

## Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

### Lesson 4

## The Word of God – Our Sovereign Authority: Part 1

### Role of the Word of God in Our Christian Journey

Our need for the Word of God (Holy Bible) cannot be overstated. Simply put, without the Word of God, we do not have a relationship with our Lord. Our relationship, and all life, begins with the Word and ends with the Word. Righteousness is obedience to the Word and sin is disobedience to the Word. The Word is our instruction manual for God's plan for our lives. The purpose of God's plan, sending His Son Jesus Christ to mankind, is to restore the Word of God in our lives. The Word must be sown in the heart of every believer. The Word is our source of life. Everything else in our Christian walk flows from the Word of God. These are all bold statements and we will look further into all these statements as we go through this lesson. But first let us establish some fundamental truths concerning the Sovereign nature of the Word of God. **Psalm 33:6** *"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth."*

### The Word of God – From the Beginning of Time and Creation

**Genesis 1:1-3** *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."* The phrase *"And God said"* is repeated in throughout Genesis 1 and is *"the spoken Word of God"*. In **John 1:1-3** we read: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

### The Word of God – To the End and Everlasting

We read in **Matthew 24:35** *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."* In **Revelation 19:11-13**, we read about the end times and the return of Jesus to the earth *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."* In **1 Peter 1:23-25** *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."*

### The Word is Jesus

Jesus is the living embodiment of the Word. He and the Word are inseparable. We cannot truly know Jesus without also knowing The Word. John wrote about the Word in **John 1:1** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* **John 1:14** *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*

**1 John 5:7** “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one”. **Revelation 19:13** “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”

### **The Word of God – Our Spiritual Food and Source of Life.**

In **Deuteronomy 8:1-3** we read “All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.” Jesus spoke the same words in **Matthew 4:4** when he was tempted by the devil with the offer of the things of this world “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Jesus declares himself to mankind that He is the Bread of Life that gives and sustains the “abundant life” of all mankind in **John 6:35** “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” And again, he spoke in **John 6:63** “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” We were created by the Word of God and are sustained by the Word of God when we keep His commandments (Word).

The fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden happened when they disobeyed the Word of God. The way that God intended mankind to live through and by Him was broken, with disastrous consequences. **Proverbs 16:25** “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”. From the time of man’s fall in Genesis to our present day, God the Father has been working to restore His Word unto mankind through Jesus Christ and The Holy Ghost. We see that restoration in the Old Testament through the “tables of stone” in **Exodus 24:12**: “And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.” In **Ezekiel 11:19-20** “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”

In the New Testament, we see that the promise of God through Jesus was fulfilled and now we have new life in Him. **2 Corinthians 3:3** “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” Even after Jesus’ departure to be with the Father in heaven, He promised another Comforter (The Holy Ghost). The Holy Ghost is for us to have power in our lives and it is not according to our own ways. The power comes from the Word of God. **John 14:26** “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

Many people read the Holy Bible but the Word does not have much impact on their lives. This is because they have read it like a natural book. The Holy Bible is not like any other book. It must be read with spiritual revelation and understanding. **1 Corinthians 2:14** *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”*. When we are born again of His Spirit; washed in the Blood of Jesus; and baptized unto resurrection life; our eyes are opened to understand the precious Word of God. When the Word is opened to us, it is like an explosion of life and knowledge. By the Word of God, we find understanding and direction for all things concerning this life and the things to come, both natural and spiritual. The Holy Bible isn't just a book. It is the written, spoken and living Word of God given to us so that we may find life abundantly. We must cherish His Holy Word in all aspects of our lives.

