

Russell Kelfer

A Thread of Truth

#1320-B

Series: What the Word Says About the Word



DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.
INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230 • (210) 226-0000 / 1-800-375-7778 • www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org

A Thread of Truth

Father, what a joy to know that at the moment in time that we speak with Jesus the courts of heaven are silenced. And you listen to the very beat of my heart.

Oh, dear God, thank You for loving us beyond our understanding. We pray that the moments we spend together today will be moments in time when eternity would take shape in our hearts. Take the Word, penetrate the depths of our hearts and transform us into Your likeness.

Father, we've not come to be entertained, or even to be educated, but to be transformed. In ever increasing splendor of one who brings glory to another, may we leave this place different than we came, because Jesus Christ has changed us.

Amen.

I don't think any of us would live there. I know I wouldn't. Can you imagine being invited to a place—the most despicable place that you can think about—to move in and live? It's infested with all kinds of rodents and varmints. There is no running water and no electricity. The place is overrun with disease, drugs, and crime. Can you imagine?

And can you imagine inviting the most important person you've ever known to live there? The queen of England? The president of the United States? A visiting dignitary from Israel, or some other important country? You say that's a joke. I wouldn't do that.

But wait, I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll paint the outside and we'll plant some flower boxes right under the boarded-up windows. We'll spray the weeds and the gravel in the front so it looks green. Then we will put a sign, "A Palace Fit For a King." How's that? You say I don't want to do that. I mean, if the inside is filthy and unfit why would you expect anyone to live there, let alone a dignitary?

Let me ask you a question. What about that not-so-upscale

A Thread of Truth

apartment complex that you own, the one that's really as abominable on the inside? Would you invite the most important person who ever lived to live there? You say, "Of course not." I don't own a place like that. Oh, yes you do. It's located at 100 Heart Avenue, and it is the place you invited Jesus Christ to come into and dwell, when He knocked on the door of your heart.

It is called the human heart. And before He came, God sent an appraiser, and looked the place over. And He came back and wrote it up and He said this is my assessment. "It is deceitful and desperately wicked."¹

It doesn't sound like a palace. Yet, that's where we invited the King of eternity to come up, come in, and take up residence. Now granted, He has some renovation plans—big ones. But they require the constant cooperation of the landlord. And unless we are willing to pay attention to His requests, we will leave Him there, wallowing in the squalor of unconfessed sins, unchanged weaknesses, and unspiritual responses.

Now mind you, we'll fix up the outside. That's what other folks see. I mean, we'll learn the right words; we'll be spiritual. We'll get involved in the right activities. And we will even attempt to do a little reconstructive surgery on areas that affect the way other people see us. But inside, are we willing to give the Master Architect the building permit and tell Him He can completely change everything and get rid of all the garbage?

That place we're talking about is the human heart. It's the place we looked at in such detail last Lord's Day. And I'm pleasantly surprised so many of you came back. I asked you, for one week, to monitor every thought that went on in the heart. And I asked you to make a comparison between what's really there and what people think you are. I've heard some interesting responses from some of you, and some interesting responses from my own heart. And I would encourage you to continue that process, because when God sees you, He doesn't see you as men do. Man looks on the outward appearance—what we do, how we act. God looks at the heart.

What is the heart? You may remember from last week, but let me remind you. The heart is the real you. Let me elaborate. The heart is what you think when you think no one knows what you think. That's the heart. The heart is what you would do if there

¹ Jeremiah 17:9

A Thread of Truth

were no restraints and no consequences, if nobody would ever know. That's the real you. And, beloved, that's what God sees when He looks at you. He doesn't see as man sees. And what does He see? God's Word says in Genesis 6:5,

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was [awesome] great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [were what? Pretty neat? No that's not what He says.] was only evil continually.

(Genesis 6:5 NKJV)

Not a very pretty picture. In other words, apart from God, man was destined for a garbage dump. Man had chosen to sin and having so chosen, he opened his heart up to everything that breaks the heart of God.

