

Study on the Word of God

Part 2

September 18, 2016

I. Review

Foundational understanding

Jesus is the Word of God - Jesus and the Word are one

God honors the human language by calling Jesus the Word.
(Jn 1:1, 14; 12:45; Col 1:15; Heb 1:2; 1Jn 1:1; Rev 19:13)

The whole universe was brought into being by words.

The Spirit spoke in Gen 1:14-19, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens ... to give light on the earth";

Jn 1:14 "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,"

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! (2 Tim 2:15; Jude 3)

1 Th 2:13 "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."

While Paul was in Thessalonica it was the spoken Word, but his epistles are the written Word, the life-giving Word.

Ps 107:20 "He sent His word and healed them."

And that Word was manifested in the flesh, as the spoken Word through the lips of Jesus, as the spoken Word through the apostles, and finally was put upon paper in the language of men so that we might have a permanent record of this living Word

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)

How we are to respond to the Word

Study the Word to put it in your heart. (Mt 4:4; Dt 6:6-9; Ezek 3:3, 10)

Meditate in the Word (Ps 1:2; Ps 4:4-5)

Read the Word (1Tim 4:13)

Search (examine) the Word diligently (Ac 17:11)

Receive the Word (Jas 1:21; Ac 11:1; 1Thes 2:13)

Confess the Word (Rom 10:8-10; Phil 2:11; Mt 10:32; Lk 12:8; 1 Jn 4:3; Rev 3:5)

Be a doers of the word (Jas 1:22-23; Mt 8:24-27)

Respond in faith/obedience (Rom 16:26; Rom 1:5; 15:18)

Respond in humility (Isa 66:2; 2Ki 22:19)

Stand in awe (1Ki 19:11-14; Neh 8:5; Ps 119:161)

II. The integrity of the Word (from EW Kenyon; Advanced Bible Course)

Heb 4:12 "The Logos of God is a living thing, active and more cutting than any sword with double edge penetrating to the very division of soul and spirit, joint and marrow – scrutinizing the very thoughts and conceptions of the heart" (Moffat).

And now, notice carefully the next verse: "And no created thing is hidden from Him; all things lie open, exposed before the eyes of Him with Whom we have to reckon." The Word is called the Logos. Jesus is the Logos, and the Logos is a living thing – not in the book, not on the written page, but in the lips of the believer. There is no created thing hidden from Him, this living Word. The Word searches us out, finds us.

The Word is God speaking to you.

[The words "Says the Lord" (141X), or "Declares the Lord" (90X) is used 231 times in the Bible]

God and His Word are one. (Jn 1:1; Ac 8:25; 12:25; 13:44, 48, 49; 15:35, 36; 16:32; 19:10, 20)

The Word is always now. (Heb 1:1; 4:12; Isa 55:11; 1Pt 1:23)

Jesus is the Word. (Jn 1:1, 14; Rev 19:13)

Jesus is the Living Word. (Jn 1:4; 4:10; 5:26; 1Jn 1:1-3)

The Word is our contact with God

Heb 1:1-2 "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, ..."

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (Isa 35:8-9; Mt 11:27; Jn 10:9; Ac 4:12; Rom 5:2; Eph 2:18; Heb 7:25; 9:8; 10:19-22; 1Pt 1:21)

We are convicted by the Word It is a threefold conviction (Jn 16:7-11).

Jn 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

1. He convicts us of our union with Satan

Jn 16:11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

The natural man is judged in Satan, he is a child of Satan.

Jn 8:44-45 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father..."

1 Jn 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: ...

Jas 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic

2. He convicts of righteousness, showing that although we are children of the devil, righteousness is available and belongs to us

Jn 16:10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

Rom 3:21-26 God gives righteousness to those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

2Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

3. He convicts of sin because we believe not on Him.

Jn 16:9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

There is only one sin for which the sinner will be judged; that is the rejection of Jesus Christ.

Rev 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12; 21:27)

We are re-created by the Word

Jas 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

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.

The Word imparts to us eternal life. Were it not for the Word, we would not know that there was a redemption or a substitution or a new creation.

2 Co 5:17-18 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ

Our minds are renewed by the Word

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--

The mind is renewed by studying the Word and by acting upon it. One may study the word for years, and if he does not act it, live it, is not a doer, the mind is not renewed.