**Jeremiah 15:16** *“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts”*.

Notes:

**DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p><b>Luke 8: 4-10</b>  <i>(4) And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:</i></p> <p><i>(5) A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.</i></p> <p><i>(6) And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.</i></p> <p><i>(7) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.</i></p> <p><i>(8) And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.</i></p> <p><i>(9) And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?</i></p> <p><i>(10) And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the various grounds where the seed fell? (verse 4-8)</li> <li>2. What happened to the seed according to the kind of ground that the seed fell upon? (verse 4-8)</li> <li>3. Who is given to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of God? (verse 9, 10)</li> </ol>

<p><b>Luke 8: 11-15</b> <i>(11) Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.</i></p> <p><i>(12) Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.</i></p> <p><i>(13) They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.</i></p> <p><i>(14) And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.</i></p> <p><i>(15) But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. What is the seed? (verse 11)</li><li>5. Who are they “by the wayside”? (verse 12. Clue: They hear but ...)</li><li>6. What happens to the Word for those by the wayside? What does the devil want to take away from us?</li><li>7. Who are the ones “on the rock” mentioned by Jesus? What do they lack? (verse 13)</li><li>8. What happens to the Word for those “on the rock”? How does this happen??</li><li>9. Who are the ones “among the thorns” mentioned by Jesus? (verse 14)</li><li>10. What happens to the Word for the ones “among the thorns”? How does this happen? (verse 14)</li><li>11. Who are they “on good ground” mentioned by Jesus? (verse 15)</li><li>12. What happens to the Word for those “on good ground”? How does this happen?</li></ol>
<p><b>Luke 8: 16-18</b> <i>(16) No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.</i></p> <p><i>(17) For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.</i></p> <p><i>(18) Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>13. What are we to do with the Word of God in our lives? (verse 16)</li><li>14. What power of the Word is identified for our lives? (verse 17)</li><li>15. What are the warnings that are given to us concerning the Word of God? (verse 18).</li></ol>

### ANSWER KEY

#### Read **Luke 8: 4-18**

1. The grounds were: wayside; a rock; among thorns; and good ground.
2. The wayside seed was trodden down and devoured by the birds. The rock seed had no moisture (water) and withered away. The thorn seed was choked out by the thorns that grew with it. The good ground seed sprung up and brought forth much fruit. Same seed very different results dependent upon the type of ground.
3. The disciples or followers of Jesus

#### Read **Luke 8: 11-15**

4. The Word of God. Jesus likens it unto a seed because, as a seed brings forth new life, so too does the Word.
5. Those on the wayside are those that hear the Word but do not take it to heart. They do not truly believe the words that they are hearing. In other words, they do not receive the Word.
6. The devil takes away the Word from them before it has a chance to grow or take root in their hearts. The devil *taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved*. This is a strong lesson that the enemy of our faith wants to attack us by taking the Word of God from our hearts.
7. The ones on the rock hear and receive and are happy for a time but they don't spend time reading the Holy Bible or with other believers to nurture the Word. The Word is not able to take strong root in their lives. They lack moisture (Spirit) and roots (foundations) of the Word.
8. They believe for a while but when they are tempted by things of this life, they fall away.
9. The ones among the thorns receive the Word of God and try to simply add it to the list of things in their existing life rather than let it be first and bring new life.
10. The Word is choked out (given little or no priority) in their lives and becomes of no effect (bears no fruit). They are consumed by pursuing the things of this life, content to be Christian in name only, and thereby forsaking all the riches God has in store for them, even to forsaking the very salvation of their souls.
11. The ones on good ground receive the Word of God as a treasure in their lives. With a true and honest heart (given by the Lord), they keep the Word of God and live their lives by it.

12. They bring forth the fruit of the Word in their lives and others through much patience (perseverance and faith to believe everything that is written in the Word). They simply believe God's promises in His Word and God fulfils the promises in His Word made to them.

Read **Luke 8: 16-18**

13. The Word is to be prominent and on display in our lives (not hidden).
14. The Word is the Light from which nothing is hidden or kept secret. This is not because God wants to "find you out" to punish you. Instead, He wants to take away the dark and hidden things which are hurtful to us and others. His domain is the Light.
15. We should always be mindful of how we hear (approach) the Word of God and look at the ground of our heart in which the Word is sown. As we have learned, only the seed that is sown on "good ground" has effect and bears fruit. Our "good ground" is an honest and good heart and our intent to keep the Word of God.