

The Power of God's Word



Hebrews 4:12-13

- The Word of God is the source of God's transforming power in the life of a believer. The Word of God must take top priority in the life of every true believer.
- The Word of God has life-giving, life-changing, life-directing, life-sustaining, and life-correcting power.
- Living a transformed life in Christ not only means we are in right relationship with Jesus, but also we are in right relation with His Word.
- The Word of God is the only Book that has power to change and transform us for God's Kingdom purpose.

A. The writer of Hebrews makes several powerful statements about the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

- 1. God's Word provides true rest for the believer who will hear it, receive it and obey it. (vs. 11)**
- 2. God's Word and His promises are not inactive, dead, lifeless or powerless words given to believers. (vs. 12)**
 - God's Word and His promises are alive, living, effective and active in the hearts of every true believer that reads it, studies it, hears it, prays it, receives it, and obeys it.
 - The Word of God is a living reality and the results it bears in the believer's life cannot be overlooked. (Isaiah 55:11)
 - The Word of God is always working in, through and on the behalf of every true believer. "It's always working for my good." (Romans 8:28)
- 3. God's Word is powerful and sharper than any double-edge sword.**
 - The word "sharper" means to cut.
 - The word "piercing" means to penetrate.
 - The Word of God is so powerful that it has the ability to cut, penetrate, and even convict the heart of both believers and non-believers in order to bring them to repentance.
 - The Word of God is so powerful that it has the ability to penetrate right through the soul and spirit of man in order to transform our lives from the inside out.

- God's living Word has the power to penetrate the depths of who we are and transform us into vessels of honor and instruments of righteousness that are useful for God's Kingdom purposes. (2 Timothy 2:19-21, Romans 6:13)
4. God's Word has the power to discern (judge, sift through, analyze) the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - Whether a person believes or does not believe God's Word, their thoughts and intentions are exposed before the Lord.
 - When a believer fails to allow the Word of God to judge, sift, analyze, expose their hearts before God, they will miss all the benefits and blessings that He has for our lives.
 5. God's Word is a reflecting mirror in the life of the believer (James 1:23-24).
 - In other words, when a believer hears it, learns it and applies it – it will be reflected in their lives.
 - If a believer only hears it and never puts it into practice in their lives they will become a forgetful hearer. Which leads to them becoming a poor reflection of Jesus Christ.
 - They become distracted by the world and its affairs and eventually come out from under the authority of the Word of God.
 6. God's Word is called the perfect law that gives freedom (James 1:25).
 - It will cause them to be able to live a life of freedom and liberty in Christ Jesus.
 - It will give them victory over temptation.
 - It will bring sustainable joy, peace, and rest to their entire spiritual being.
 - The person who hears and does the Word will be blessed by God in what he does. (James 1:25)
 7. God's Word is so powerful it has the ability to shine a light upon those dark and hidden sins in our lives. (Luke 12:2, Jeremiah 16:17, Ecclesiastes 12:14)

B. Things That Every Believer Must Know

1. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God helps every believer achieve spiritual growth and maturity. (2 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 5:12-14, Hebrews 6:1, Colossians 2:6-7)
2. The believer must learn how to take the Word of God and apply it to their lives and their situations. “Be a doer of the Word and not hearers only (James 1:22).”
3. The believer must know how faith comes and how faith goes. The believer’s faith in Jesus Christ grows as we hear the Word of God. (Romans 10:17).
4. The believer’s life in Christ will only flourish as long as it is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ and the Word of God. (Colossians 2:6-7)
5. The highest authority for the believer’s life is the Word of God. The word “authority” originates from the Author – Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 12:2)
 - The Word of God has to be the believer’s source of authority. A believer should never leave the Word of God.
 - The believer’s life is protected as long as he stays under the authority of the Word of God. (Example: Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-7)
 - The Word of God must be relied upon, be meditated on, be prayed, be studied, be spoken, be lived, and be applied to our daily lives. (Matthew 4:4)
 - If a believer’s faith and witnessing is suffering, it can be closely tied to their lack of growth and obedience to the Word of God.
 - Apostle Paul has to address this issue among the Galatians. (Galatians 5:7-9)
 - (Galatians 5:7-9) – “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. ⁹A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”
1. The Galatians were running a good race in Christ Jesus. (vs. 7)
2. The Galatians were now hindered, obstructed or interfered with in running a good race in Christ Jesus. What happened?
 - They came from under the authority of the Word of God.
 - They stopped listening to and obeying the truth of God’s Word.

