



## “The Word of God” (Selected Scriptures)

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Intro: Two topics covered so far: New Life, New Relationships and Tithing

Why the Word is a basic essential in the life of any Christian:

- Growth is impossible without it (I Peter 2:2-3).
- More important than physical food for real life (Deut.8:3; Matt.4:4).
- It is the Word of God.
  - I have never heard an audible voice from God. I have desired to, have asked for God to speak to me audibly, but up to this point in my life he has chosen not to. The primary way that God speaks to me is through His Word.
  - The uniqueness of this book; 66 books, written over a period of some 1500 years by almost 40 authors in several languages; II Tim.3:16a; II Peter 1:20-21 (cults origins of private interpretation, give examples).
  - Some of my favorite Bible prophecies that have been fulfilled: Isaiah prophesied that God would use a ruler named Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem (Isa.44:28; 45:1, 13); As early as Gen.3:15 God prophesies someone a “seed” coming from a woman (Christ, Gal.3:16) who would crush the head of the serpent (the devil, Rev.20:2), and in the process the devil would bruise this seed’s heel; This “seed” would come from the lineage of Abraham, and Isaac was a type of Christ both in his miraculous conception and Abraham’s willingness to offer Isaac as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah (Calvary); Daniel 9:25-27 prophesies the exact historical timing of Christ’s crucifixion; Micah 5: 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." John 13:18...But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' Psalm 41: 9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. Zechariah 11: 12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter. Matt.26:15 "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. Matt.27: 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. 6 The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is

blood money." 7 So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners.

- Psalm 22:16...they have pierced my hands and my feet. Before a Roman cross was ever invented! Psalm 22: 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. John 19: 23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did. Isa.53: 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Luke 23: 32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Isaiah 53: 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death...Matt.27: 57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Matthew 12: 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Psalm 16:10 prophesied that Christ's body would not see decay. Luke 9: 22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Luke 24: 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.
- Note: What are the chances that eight prophecies would be fulfilled in the life of one individual? The "Law of Compound Probabilities" tells us that the chance is one in 10 to the 28<sup>th</sup> power. In other words, if you covered the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars, and mark just one of those silver dollars with a red mark, then tell your friend to walk through the entire state – through the panhandle down to the Gulf, through Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi, from north to south, east to west, and choose one silver dollar. The statistical probability that he will choose the one with the red mark is 1 in 10 to the 28<sup>th</sup> power.
- There are other books that claim divine inspiration (like The Koran), but most have no predictive prophecy, and the ones that do contain failed or incorrect prophecies. No unconditional prophecy of the Bible about events to the present day have gone unfulfilled. That is a pretty firm foundation for faith!

- Essential to sanctification (John 17:17; Psalm 119:9).
- Judges the thoughts and attitudes of my heart (Heb.4:12-13; Jer.17:9-10a; Acts 2:37).
- Gives guidance in life, short and long term (Psalm 119:105; Give us this day our daily bread).
- Equips us for every good work (II Tim.3:16-17).
- Key ingredient for defense during times of temptation (Luke 4:1-13; Eph.6:17b, the Roman “machaira,” a double edged short sword used mostly for hand to hand combat).
- Great encouragement in times of suffering (Psalm 119:50; Rom.8:18, others?).
- Needed every day (Give us this day our daily bread; Psalm 1:1-3; Joshua 1:8; Deut.17:18-19; 6:6-9; show pics of verses throughout our house).

Practical advice for moving toward maturity:

- The Word of God must become a priority.
  - Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
  - Deut.4:29...you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.
  - Prov.2:1-5 my son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
- Begin as a baby.
  - When I first became a Christian, I did not get much out of reading the Bible. As a matter of fact, I had a very difficult time developing a regular routine of reading the Word. But I loved sitting under the preaching and teaching of the Word. Thankfully, within the first few months of becoming a Christian, I headed to Virginia to attend Liberty Baptist College (Liberty U today). I not only sat under the teaching and preaching of the Word in class, but at chapel service three times a week, church services Wednesday and Sunday, as well as special meetings of the church with guest speakers regularly. In those days, I was fed the Word of God almost daily.
  - Sit under the teaching and preaching of the Word as often as possible (Acts 2:42)
- Have a plan.
  - Set goal to read the Bible daily.
  - Choose a place, determine a time.
  - Me reading through “The One Year Bible”

- Best in the morning (Mark 1:35-37; Luke 5:15-16).
- Don't skip over difficult or unexciting passages (increased understanding over time, and unexciting passages that become exciting; i.e. Numbers 1-3, etc.).
- Evolve as you grow and as the Lord leads.
  - Some people never get off "the bottle" (Heb.5:11-6:2).
  - Memorization (Psalm 119:11) with John, Tom, and Drew; 3x5 cards
  - Increase daily reading; My increased Bible reading by making my own plan; variety of plans available today.
  - Try journaling.
- Guard against self-deception.
  - James 1:22-25; Matthew 23:3; Luke 6:47-49
  - Some people who heard the Word of God proclaimed from this stage two weeks ago made sure they were not self-deceived. Many put the Word into practice by beginning to tithe. How do I know? Offering report. If some today really do what the Word says, they will begin to sit under the teaching and preaching of the Word of God as often as possible. They will begin to read the Word daily, etc.
- Persevere
  - Don't let things in life choke the Word (Luke 8:14).
  - Luke 10:38-42; Martha is not lazy, nor does she have some hidden sin in her life. Martha is very simply distracted. She is so caught up in serving Jesus that she neglects sitting at His feet. Martha's priorities need to change.

## CONCLUSION

Psalm 119:16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.