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## The Word of God

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"  
(2 Timothy 3/16)*

Since childhood, my parents were going to church and I had to follow them. As there were some family problems, they had no time to take seriously the development of my relationship with Christ.

When I received a Bible, I read it just like another book and the verses were not of great meaning to me. By continuing reading it everyday, my readings changed to studies and then I started to realise that the Bible was not a book like another. I started to learn that God's Word is alive and powerful to transform lives.

The Psalms, Proverbs, the Gospels and the Epistles all speak of the importance and power of the Word of God and there is no mystery behind it.

I did not have enough support to grow up in spiritual maturity and since salvation is something personal, I started to seek God and I found a powerful hope through this marvelous verse: *"I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go"*(Isaiah 48/17)

In the Epistle to the Hebrews (8/10), we read:

*"I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. "*

And in the Gospel of John (6/45), Jesus said:

*"It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.'"*

Therefore, God was guiding me in His ways and He still continues to do it today because it is a promise He made long ago.

God is ready to teach us but we must be willing to listen and not just hear. We must pay attention to listen and have a receptive and thirsty heart to receive His teachings. God is ready to teach everyone who eagerly desires to be taught. It is therefore not reserved for a special category of people to be taught by God.

Still in the Epistle to the Hebrews (8/11), we read:

*"No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord, 'because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. "*



Jesus also said: "... *I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure*"(Matthew 11/25)

And in the verse 29 we read:

*"Take my yoke upon you and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"*

In the above verses, we read that it is for us (God's children) to whom the hidden things of the kingdom were revealed and not to a privileged few. Even though we might not all be intellectuals, this should not be a barrier for us to know God. Why? Because we have by our side the Holy Spirit to teach us. To understand the deep meanings of God's Word, it is not our natural human intelligence which is a prerequisite but rather the spiritual understanding brought by the Holy Spirit. Many intellectuals in the world have read the bible and yet they do not understand anything. The primary reason behind it is that they are unregenerated and what they read is a mystery for them.

*"...We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, **that we may understand what God has freely given us**. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, **and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned**..." 1 Corinthians 2/6-16*

King David (Psalm 119/125-130) said to the Lord:

*"I am your servant; give me discernment  
that I may understand your statutes. "*

*" The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple "*

These verses above show us that David asked God to help him to understand His Word. If the Holy Spirit does not reveal the Word of God to us, it is impossible for us to understand what its real meaning. Let us therefore ask God with eagerness to instruct us and give us knowledge. Ask and you shall receive said the Lord!

It is not in vain that the Bible teaches us so often to keep the commandments of God and to put it into practice and this because God wants us to know Him more.

*"This is love for God: to obey his commands.... "*(1 John 5/3)

We should not be contented to go to church and just listen to sermons. No, but we need to entertain a personal relationship with God. We should not rely on the church or the pastor to grow spiritually but we should rather look to God our Creator who is the reason of our existence. We need to go to the Source who is Christ Himself. The church is certainly there to help us grow spiritually but it can not meet all our needs. We are not a religion



where only the leader does all the service but we are members of the Body of Christ. Instead of depending on other people (the pastor or parents) to grow spiritually, we should rather rely on God and start to bring our contribution for the expansion of the Kingdom by building other weak Christians in their faith. Let us build up a deep relationship with this God who is the source and the author of our salvation. The Word is the food for our soul, it is our daily bread. It is the spiritual milk which makes us grow up stronger in the faith.

The pastor and our parents would not always be there when we get through trials and troubles but God will always be there. At the Cross Jesus tore the veil to enable us to come to God with assurance and confidence. Let us therefore make the most of this privilege by being in communion with our Heavenly Father. Let us be dynamic, zealous and thirsty to know God.

God does not show favoritism to anyone and He wants us all to become mature Christians. We must not content ourselves with the spiritual milk i.e. elementary teachings of the Word of God (Hebrews 5/14) but we need to look for solid food so as to bear more fruits. Since God teaches us, it is deplorable to see Christian still ignorant about the elementary teachings of the Word. God has also given by His grace the Holy Spirit to lead us and teach us and we therefore lack nothing to grow spiritually.

*" my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.... "Said the prophet (Hosea 4/6)*

It is therefore capital for us to develop an intimate relationship with God in order to hear when He speaks to us. Many Christians do not hear the voice of God because firstly they have no ears to listen. It is also important to read the Bible with the desire to learn and not as an obligation. It is not the amount of time we give which matters but rather the way we read. It is better to read the Bible with a thirsty heart by meditating than to read it in order to have more intellectual knowledge.

David said:

*"Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. " Psalm (119/129-131)*

If we take months to study a book of the Bible, it is worthwhile as long as we see that we are edified. The Word of God is our spiritual food and we can not grow without it. Make your own study and do not depend on teachers to feed your soul!

It is not astonishing that Jesus said: *'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'*(Matthew 4/4) and this because the Word of God is essential for our spiritual growth.

If today we see so many Christians weak in the faith and backsliding, it is simply because their soul is not fed correctly.

This food is accessible to all and remember that you have the best instructor who is the Holy Spirit. After your meditation, put in writing what you have learned and have a prayer journal to evaluate your walk with God. It is by coming to the source who is God Himself that we will reach spiritual maturity. The leaders are there to support and



encourage us but it is our responsibility to work out our salvation and build our relationship with God. The more we learn to depend on the Spirit, the more our faith will be strengthened.

