ever with me.
99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
For Your testimonies *are* my meditation.
100 I understand more than the ancients,
Because I keep Your precepts.

2. Providing nourishment for spiritual sustenance and growth

Deut.8:3

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Amos 8:11

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord GOD, “That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, ^{[[[]]]}nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

1 Pet.2:2

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby

3. Providing the means of cleansing of heart and habits

Ps.119:9, 11

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word...
Your word I have hidden in my heart,^{[[[]]]}that I might not sin against You.

John 15:3

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4. Providing guidance in a darkened world

[Ps.119:24, 105](#)

Your testimonies also *are* my delight^[SEP] and my counselors.
Your word *is* a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

II. Cultivating the Word of God

[1 Cor.3:6](#)

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

A. Receive the Word sown

[James 1:21](#)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

[Matt.13:18-23](#)

“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 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. 20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 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.”

B. Love the Word of God

[Ps. 19:10](#)

More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

[Job 23:12](#)

I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary *food*.

C. Mix it with faith

[Heb.4:2](#)

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

Rom.4:18-21

[Abraham], contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “*So shall your descendants be.*” 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Heb.11:11

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

D. Meditate upon it day and night

Ps.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;
2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
3 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.

Josh.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.

Prov.6:20-23

My son, keep your father’s command,
And do not forsake the law of your mother.
21 Bind them continually upon your heart;
Tie them around your neck.
22 When you roam, they^[a] will lead you;
When you sleep, they will keep you;
And *when* you awake, they will speak with you.
23 For the commandment *is* a lamp,
And the law a light;
Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life,

E. Obey it

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25

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.

John 13:17

If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

F. Pass it on

Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

Heb.5:12

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

The Authority of the Scriptures (short series)

I. What is meant by “authority”?

II. Why the Bible is authoritative:

A. God, as Creator, possesses absolute authority over His creatures;

Romans 9:20-21

But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay

B. God endorsed Jesus and gave Him all authority in heaven and on earth

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

C. Jesus endorsed the Old Testament and authorized the apostles to write the New Testament

Luke 24:44

He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

D. Thus, the teachings of scripture should be given full authority over our lives, and serves as a final court of appeals in all matters of faith and practice

2 Tim.3:16-17

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Isaiah 8:20

If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

1 Thess.5:21

Test all things; hold fast what is good.

III. Other authorities seek to govern our lives and our thinking, but these must be subservient to what the Word of God has revealed of the mind of God

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

A. Submission to Scripture in all things will result in right opinions and right actions.

B. Any imperfection of our present opinions and actions must be traced to our submission to some faulty “authority” other than Scripture.

IV. Principal rivals to the Word of God as determiners of our decisions, thoughts and actions:

A. *Human “Authorities”*

Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Gal.2:14

But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

Isaiah 2:22

Sever yourselves from such a man, Whose breath is in his nostrils; For of what account is he?

B. *Human Traditions*

Mark 7:7-8

And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men...

Prov.30:5-6

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

1 Peter 1:18

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

Col.2:8

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the

tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

C. Human Reasoning

Prov.3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Psalms 131:1

LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me.

Isa.55:9

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Matt.22:29

Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

D. Personal Experience

Deut.13:1-4

"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—and let us serve them,'you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey **His voice; you shall** serve Him and hold fast to Him."

E. Sentiment

Jer.17:9

"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

Prov.14:12/16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.