

2-A God's Word

We are to speak the word, believe the word, preach the word, pray the word, memorize the word, obey the word, honor the word, study the word, hear the word, listen to the word, eat the word, meditate on the word, heed the word, teach the word, publish the word, desire the word, do the word, rejoice in the word, hide the word in our hearts, delight in the word, long for the word, keep the word, set our hearts on the word, recount the word, consider the word, learn the word, hope in the word, love the word, walk in the word, practice the word, taste the word, accept the word, pant for the word, sing of the word, etc.

When we properly receive the word in us, it heals, cleanses, saves, preserves, strengthens, teaches, guides, directs, gives light, gives hope, creates, manifests, comforts, sanctifies, washes, grows, abides in us, etc.

GOD gives the word, interprets the word, performs the word, watches over the word, follows the word with signs, listens to the word, establishes the word, empowers the word, lifts up the word, magnifies the word, fulfills the word, quickens the word, etc.

Preface

Forward

I pray that the Spirit of God will open your eyes

This booklet is an introduction to the importance of The Word of God in the life of every Believer. The Bible is the true and perfect Word of God. I like this quote from Bill Subritzsky, an evangelist in New Zealand, which to me sums up the importance of the Word of God:

“THIS is the Word of God. It is supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application, inspired in totality. Read it through, write it down, pray it in, work it out, and then pass it on.”

Let me ask you a question: What is the longest chapter in the Bible, who wrote it, and what is its subject? The answer is *Psalms 119*, composed by David, and whose subject is the Word of God. Psalms 119 is an *acrostic*. An acrostic is a poem in which each line or each stanza begins with a letter in the order of the Hebrew alphabet. Since there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, there are 22 stanzas in this Psalms, each stanza consisting of 8 verses, and each verse in that stanza beginning with the same Hebrew letter. Therefore, there are $22 \times 8 = 176$ verses in Psalms 119, all about the Word of God. Here are just a few of the verses in this great chapter:

PSALM 119:9 *How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. 16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. 18 Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. 33 Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. 34 Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart. 35 Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. 36 Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. 37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. 57 You are my portion, O LORD; I have promised to obey your words. 58 I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. 59 I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. 60 I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands. 89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. 137 Righteous are you, O LORD, and your laws are right. 138 The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy.*

First of all, notice that this Psalms is basically a prayer to God, and a declaration of the value of God's Word to David. Notice also that David uses

several different terms for the Word of God, such as word, commands, statutes, decrees, law, promises, etc. Also note the frequent mention David makes of his **heart**. David is not here referring to the organ that pumps blood in his body, but something else. In the Bible, the **heart** is a person's **spirit**, which is the center or life of his or her being. Read this verse carefully:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit**, **soul**, and **body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Note here that a human being is **triune** – made of three parts. So also is God triune, manifesting as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three parts of a human are **spirit**, **soul** and **body**. This makes sense, since the Bible tells us that mankind is made in God's image. If God is triune, then we must be triune. The Greek word for spirit here is **pneuma**, which in the New Testament is variably translated **spirit**, **breath**, **air** or **wind**. For example, if you get an infection in your lungs, the organ by which you breathe air, it is called **pneumonia**. The creation story in Genesis also reveals the triune nature of man:

Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the **dust** of the ground, and **breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living **soul**.*

In this verse, we can see that God formed the **body** of man from the dust of the ground. That's the physical aspect of your being. He then breathed life into the man, which is the **spirit**, and man became a living **soul**. Thus, we see **body**, **spirit** and **soul**, again showing the triune nature of man.

The **spirit** is not the same as the **soul**, since the following verse teaches us that the soul and spirit can be separated from one another by the word of God:

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of **soul** and **spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The next two verses, one each from the Old Testament and from the New Testament, show us that the **spirit** of man is also in the Bible called the **heart**:

Deuteronomy 6:5 *You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, and with all your **strength**.*

Luke 10:27 *So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, with all your **strength**, and with all your mind," and "your neighbor as yourself."*

The New Testament (NT) verse is simply a quote from the Old Testament (OT). Both verses show the triune nature of man, composed here of **heart**, **soul** and **strength**. I think you can see that the '**strength**' represents the **body**, the physical nature of man. Therefore, the **heart** must and does represent the **spirit** of man, the center of his being.

1 Peter 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere **milk of the word**, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

2 Peter 1:4 *Through these he has given us his very great and precious **promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

2 Peter 1:20 *knowing this first, that no **prophecy** of **Scripture** is of any private interpretation, 21 for **prophecy** never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

1 John 5:9 *We accept man's testimony, but **God's testimony** is greater because it is the testimony of God, **which he has given about his Son**. **10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart**. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. **(The New and Old Testaments)***

Revelation 1:3 *Blessed is the one who reads the **words** of this **prophecy**, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.*

Revelation 1:16 *In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a **sharp double-edged sword**. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*

Revelation 12:11 *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by **the word of their testimony**; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

Revelation 19:10 *At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**."*

How would you like to just speak the Work of God, and the angels of God would suddenly come to attention, and hearken to your words, being diligent to carry out God's Commands as they come from your mouth? Did you know that believers have that very authority, but often do not realize it? Read this verse carefully:

Psalms 103:20 *Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. (NKJV).*

Psalms 103:20 *Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.*

Psalms 103:20 *Bless Jehovah, ye His messengers, Mighty in power—doing His word, To hearken to the voice of His Word. (Young's Literal Translation)*

