

Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

Lesson 5

The Word of God – Our Sovereign Authority: Part 2

Importance of The Word of God

The Word (Holy Bible) is sovereign for every believer so we dedicate a second lesson to this topic. All of these lessons are founded on the Word of God. The teachings in the Word are Holy, complete, powerful and timeless. God does not need man's wisdom to add to or modernize his Word.

Revelation 22:18-19 *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

We heed this warning and teach only that which is in the Word. These lessons are not a replacement for studying the Word for yourself. Instead, we pray that they will quicken the Holy Spirit in you to read, study, and meditate on his Word so that the whole Word of God will be in your heart and mind. This is the plan of God for all believers.

God's Call to Us to Keep His Word

God's plan is to make His Word fully known to us and for us to follow His Word. When we hear and follow his Word, we are blessed of the Lord. This blessing is His promise to all believers.

Deuteronomy 30:11-16 *"For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it."*

Jesus is the Word made flesh. When we receive Jesus, we can be led by the Spirit of God through His Word. The Spirit and the Word always agree. **John 1:12** *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."* **Romans 8:14** *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* **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."*

The Greatest Commandment – Love (Keep the Word of God)

When Jesus was asked “what is the greatest commandment in the law of God”, he responded:

Matthew 22:37-40 *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*

If you asked hundreds of people what it means to love, you would get hundreds of different answers. Sadly, the same thing is true in many churches today. The true church is rooted in the Word of God so there is no confusion. Jesus made it clear what it means to love with Godly love. **John 14:21** *“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him”.* **John 14:23-24** *“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.”* These scriptures show that the foundation of our relationship with Jesus is an intimate love relationship. If we say that we love him, we must know his words and keep them. **Luke 6:46** *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”*

Called to be Living Epistles of His Word

When Jesus entered into His ministry, He began to teach the Word of God, testifying of His Father's plan for mankind. He performed miracles, healed the sick, delivered many souls and resurrected the dead to life so that the people might believe on the Word of God. Before Jesus went to the cross, he prayed to the Father. **John 17:14-17** *“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* His prayer shows the importance of the Word in our lives. Jesus revealed this to us so that we could be sanctified and separated unto the Heavenly Father.

Before he left to sit on the right hand of the Father, Jesus also showed us the importance of the Word when he gave this commandment in **Matthew 28:18-20** *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”* Amen, it is vital to have the Word living in us!

Jesus spoke these words about the Holy Ghost: **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.”* **Romans 10:15** *“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things”.* Jesus wanted all believers to know the Word and to be teachers of the Word.

The Power of the Word of God for the World Today

From the beginning to the end, the Word has the power to change lives and to reveal Jesus Christ unto all the world. This is true for our lives and for all those that are lost. We must have the Word in our hearts. Then, we must speak the Word without worrying about opposition to God's Word or whether it is of any effect. Father, Jesus and Holy Ghost say these things about the Word:

Isaiah 55:8-11 *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”*

Romans 1:16-17 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”*

Romans 10:17 *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

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.”*

Without the Word, there can be endless opinions, philosophies and debates over every issue in life. Only the Word of God can fill the hunger of mankind, restoring a relationship with our Heavenly Father. The Word is complete truth. Without the Word, there is no truth. We must have the Word of God sown in our hearts in this manner: **Colossians 3:16-17** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”*

One Final Encouragement Concerning the Word

Psalms 119 was spoken by King David and is too lengthy to cover in this lesson. It is one of the most beautiful, instructive and encouraging passages in the Holy Bible about the Word of God. For example, **Ps 119: 100-105** *“I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

Please take the time to read Psalm 119 to see all of the beautiful attributes of the Word. Your life will be blessed and you will be better equipped to lead others to the beauty of the Word of God.

Notes:

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>Psalm 119:1-8</p> <p>(1) Blessed <i>are</i> the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.</p> <p>(2) Blessed <i>are</i> they that keep his testimonies, <i>and that</i> seek him with the whole heart.</p> <p>(3) They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.</p> <p>(4) Thou hast commanded <i>us</i> to keep thy precepts diligently.</p> <p>(5) O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!</p> <p>(6) Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.</p> <p>(7) I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.</p> <p>(8) I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who are the undefiled in the eyes of the Lord?2. When are we blessed in the Lord?3. What is the effect on our lives of seeking the Word?4. What are we commanded? And with what admonishment?5. What should be the cry of every believer?6. What is the effect of the Word on our praises?

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

<p>2 Corinthians 4:1-7</p> <p>(1) Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;</p> <p>(2) But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.</p> <p>(3) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:</p> <p>(4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.</p> <p>(5) For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.</p> <p>(6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to <i>give</i> the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>(7) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.</p>	<p>7. What is the ministry in this scripture? (Hint- see 2Cor3:6)</p> <p>8. What are the qualities of the ministers of the gospel?</p> <p>9. If the gospel is not taught (hidden), whom does it affect?</p> <p>10. What quality of the gospel is identified?</p> <p>11. What are we to preach and how do we know what to preach?</p> <p>12. What has the Lord done with our hearts and why has he done this?</p> <p>13. What is the treasure in earthen vessels?</p>
<p>2 Timothy 3:14-17</p> <p>(14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned <i>them</i>;</p> <p>(15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>(16) All scripture <i>is</i> given by inspiration of God, and <i>is</i> profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.</p>	<p>14. What instruction are we given in the face of evil and deception?</p> <p>15. What effect do the scriptures have on our lives?</p>

ANSWER KEY

Read **Ps 119:1-8**

1. The undefiled are those who walk in the ways (Word) of the Lord.
2. We are blessed of the Lord when we keep His testimonies and seek him with our whole hearts.
3. When we seek the Word, we cease from sin (disobedience to His Word) and walk according to His Word.
4. We are commanded to Keep His Word and keep it diligently.
5. The cry of the believer is to keep and have respect for the Word so that we will not be ashamed before God.
6. We praise with uprightness of heart. We have a clean heart because of the Word in our lives.

Read **2 Corinthians 4:1-7**

7. Able ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ
8. Ministers of the gospel renounce dishonesty; do not try to be clever or crafty, are not deceitful with God's Word; and have God's truth (Word) working in us to touch every man's conscience.
9. If we do not speak and do the gospel, we hide Christ Jesus from others who do not know him.
10. The glorious Light that God shines into our hearts
11. We preach Christ Jesus. We do not preach Jesus from our thoughts but from His Word. We do not judge but we are servants unto the lost.
12. He has shined His glorious light into our hearts and that revealed to us that Jesus is the Christ. God's plan for salvation for is that the power to speak the Word in our lives is ordained of God.
13. The treasure is the Word of God in our hearts.

Read **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

14. No matter what things are going on in the world, continue in the things of God (Word).
15. The scriptures make us wise unto salvation; encourage our faith in Christ Jesus; are sound doctrine; are reproof (revealing truth); correct our errors in God's ways; instruct us in Godly ways; perfects us; and prepare us for good works in Christ Jesus

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