

Study on the Word of God

September 11, 2016

I. Foundational understanding

A. Jesus is the Word of God

Jn 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

1. Jesus is the incarnated (God in the flesh) Word of God
(Jn 1:1, 14; 12:45; Col 1:15; Heb 1:2; 1Jn 1:1; Rev 19:13)

2. The words of Jesus are also the Father's words
(Jn 8:40; Mt 22:16; Mk 12:14; Lk 20:21; Jn 7:18)

3. His word reveals Jesus

Lk 24:44-45 Now He said to them, " These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

B. The Word is our final source of authority

Gal 1:8-9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (1Thes 2:13; 2 Tim 2:15; Jude 3)

The importance of how we use Scripture:

It sets the limits of authority (1Cor 4:6)

It is the test of what to believe and how to live (Isa 8:20; Ac 17:11; Mt 22:29; Mk 12:24)

It is the basis for teaching and preaching (Ac 17:2; 18:28)

It must not be distorted or changed (Dt 4:2; 12:32; Pr 30:6; 2Cor 2:17; 2Ti 2:15; Rev 22:19)

It must not be used deceitfully (2Cor 4:2)

It must not be preached in man's wisdom (1Cor 2:4, 13)

It must not be altered (Rev 22:18-19)

C. His Word works in accordance with His covenant

This means that we need to have good theological understanding of covenant to be able to use the word of God to its full potential in our life.

Heb 6:17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,
(Heb 6:13-20; Mt 5:17-19; 1Ch 16:15; Ps 119:89; Isa 40:8)

D. Our spiritual lives are dependent upon it.

Dependency is a sign of spiritual maturity. Many times we fail to receive the benefits of the Word because of our lack of hunger and maturity.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Dt 8:3).

E. His Word is creative

Isa 55:10-11 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. (Ps 33:6)

F. His word works in accordance with His Spirit

2 Cor 3:6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (Jn 6:63; 1Thes 1:5)

G. His Word is our sword

Eph 6:17 and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (2 Tim 3:15-17)

H. The gospel is the Word of God

Jesus preached the gospel (Word of God)

(Mk 2:2; Mt 13:19-23; Mk 4:14-20; Lk 8:11-15; Mk 4:33; Lk 4:43; Mk 1:38; Lk 5:1)

The first Christians preached the gospel (Word of God)

(1Th 2:13; Mk 16:20; Ac 6:2; 8:4; 11:1)

It was preached to the Gentiles (Ac 13:5)

and to the Jews (Ac 15:35-36; 17:13; 1Co 14:36; 2Co 2:17; 4:2; Phil 1:14; Col 1:25; 2Ti 4:2)

I. He helps us to understand His word, He gives revelation.

Lk 24:44-45 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

II. Description of the Word of God

Heb 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

A. This is the spoken (Rhema) and written Logos (Logos) Word of God.

1. Logos versus Rhema:

Logos: is used 326 times in New Testament, 40 times in John; it is often referred to as the "written" Word of God.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom

Rhema: is used 73 times in the New Testament, it is often referred to as the "spoken" Word of God.

Rom 10:8-10 But what does it say? "The is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Rom 10:17; Heb 11:3; Eph 6:17)

Note:

The significance of rhema (as distinct from logos) is exemplified in the injunction to take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," Eph 6:17; here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need, a prerequisite being the regular storing of the mind with Scripture. (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

B. The authority of scripture is the authority of Jesus Christ; they are indivisible.

To attempt to distinguish the two is like asking which blade of a pair of scissors is more important, or which leg of a pair of pants is more necessary. We know Christ through the Bible and we understand the Bible through the knowledge of Christ; the two cannot be separated. That is why Paul calls it "the word of Christ." (Ray Stedman)

C. The Word is living.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active (Isa 55:11)

"God's Message is a living and active power, the Divine Reason is alive and full of power in action, and lives is active and workable and energetic." (from The New Testament Study Bible; by Ralph W. Harris)

D. The Word is Active [Energetic, Powerful]

Isa 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

The Hebrew for "word" can also mean "action" or "deed". This indicates that God's word is active.

Col 1:29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me (Jn 1:12; Phil 3:21)

E. The Word is Sharp [Cutting From and Into]

Heb 4:12 ... sharper than any two-edged sword ...

Eph 6:17 And take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Rev 1:16 ...and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; ...

Isa 49:2 He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, ...

F. The Word is Piercing [Penetrating and Dividing]

Heb 4:12 ... and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit , of both joints and marrow (1 Thes 5:23; 1 Cor 15:45).

G. The Word Judges Thoughts and Intentions of the Heart

Heb 4:12 ... and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Ps 139:1-3,12; Jn 12:47-48).