Hebrews 1:14 *Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

John 8:31 *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to **my teaching (my word)**, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 15:3 *You are already clean because of the **word** I have spoken to you.*

Acts 4:31 *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the **word** of God boldly.*

Acts 13:49 *The **word** of the Lord spread through the whole region.*

Acts 18:11 *So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the **word** of God.*

Acts 20:32 *Now I commit you to God and to the **word** of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by **the word (rhema) of God**.*

2 Corinthians 1:20 *For no matter how many **promises** God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

Ephesians 5:26 *to make her (the church) holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the **word**.*

Ephesians 6:17 *Take the helmet of salvation and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the **word (rhema)** of God.*

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the **word** of truth.*

2 Timothy 3:16 *All **Scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

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.*

Hebrews 5:13 *Anyone who lives on **milk**, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

Hebrews 4:12 *For the **word (logos)** of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged **sword**, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

1 Peter 1:23 *For you have been born again, not of perishable **seed**, but of imperishable, through the living & enduring **word** of God. 24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the **word** of the Lord stands forever." And this is the **word** that was preached to you.*

Here is another verse in the NT that show that the **heart** is equivalent to the **spirit** in man. Here, Peter is encouraging women to beautify not just their outer bodies, but says that their real beauty should be inward – that of a pure and chaste **spirit** or **heart** within:

1 Peter 3:3 *Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the **heart**, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet **spirit**, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

This again shows that when the Bible refers to the **heart**, it is speaking of the **spirit**, which is the real you. You are a **spirit** being, you have a **soul**, and you live in a **body**. It is your spirit that gives life to your body. Physical death – the death of the body – occurs when your spirit leaves your body:

JAMES 2:26 *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

So, we can summarize what we have learned so far: Man is triune, composed of **spirit**, **soul** and **body**. You are a **spirit** being, you have a **soul** and you live in a **body**. The Bible frequently uses the word **heart** as an equivalent to the **spirit** of man.

There are so many scriptures in the Bible about the Word of God that we cannot include all of them here in this booklet. We will try, however, to illustrate the major ways in which God emphasizes the importance of His Word to mankind, especially the believer. One important key is the fact that everything God does, He does by speaking it, by His Word. For example, notice how God began the creation:

GENESIS 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God **said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

When God does anything, He doesn't twitch his nose like the witch on **Bewitched**; He doesn't clap His hands like a Genie. He simply speaks, and whatever He says comes to pass. The Spirit of God then fulfills the Word of God

Psalms 33:6 *By the **word** of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the **breath** of his mouth.*

The breath of God represents the Spirit of God that fulfills the Word of God. Remember above we talked about the triune nature of man – spirit, soul, and body. The Greek word in the NT is **pneuma**, which is elsewhere translated breath, air or wind. When God created Adam, He breathed into Him the breath of life – his spirit.

HEBREWS 1:1 *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express*

image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

How does God uphold all things? By the **Word of His Power**. God's power is in His Word.

There are two books in the Bible that begin with the phrase "In the beginning..." They are Genesis and John. We just read Genesis 1:1-3 above. Here is

Remember the story in Exodus where God chose and then sent Moses into Egypt to deliver His people out of Egyptian bondage? The Hebrew people had been in slavery under various Pharaohs for 400 years. God commanded Pharaoh through Moses to let His people go. However, it was not until God sent the ten plagues against Egypt did Pharaoh finally let the Hebrew people go. Moses then led the people out of Egypt, through the wilderness, with the goal to reach the Promised Land.

After Moses dies, God appoints Joshua to lead the Hebrews from the wilderness into the Promised Land. Joshua asks God how will he be able to fulfill God's for Joshua to lead the people successfully into the Promised land. Joshua 1:8-9 is God's answer:

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. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Psalms 1:1 *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But **his delight is in the law of the Lord**, And **in His law he meditates day and night**. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And **whatever he does shall prosper**.*

Psalms 19:10 *They (God's **words**) are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.*

Psalms 45:1 *My heart is stirred (overflowing) with a noble theme as I recite my **verses** for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer. (NIV)*

Proverbs 4:20 *My son, pay attention to what I **say**; listen closely to my **words**. 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your **heart**; 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.*

Proverbs 6:22 *When you walk, they (God's **words**) will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to*

you. 23 For these **commands** are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life,

Proverbs 30:5 *"Every **word** of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*

2 Samuel 23:2 *"The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his **word** was on my tongue.*

KI 8:56 *"Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one **word** has failed of all the good **promises** he gave through his servant Moses.*

Isaiah 8:20 *To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this **word**, they have no light of dawn.*

Isaiah 28:9 *Whom shall he **teach** knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand **doctrine**? them that are weaned from the **milk**, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept (**teaching of the word**) must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:*

Isaiah 50:4 *The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the **word** that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. 5 The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.*

Isaiah 55:10 *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11 so is my **word** that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

Jeremiah 1:9 *Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my **words** in your mouth.*

Jeremiah 23:29 *"Is not my **word** like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"*

Matthew 4:4 *Jesus answered, "It is written: '**Man does not live on bread alone, but on every WORD (rhema) that comes from the mouth of God.**'"*

Matthew 5:18 *I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the **Law** until everything is accomplished. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my **words** will never pass away.*

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my **words** will never pass away.*

John 5:39 *You diligently study the **Scriptures** because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the **Scriptures** that testify about me,*

John 6:35 *Then Jesus declared, "**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

John 6:63 *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The **words** that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*