

Christian Essentials

Thesis: God enjoins (commands and invites) you to facilitate his work in your life by receiving his Word. His work is to bring you life, abundant joy, maturity, competency for ministry, purification from sin, and nearness of fellowship with him.

Introduction: God created the earth, its creatures, and us specifically to exist in absolute dependence upon him.

- For physical existence (Gen 2:7; Psa 104:1-35; Deu 8:17-18)
 - For Spiritual life and any and every spiritual good, even after salvation, even after many, many years of walking with Christ (Joh 15:4-7; Gal 2:20; Gal 5:22-23; 1Co 4:7; Jas 1:17)
- It is right to even now to glorify God by recognizing our dependence upon him. (2Co 12:9)

Body

1. Characteristics and Qualities of the Word of God

- a. Absolutely pure, like pure silver (Psa 12:6; Psa 19:8b) →This means that God’s Words are entirely trustworthy. You can allow your mind to settle on each word and trust its authority, trust its veracity.
- b. Reliably True (Psa 18:30; Pro 30:5)
- c. Trustworthy (Psa 111:7; TRUSTWORTHY: “Worthy of confidence, dependable.”)
- d. Perfect (Psa 19:7a; PERFECT: “Being entirely without fault or defect.”)
- e. Better than fine gold (Psa 19:7-10; Pro 16:16) This verse challenges our value system. Do I work extra hours at work to the neglect of taking in God’s Word? Do I spend my time managing my resources to the neglect of God’s Word? It raises the question, “Am I taking in the Word of God?”
- f. Better Than Food (Ps. 19:10; Job 23:12)
- g. Better Than Sleep (Psa 119:148)
- h. Eternal (Mat 24:35; 1Pe 1:24-25)
- i. Spirit and Life (Jn 6:63)

2. Relationship of God’s Word and God’s Work in Us

Martin Luther: "Let the man who would hear God speak, read Holy Scripture"

- a. **God Operates With Supernatural, Transforming Power Through His Word** (Hebrews 4:12)
 - i. **Alive** ζῶω: living, life-productive. (1Pe 1:23; Is 55:10-11; Heb 6:18; Eph 1:11; Ge 2:7; Ps 33:9)

→Because the Word of God is the expression of the sovereign, all-knowing, almighty God, it carries the full weight of his being. His Word (applied by the Holy Spirit) brings us into His powerful work.
 - ii. **Active** ἐνεργής: pertaining to practical expression of capability, *effective, active, powerful*.

→The Word of God is more than information, like a textbook. Coming into contact with the Word of God is an invitation for God to be at work in your life. (Jas 1:18; 1 Th 2:13; Col 3:9-10)

→Christ Lives Through Us When His Word Abides In Us (Joh 15:4-11; Col 1:15; Joh 1:18)
 - iii. **Incisive** (impressively direct and decisive): Pointed, Piercing, Penetrating

DISCERN (κριτικός): *The Word of God identifies and exposes our thoughts and motives.*

→The Word of God does what our own self-reflection, comparison, and philosophizing cannot do—it penetrates deep into our hearts and reveals what we cannot see, producing the intended effect of the Word we are reading. (Luk 6:45; Mt 15:16-20; Ps 19:12; Je 17:9-10)
- b. God Directs Supernatural Power Through His Word to Make Us Holy (Eph 2:8-10; 1 Pe 1:14-16; Eph 5:25-27; 1Th 4:7)
 - i. It sets us apart as holy to God (Jn 17:17)
 - ii. It delivers our souls from bondage to sin (Jas 1:21-25)
 - iii. It renews our inner man, which is being made in the image of Christ (Col 3:9-10; Eph 4:20-24)
 - iv. It equips us to live holy lives (in gospel community) (2 Ti 3:16-17; Heb 5:11-14)

→The fact that “all Scripture” is 1) breathed out by God *and* 2) profitable encourages us to look for God’s work in our lives in *every* passage to which we come.
 - v. It provides the means by which the Holy Spirit applies the gospel to our daily living (1 Co 2:13; Ro 8:1-8 Psa 119:11)
 - vi. Does it matter whether or not I am actively pursuing holiness through the Word of God?
 1. Fruitfulness/-lessness (Ro 6:21-23; John 15)
 2. Disappointment at the judgment (1 Co 3:11-15)
 3. Loss of fellowship→robs you of life’s greatest joy (1 Jn 1:5-6; Ps 16:11; Joh 15:10-11)

4. Invites God's fatherly discipline (Heb 12:6)
- c. Specific Effects of God's Word On A Willing Soul
 - i. Revives Your Soul (Psa 19:7a The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.)
 - ii. Brings Joy to Your Heart (Psa. 19:8a The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart)
 - iii. Gives Light to Your Eyes (Psa 19:8b)
 - iv. Makes the Simple Wise (Psa 19:7b The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.)
 - v. Protects You from Danger (Psa. 19:11a Moreover, by them is your servant warned)
 - vi. Prompts God's Blessing (Psa 19:11b In keeping them there is great reward.)
 - vii. Gives light (Psa 119:130; Psa 119:105; 2Pe 1:19)
 - viii. Evokes saving faith by the work of God (Rom 10:17; Joh 6:63-69; Jas 1:18)
 - ix. Serves as our only offensive weapon against Satan (Joh 8:44; 1Pe 5:8; Eph 6:12, 17)
 - x. Protects us and secures us during difficulty (Mat 7:24-25)
 - xi. Sets you Free! (Joh 8:31-32)
 - xii. It conveys God's power to believers (1Co 1:18)
3. Why You Desperately Need God's Word at Work in Your Life:
 Your Spiritual Life Depends Upon It (Mt 4:4; Pro 4:23); authenticity to the Gospel depends upon it (Eph 4:17-24; Col 2:6-7); usefulness to God depends upon it (Mt 5:13-16; 2 Ti 2:20-22); success against Satan depends upon it (Mat 4:3-4; Eph 6:17) unsaved friends and family depend upon it (Php 2:14-16); children and grandchildren depend upon it (Dt 6:5-7); eternal reward depends upon it (Jn 15:4); payers depend upon it (Jn 15:7); strength and perseverance in difficulty depends upon it (Ps 119:28); peace depends upon it (Ps 119:165); joy depends upon it (Jn 15:11).
 George Mueller (1805-1898): **"The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Word in our life and thoughts."**
4. Inviting God to Radically Transform Our Lives Through His Word
 - a. Cry out to him for illumination (1 Co 2:12)
 - b. Set your heart on God in the Word of God (Ps 119:10-11; Ps 119:18; Ps 119:32)
 - c. Expect that Christ will speak to you in it (Joh 6:63-69)
 - d. Listen (produces faith) (Rom 10:17; 1 Ti 4:13)
 - e. Meditate: i. Delighted Soliloquy (Psa 1:2);ii. Persistent Observation—keep looking until God speaks to your heart (Jas 1:22-25); iii. Continuous rumination over resident Scripture (assumes memorization) (Jos 1:8; Psa 1:2; Ps 119:148)
 - f. Obey (constantly applying it) (**Heb 5:14**)
 - g. Affliction (Psa 119:71)

Conclusion

Do not be satisfied, friends, with hearing a preacher or reading a book where a person has been indelibly marked by God's Word—**CRAVE THE WORKING OF GOD IN YOUR OWN LIFE, AND CRY OUT TO HIM, AND IMBIBE ON HIS WORD.**

Flee from the death and darkness of sin that does war against your soul and your family and our church and steals your joy in fellowship with God. Come to the waters and drink, and be satisfied.

Is 55:1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.