James gives us the secret(Jas 1:22-25)

Jas 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Many Bible students (Christians) are deceiving themselves because they are not acting, living, doing the Word.

We are indwelt by the Word

Col 3:16 "let" the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another ..."

What does He mean by letting the Word dwell in us richly? This is one of the most striking sentences in this epistle.

Jn 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." The Word here is dwelling in us, producing prayer fruit.

Read carefully the next verse; Jn 15:8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

It is prayer fruit. It is the Word bringing forth its own kind in the believer's life. It is not only committing the Word to memory, which is valuable, but it is letting that Word become an integral part of our beings. It lives in us.

Eph 3:17 "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,"

Christ and the Word are one. It is the Word dwelling in you which is equivalent to Christ personally being in you. Letting the Word have right-of-way in your life is letting Christ have right-of-way. The word dominating you is the Lordship of Christ in you.

We are built up with the Word

Ac 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."

He commends us to the Word of His grace. This Word builds the Christ nature and the love nature of the Father into the individual. In other words, God is building Himself into us, making Himself a part of us as the Word dominates, rules and satisfies our spirit nature.

You cannot build one up spiritually on philosophies or theories about the Word, or on the history of the Word. We are only made spiritual by living in the Word and by the Word living in us.

We are healed by the Word

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

We talk about faith in the Word – nothing wrong with that – but it is when Isa 53:4 ("Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried;") becomes a reality in our spirit, ("He was stricken and smitten with our diseases and sins.") that it operates in our physical bodies.

He was stricken and smitten with our diseases and sins. And then the Word declares in the fifth verse, ("By his stripes we are healed.")

We read it and meditate upon it, and we know that it is true. (Jer 1:12 "I watch over My Word to perform it.")

We know that the Father watches over His Word and that He will make that Word good in us. He said; "Surely He has borne our sickness and carried our diseases."

Then we did not need to carry them. They cannot be part of us because He put our diseases and sins on Jesus – "made Him to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2Cor 5:21).

The righteousness of God cannot be sick then and cannot be ruled by sin. Satan has no dominion over the righteousness of God unless we give it to him.

It is the Word that has made us know this. It is the Word that has saved us, re-created us, and it is the Word that heals us now. It is the Word that makes us masters of Satan.

Mark 16:17; "In My name you shall cast out demons."

It is the Word that has taught us the value of the Name, the authority of the Name, and our legal right to the use of the Name. So it is the Word in reality that has healed us.

We know the Father through the Word

Jn 16:27-28 "for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

Jn 17:23 "so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

Jn 14:23 " If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

These three Scriptures prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Father loves His children, these new creation folks, as much as He loved Jesus, and that it is a joy to make His home with them.

What would it mean to have the Father and Jesus both living in your home? It would ensure the rent, the taxes, and all the bills, because the Father would pay His way and enable you to meet every obligation. How intimate He wishes to become with us (Mt 6:31-33).

Faith comes through the Word

Rom 10:8 "The Word of faith which we preach."

Heb 12:2 "Looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

I used to wonder how we could look unto Jesus. Then when I found that the Word and Jesus were one, I knew that by looking into the Word and acting on it, I brought Jesus on the scene instantly. And when I knew how faith is perfected by our acting on the Word, letting the Word loose in us, to live in us, dominate us, rule us, I had found the secret.

Mk 16:17, "In My name they will cast out demons,"

Mk 16:18, "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Jn 15:16-17 "that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."

The Scripture means nothing until we act on it.

The Scripture is useless, dead, until we act on it. It is acting on the Word that builds faith in the believer. You may have all the promises; you may have the mighty Spirit dwelling in you; but if you do not act on the Word, God is impotent in you. Acting on the Word makes Jesus vitally real to the believer. (2Cor 5:7)

The Word in our lips

Rom 10:9-11 "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, ... And with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

It is the Word in my lips that counts. The Word becomes a living thing in the lives of the believer; it brings the unsaved man under conviction; it gives him faith to act on the Word; it causes the believer to "trust in the Lord with all his heart" (Proverbs 3:5).

Your word becomes God's Word, and your lips becomes God's ambassador. God's Word in your mouth, fresh from the love in your heart, burns in the heart of the hearer.

The prevailing Word

The Word takes the place of the unseen Christ. Meditation in the Word is a visit with Him. The Word becomes a part of one by meditation. The Word living in us gets into our blood.

Ac 19:20 "So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing."