I was once sharing with some youths the Psalm 33/4-11.

*" For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does... "*

*" By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth... "*

*" For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm... "*

As we read the bible starting from Genesis to Revelation, we notice that God's spoken Word is depicted as being lively, powerful, active and effective.

The Epistle to the Hebrews (4/12-13) says:

*" For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account "*

As we clearly see in the Gospel of John, God's Word was made flesh. This means that the Word of God was made flesh in the person of Jesus.

*" In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made ... "* (John 1/1-3)

*" The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth "*(John 1/14)

When we consider the underlined words below, we see that they are words commanded by God (Let there be light!) And the words in italics (And there was light) represent its fulfillment. Throughout the Bible we see that whenever God spoke, something happened.

"Let there be light! *And there was light* "(Genesis 1 / 3)

"Just say the word, *and my servant will be healed* "(Matthew 8 / 8)

" For he spoke, and it came to be;  *he commanded, and it stood firm...* "(Psalm 33 / 9)

The same was true for Jesus, He always ordered and spoke with authority and the miracles followed. He knew that what He ordered would accomplish itself (John 11/42).



For example, in the Gospel according to Mark (4/39-41) we read:

*"He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm";*

*"When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face...."*  
John (11/43)

*"May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered." (Matthew 21/19)*

We read in Matthew that the centurion believed that a single word spoken by Jesus would be enough to heal his servant. As a centurion, he gave orders to his soldiers daily and the latter executed the orders. Therefore, he knew what authority words had and it is why he asked Jesus to 'just say the word'.

*"... But just say the word, and my servant will be healed" (Matthew 8/8)*

We also read that God's Word always accomplished itself and never remained still.

*"so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."(Isaiah 55/11)*

We can believe that it is only through God's spoken Word that the world was created only through faith. *"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible"* (Hebrews 11/3)

The Word of God must have its effect in our lives when it reaches our hearts. The Word of God teaches us and has the power to change us completely.

But as the Parable of the Sower explains, there are different types of land where the seed was sown. God is no respecter of persons, He has given the same opportunity to every man to repent. A seed is planted with the expectation that we will get fruits from it. It is the same with the Word, when it is sown in our hearts it should produce fruits and bring us to do the will of God. Yes, the Word of God is alive and effective, but it is our duty to surrender our will and let it has its effect. If our heart is hardened to the point that we no longer bother at what God says through His Word, it is clear that we will be judged more severely on the day of judgment.

In the book of Deuteronomy (30/11-14) we read:

*"Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach..."*

And in verse 14, *"No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it"*

As Paul says in the Epistle to the Hebrews (4/12, 13), the Word of God judges the attitudes and thoughts of the heart. The Word of God is compatible to every heart and has as aim to bring a change in the heart of man. It is only hardened heart which cannot bear



fruits when the Word is sown. Even this powerful element called faith comes from the Word of God

*“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” (Romans 10/17)*

*“I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one” (1 John 2/14)*

We read again in the above verse that God’s Word is an essential element to remain firm in the faith and resist the devil’s attack. It is also why the Word of God is also described as being the ‘sword of the Spirit’ (Ephesians 6/17). Whether we are old or young, still we can live a life pleasing to God if we cherish His Word in our heart. It also why David said: *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By **living according to your word**. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you**”.* (Psalm 119/9-11)

*“**The very essence of your words is truth**; all your just regulations will stand forever. Powerful people harass me without cause, **but my heart trembles only at your word**. I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure.” (Psalm 119/160-162)*

The Word of God (the Bible) is essential for we humans because it:

- 1) Reveal sin in our lives (Romans 3 / 23, Galatians 5 19-21)
- 2) Provide a solution to sin (1 John 1 / 9, Romans 10 / 9)
- 3) Urges to live in holiness (1Thessalonians 4 / 3, Ephesians 4 / 21, Romans 6/12-13)
- 4) Encourages us to resemble Jesus, crucify the 'me' and bear fruit of the Spirit (Colossians 3 / 5, Galatians 5/22-25)
- 5) Warns us against the plans of the devil and train us to become soldiers for Christ (1 Peter 5 / 8, Colossians 2 / 8, Ephesians 6/10-18)
- 6) Reveal who we are (1 Peter 2 / 9, Apocalypse 1 / 6)
- 7) Shows where our hope and destiny is (Hebrews 13/14, Philippians 3 / 20, Revelation 21/1-3)

(This is not surprising that the devil does all he can to get us away from it!)

The more we let the Word of God work in our lives and shape us, the more docile and pleasing we will be to God. Let us therefore allow God’s Word to sanctify us and bring us closer to God. As we grow up in maturity, we will be a blessing to those around us.

In my sorrows, my struggles and my discouragement, the Word of God was always there to raise me up. It is so true that the Word of God judges and knows what is in the heart of man.



In the reproaches made to the seven churches in the book of the Revelation (3/8), the Church of Philadelphia was the only church which received no reproach and was commended by God and this because she had kept the Word.

Jesus said: "*Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.. "*(John 14/21-24)

So if we want to grow spiritually, know God and please him, it is essential that His Word remains in our hearts. Let us always be ready to surrender ourselves to God, let us put on the new self and live according to God's Word!