- They had allowed some false teachers to hinder them and turn them from the truth.
3. The Galatians needed to be “set” back in proper order (under authority) with God’s truth.
 - Their belief changed.
 - Their position changed.
 - Their approach changed.
 - Apostle Paul sternly reminded them, if anyone comes to you with teachings that lead them away from Jesus Christ and His Word it has not been sent by God.
 1. There’s no other way to approach God, but through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)
 2. Their authority comes from Jesus Christ and His Word. (John 1:1, 14)
 3. There is one God and one mediator between God and men, that is Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 2:5)
 4. There is only one who holds the words of eternal life, that is Jesus Christ. (John 6:68)
 5. Their salvation is found in no one else but Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12)
- Apostle Paul warns the Galatian believers of the danger of false teaching. (vs. 9).
 - (vs. 9) – “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”
 - Paul uses a little yeast or leaven to symbolize the effect it has on the entire batch of dough.
 - In other words, just a little false teaching (untruth), can corrupt the entire church as a whole.
 - Don’t allow false teaching to permeate and influence your life as a believer.
 - Don’t allow anyone or anything to cause you to turn from Jesus Christ and the truth of His Word.
 - The true believer should always focus his attention on Jesus Christ and His Word and root out any untruth in their lives that is not grounded in the truth of God’s Word.

- C. Satan's greatest weapon is deception. Satan does not have the power to make you do anything.
- There are saints who believe that Jesus Christ's teaching no longer applies for today.
1. When believers leave the foundation of the Word of God the results will be catastrophic in our world, our society, our families, our churches, our schools, and our communities.
 2. God has given us His Word (the Bible) that are filled with sixty-six Books and we need the entire counsel of the Word of God.
 3. God has given us His Word (the Bible) as the leading source toward our spiritual growth and development.
 4. God did not give us His Word (the Bible) for us to trust and rely on our intellect or human reasoning.
- D. The main problem in our world today is not government related, drug related, gang related, cultural related, media related, job related – Its church related!!
1. When I talk about the church I'm not talking about the building – I'm talking about those who have been washed by the Blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
 2. The true church of God wasn't built upon the ideology of man, or founded upon a set of principles guided by the wisdom of man. (Matthew 16:13-18)
- Both the Living Word (Jesus Christ) and Written Word of God are the very revelation of God Himself. (John 1:1)
 - God revealed Himself in Jesus Christ to His disciples.
 - The Holy Spirit revealed to Peter who Jesus was.
 - The church wasn't built upon the revelation of who Peter was – but was built upon the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus Christ is building His church. We as believers are the church – the body of Christ. God is building our lives to perfection through Jesus Christ and His Word.

3. Jesus Christ is the Rock of our salvation!! He's the only One who has authority and power to hold our lives together. (Colossians 1:15-17; Psalm 62:5-8, 89:26)

- He is the only one who has the power and authority over sin and death. He is the only one who has the power to both heal and deliver.
- He is the only one who has the power to give life and conquer death. That's power!! (John 1:14)
- David called God His Rock, His salvation, His defense, His strength, His refuge – I will not be moved. (Psalm 62:5-8, 89:26)
- When a believer is firmly planted and grounded in the Word of God, no one or nothing can move them, shake them, conqueror them, or deceive them.

E. The early church believed that the Holy Spirit and the Word were a powerful combination! (Acts 4:29-31)

1. They received and believed all the words of Jesus Christ.
2. They knew how important the Word of God was to their personal lives and the health of the church.
3. They trusted the Word of God personally. (Isaiah 55:11)
4. They boldly shared the Word of God with others.
5. They became the Word.
6. They stayed under the authority of the Word of God and signs and wonders followed them. "They didn't go chasing after signs and wonders." (Mark 16:16-18, Luke 10:19)
7. They knew that God's Word was eternal (never deteriorates, imperishable, and endures forever).
8. They knew that there was nothing more secure and certain than God's Word. (Hebrews 6:18-20)