A revival in Ephesus was shaking the nation. It was not Paul's preaching; it was not his logic or philosophy; it was the Word of God

Ac 12:24 "But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied."

It grew in the minds of the people. It gained the supremacy over them.

Faith makes the Word prevail

Faith comes when the Word prevails over the thinking process.

We see the Word prevailing in Jesus' lips over the laws of nature (Mt 8:23-27).

You remember that He said, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" (Mt 8:26)

Mt 8:26 Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. 27 The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

We see the Word prevailing in Jesus' lips over the law of supply and demand. 5 loaves and 2 fishes multiplied until 5,000 people were fed and 12 baskets the fragments were left over (Mt 14:13-21). On another occasion 4,000 were fed with 7 loaves and a few small fish (Mt 15:32-38).

The Word prevailed in Mt 8:5-12; the Word in Jesus' lips prevailed over the disease in the centurion's servant.

Jn 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

The Word prevails over the senses

God gives us a graphic picture of the Word prevailing over the fear and hope and sense knowledge in the mind of Abraham.

Rom 4:17-18 (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

Notice carefully: In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations

Hope and faith were in combat. Faith won and made hope of reality.

Remember Heb 11:1 "faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

Hope is always in the future; it is a dream, it is never real.

Faith reaches up and grasps hope and brings it into the realm of the present.

Rom 4:19 "Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;"
Abraham had hoped for a child. Now faith has changed the hope into reality.

Hope was changed to faith as he contemplated God's promises
Rom 4:17 "(as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU")"
Rom 4:18 "according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."
Rom 4:20 "yet, with respect to the promise of God, ..."

Results:

Rom 4:20-21 "... he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. (Would become a reality)

And so Abraham's faith was reckoned to him as righteousness. This righteousness gave the man a standing with God, the standing of a friend with God.

III. Study of Heb 11:1 (from Wuest's Word Studies)

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
Now faith is the title-deed of things hoped for, the conviction of things which are not being seen.
(Wuest's translation)

This verse is not a definition of **faith**, but a description of what faith does. (from the NKJV Study Bible).

The word "faith"

Vincent says, "Faith apprehends as a real fact what is not revealed to the senses. It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it. Faith is real seeing."

Heb 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

The word "substance" deserves careful treatment.

It is (*hypostasis*), made up of (*stasis*) "to stand," and (*hupo*) "under," thus "that which stands under, a foundation." Thus it speaks of the ground on which one builds a hope.

Moulton and Milligan report its use as a legal term. They say that it stands for "the whole body of documents bearing on the ownership of a person's property, deposited in archives, and forming the evidence of ownership." They suggest the translation, "Faith is the title-deed of things hoped for."

The Holy Spirit energized act of faith which a believer exercises in the Lord Jesus is the title-deed which God puts in his hand, guaranteeing to him the possession of the thing for which he trusted Him.

In the case of this first-century Jew, his act of faith in Messiah as High Priest would be the title-deed which God would give him, guaranteeing to him the possession of the salvation for which he trusted God.

Thus, he would have assurance. **Vincent** translates, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for." He says that "It is the firm grasp of faith on unseen fact."

Substance means "essence" or "reality." Faith treats **things hoped for** as reality. (from the NKJV Study Bible)

The word "evidence" is the translation of (*elegchos*) which means, "a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested."

Thayer in commenting on its use here defines it as follows: "that by which invisible things are proved and we are convinced of their reality." His second definition of the word is "conviction."

Vincent says: "Observe that "**substance**" (*hupostasis*) and "**evidence**" (*elegchos*) are not two distinct and independent conceptions, but they stand in opposition.

Elegchos (evidence) is really included in hupostasis (substance), but adds to the simple idea of assurance, a suggestion of influences operating to produce conviction which carry the force of demonstration.

The word often signifies a process of proof or demonstration.

So von Soden: 'a being convinced. Therefore not a rash, feebly-grounded hypothesis, a dream of hope, the child of a wish.'

Evidence means "proof" or "conviction."

Faith itself proves that what is unseen is real, such as the believer's rewards at the return of Christ (2Cor 4:18) (from the NKJV Study Bible).

The word "things" is the translation of (*pragma*), "a thing done."

Vincent says that it introduces a wider conception than "things hoped for." It embraces not only future realities, but all that does not fall under the cognizance of the senses, whether past, present, or future.