C. It has various synonyms: [as found in the NASU]:

1. Scripture(s) (not found in the OT, 52X in NT)

2 Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (Rom 15:4; 1Ti 5:18; 2Pe 3:16)

2. Word of the LORD (20X in the Bible)

Dan 9:2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

2Thes 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you;

3. Word of God (20X in Bible)

Jn 10:35 "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

4. The Word (Jas 1:21-22)

5. The Word of promise (Rom 9:9)

6. The Word of faith (Rom 10:8)

7. The Word of Christ (Rom 10:17; Col 3:16)

8. The Word of truth (2Cor 6:7; Col 1:5; 2Tim 2:15; Jas 1:18)

9. The Word of life (Phil 2:16; 1Jn 1:1)

10. The Word of righteousness (Heb 5:13)

11. Oracles of God (Rom 3:2; Heb 5:12)

12. Sacred writings (2Tim 3:15)

13. The book of the law (Ne 8:3)

14. The Law of the Lord (Ps 1:2)

D. It is described as:

1. The sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17)

2. True (Jn 17:17; Ps 33:4; 138:2)

3. Tested and found flawless; (2Sam 22:31; Ps 18:30; Pr 30:5)

4. Infallible (Jn 10:35; 12:38-39; 19:28; Mt 5:18; 24:35; 26:53-56; Lk 16:17; 24:26-27, 44-46; Ac 1:16)

5. **Eternal** (Isa 40:8; Ps 119:89, 103, 152; 1Pt 1:25)
6. **Sweet and delightful** (Ps 119:103; Ps 19:10)
7. **Unchangeable** (Heb 6:13-20; Num 23:19; Isa 45:23; 55:10-11)
8. **Cannot be imprisoned** (2 Ti 2:9-10)
9. **Living and enduring** (1Pt 1:23)
10. **It is obeyed by angels** (Ps 103:20)

E. Comparisons of the Word of God with everyday things:

1. **Food** (Job 23:12; Ps 119:103; Jer 15:16; Ezk 2:8; 3:1; 1Pt 2:2)
2. **Manna** (Dt 8:3)
3. **Lamp or light** (Ps 119:105)
4. **Fire** (Jer 5:14; 20:9; 23:29)
5. **Hammer** (Jer 23:29)
6. **A two-edged sword** (Heb 4:12)
7. **Seed** (Mt 13:18-23)

III. How we are to respond to the Word

A. Study the Word to put it in your heart.

Mt 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (Dt 6:6-9; Ezek 3:3, 10)

B. Meditate in the Word

Ps 1:2 his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night (Ps 4:4-5)

C. Read the Word

1Tim 4:13 give attention to the public reading of Scripture ...

D. Search (examine) diligently

Ac 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

E. Receive the Word

Jas 1:21... in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls (Ac 11:1; 1Thes 2:13)

F. Confess the Word

Rom 10:8-10 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

G. Be a doers of the word

Jas 1:22-23 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

H. Respond in faith/obedience

Rom 16:26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith (Rom 1:5; 15:18)

I. Respond in humility

Isa 66:2 For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word. (2Ki 22:19)

J. Stand in awe Elijah's response to the voice of God (1Ki 19:11-14)

1Ki 19:11 ... and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. (Neh 8:5; Ps 119:161)

IV. Benefits of receiving the word:

A theme of Scripture often overlooked is what the Bible promises to do for God's people.

1. Men are born again through the instrumentality of the Word

1Pt 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. (Jn 5:24; 5:39; Jas 1:18; 1Jn 2:12; 5:11-13)

An entire book has been written to provide the assurance of salvation

1Jn 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

2. Faith comes to believers as they hear the Word

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Rom 16:26; Heb 4:2; Dt 30:11-14)

3. Spiritual growth

1Pt 2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation (2Pt 1:4; 3:18)

4. Peace

Ps 119:165 Those who love Your law have great peace, (Ps 85:8)

5. Blessings will come (in whatever we do) as we do (obey) the Word.

Jas 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. (Mt 25:24-27)

6. We are able to overcome the wicked one as the Word abides in us

1Jn 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

In the same way that Christ overcame the devil by using the written Word (Mt 4:1-11)

7. The Word restore the soul,

Ps 19:7-8 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. (Ps 19:11)

8. The Word brings you into His presence

Ps 43:3 O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling places. (Heb 1:1-2; 1Jn 2:14)

9. Trust in the Word delivers from fear.

Ps 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid.

10. The Word brings joy

1Jn 1:4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. (Ps 19:8)

Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;

11. The Word gives hope

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

12. The Word brings healing

Ps 107:20 He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

13. It is the Word that sanctifies or cleanses;

Jn 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

acting as a laver which reveals sin and provides cleansing as well,

Eph 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (Eph 5:25-27)

14. It is the Word that gives us power over sin

Ps 119:11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You

(Ps 119:9; Jn 8:31-32; Ac 26:18; Rom 12:2; 1Cor 10:11; Heb 2:1-3; 4:12; Jas 1:21-23)

15. The Word will strengthen you (builds you up).

As 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Ps 119:28)

16. The promise is given that those who honor the Word will find success

Josh 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

and prosperity in all of God's will

Ps 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers. (Dt 11:18-21; Mt 7:24-25; 13:23)