

God Speaks from His Word!

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God inspired the writing of Scripture to make His Truth available to everyone. He brought the Scriptures into existence and gives them to us through a Book—a Book that can even be understood by a child. The *first* book children should learn to read is God’s Word.

Many children’s Bibles have pictures which can help us explain things to them, but children should be fascinated most by the *words* rather than by the *pictures*. The young Jesus did not have a picture Bible but only scrolls of Scripture.

Being overly fascinated by the pictures could have children think that the Bible is just a story-book—instead of a book of *real accounts* of *real people* really living God’s Truth. The Bible should be read to children at a very young age.

² Timothy 3:14 “Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

The Bible speaks to us *where* we are—at whatever *age* we are; whatever *situation* we are in—or whatever *trial* we are going through. The Words of Scripture keeps us on the path of faith in God. His Word is *living*; it is *powerful*; it is *sharper* than a sword; and it ^{Hebrews 4:12} “*Is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

The Word of God is a word of prophecy in our hands—it is a light to guide us through a dark world. ^{2 Peter 1:18} “*This voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*” ¹⁹ *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.*”

The Bible can pierce our soul with truth, and it can *convict* us when we are out of line with that truth. We should read the Bible every day—as *often* and as *much* as possible—and we should be sure that the children have a steady diet of Scripture as well. While reading it to them, we should *emphasize* the meaning of the Words, and *de-emphasize* the pictures on the page.

The reason for reading and re-reading the Bible is the fact that at one time the verses can seem to have little relevancy to us, but the next reading we see a whole volume of truth in those same verses. God can open our minds to *any Scripture* at *any time*—we just ask Him for wisdom before reading.

God takes His *Word* very seriously so we should also. Scripture is where God’s Truth is learned. That truth is *not* in the Koran; *not* in the Hadith [writings of Muhammad]; *not* in the Book of Mormon, *nor* is that truth in any other book by any other author.

Fortunately, a complete record of God’s Truth is in the Bible—it is meant to be *read* and *valued* and *applied*! His Truth is ^{2 Timothy 3:15} “*Able to*

make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

God’s Word is to be accepted as written—adding no wrong meaning *to* it, nor taking any principle of truth *from* it. ^{Proverbs 30:5} “*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*” ⁶ *Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*”

Obedience to God’s Word is an integral part of the Christian life, so Bible reading should be first on the list, before getting into activities of the day. We are to keep Bible verses in memory and be willing to obey them. Jesus was speaking to a crowd when a woman called out ^{Luke 11:27} “*Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.*” ²⁸ *He replied, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.’*”

Keeping the Word in our *memory* is obeying the Word in our *life*. Jesus says we will be blessed if we *hear* the Word; *read* the Word; and *obey* the Word concerning principles of trust on God. ^{1 Peter 2:2} “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*” We would not be a *follower* of God without a good understanding of the *Word* of God. Reading and following His Word enables spiritual growth to be seen in our life.

Not eating good foods; not drinking fresh water; and not breathing clean air results in our *physical* bodies withering; and if we do not have a steady diet of God’s good Word, our *spiritual* life withers. The apostle urged his young helper to:

^{2 Timothy 4:2} “*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.*” ³ *For the time will come when men will not put up with [not endure] sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires [lusts], they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*” ⁴ *They*

will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths [fables].”

After Moses passed away, God encouraged Joshua Joshua 1:5 “*No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.*” God first promises to be *with* Joshua and that He would give him *success* at whatever he did or wherever he went.

Joshua 1:7 “*Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*” God’s Word gave encouragement and instruction—Joshua had to *read* the Word of God so he could *know* and *do* the will of God.

It is to be a continual *reading* and *meditating* on the Word—it is to be *with* us and be *guiding* us in all that we say and do. Joshua 1:8 “*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*”

Reading the Scriptures in the morning and evening is following the advice God gave Joshua—Proverbs 2:1 “*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding.*”

Every time the Bible is *read*, we are listening to God speak. *Hide My commandments* means *keeping* the verses in memory and *reciting* them during the day. Proverbs 2:3 “*Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*”

During the Gold Rush of 1849 in California, people travelled all the way across the United States to get to the West Coast in search for gold. We wonder how many today will walk a few steps to the bookcase and read the *Word of God*—an eternal Word that contains something far more precious than gold that perishes. The Bible is a *living* Word that never changes and its value beyond computing. Psalm 119:89 “*For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*”

Following the Scriptures enables us to live a godly life of faith in God. Psalm 119:9 “*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*”

People will go to great lengths to hide something they *treasure*—doing everything possible keep it *safe* from loss, theft, or damage—but how many are willing to *hide* God’s *Word* in their heart so they would not sin against Him—that is the question. If someone *stole* our Bible, His treasures of Truth are still *safe* inside our *heart* and *memory*.

Being a watchman means we are *reading*, *heeding*, and *living* the Word of God every day—a Word that is already settled in Heaven. The life we *live* and the words we *use* should *point* others to God. Since the Scriptures are eternal; since God’s Word lives with us every day; and since it cannot change, then all that He *tells* us and all that He *teaches* us from His Word, is also eternal, current, up-to-date, and is excellent advice for us today.

When He says Ephesians 4:22 “*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds*”—He means getting rid of the old

self; the wrong attitudes; the anger, cheating, and spiteful ways we once had. We now accept the *new* Christ-like ways of the Spirit.

It is something we *do* as we begin the *day*—putting Ephesians 4:24 “*On the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*” True righteousness can be a reality, but only by true faith and steadfast trust on the Blood of Jesus.

We are to put on the “*new self*” as we put on a new shirt—wearing it all day. Knowing the Scriptures means wearing a new Christ-like *attitude* toward everyone that day.

Reading the Scriptures on a continual basis means we are *listening* to God who speaks to us from His Word. We become familiar with many verses, which then enables us to make *corrections* and *changes* in our attitudes and desires.

Ephesians 4:25 “*Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another. 26 ‘In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.*”

God speaks from His Word so He can guide our path that day—and so we can *stay* in His will concerning all that we are doing, saying, studying, being interested in, or getting involved with.

God speaks through the Word Colossians 1:10 “*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*”

When God *speaks*—we *listen*!



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