So the heart that had been created by God to literally reflect the likeness of God, had become a rat infested garbage dump. It became the home of every kind of evil thought, every kind of evil desire that ultimately ended up in every kind of evil activity. In case you don't believe Jesus said it for us in Matthew 15.

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

(Matthew 15:19 NKJV)

That's what the heart is capable of producing apart from the transforming work of God. But Jesus also told us in Matthew 12,

A good man [or a man who possesses God] out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things [or that which is godly], and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

(Matthew 12:35 NKJV)

Maybe I can bring it more into perspective for those who live here. This place is filled with contaminated soil. It's known as the heart. It can be cleaned up. The old dirt can be gotten rid of. But the source, which can edify, convert, and redeem can literally come from that very same piece of land, that same piece of real estate.

But there are two steps. And the truth of the matter is, the first step the world really has a really hard time buying into. The second step, the Christian really tries to pretend it isn't necessary. They either say, it's too simple and we need to get more theological, or they say it's too legalistic and we don't want to obey it.

That first step we'll look at is very simple and most of you

are very aware of it, but the natural man and the natural mind doesn't like it. What it boils down to is before you can do anything else, before God can move into a life; you have to have a new heart. That is, you've got to be born (ἀνωθεν—anōthen) again, you must be born from above.

Man doesn't like that. Let's say you were to play man on the street. You take your little microphone, walk down the mall, stop the average person and say, "I'd like to interview you." And they'd say, "Fine." Here's my question you would ask. "Can you do anything good in and of yourself?" Ninety-nine percent of them will say, "You better believe it." You ask, "Is it possible that there's nothing good can come out of your life apart from God?" Ninety-nine percent of them say, "Of course it's not true. I am in and of myself a pretty good person." Some would say, "I'm a really good person and I'm humble too." So the natural man doesn't want to recognize that. But you and I know that you must be born (ἀνωθεν—anōthen) again. You must have the Spirit of God inside that part of man called the heart, and be born again.

But this new heart, we found out, doesn't totally eliminate the desires of the flesh. (Some of you can testify to that.) It didn't even erase all of the garbage from the computer of the mind that we stored there before. The stench was still there. Now God has invaded your heart, if you're a Christian, and He's given you the capacity to live victoriously in this life on your way to the next. He placed His Spirit inside of you to guide you, to correct you, to lead you, to convict you, and to encourage you, but only to the degree that we are willing to "abide in Him, and let His words abide in you."² Now once again that's a very, very commonly used Scripture. But if I were again, to take that roving microphone and come walking down these aisles and ask you to explain what it means to abide in Christ, we would get hundreds of answers. And we will be looking at it in weeks to come.

But the truth of the matter is, this is what the Christian has a hard time buying. Number one, he figures or she figures that this problem of sin got taken care of at the cross, and indeed it did, and the living of the life then shouldn't be a problem. The second thing is that those of us, who have recognized the problem, tend to look at it this way. "Well, God expects for me to live a life that is religiously, beautiful on the outside and leave all the garbage on the inside." God never anticipated that my thought patterns

² John 15:7

A Thread of Truth

were going to change, because He understands that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. That's a lie. God intends for your heart, that part of you that is what you think when you think no one knows what you think, to come into harmony with what the world thinks you are, and even with what you think you are. It's a very difficult subject.

We have been looking, these past few lessons, at what you do about it. And the way we got to that study on the heart was we began realizing, as we went through Psalm 119, that the Scripture, over and over again, keeps telling us there's something we're supposed to put in the heart, and something we're supposed to do with the heart that solves this whole problem.

And that word is a Hebrew word that we found is pronounced something like m-e-d-i-t-a-t-i-o-n. It's not a very pretty word and it's very misused in today's society. A lot of Christians don't talk about it. But the Scripture is very plain. If the Word is to remain in us something has to happen. And in order for us to meditate, we came to the conclusion that the only way is to memorize it as we walk by the way, as we lie down at night, and as we get up in the morning, as the Scripture says. Now, if you have a better way, I'm open to ideas. But in the meantime, we're going to assume, that memorizing the Word of God is the appropriate measure that must be taken, if you're going to meditate on the Word of God. And unless you meditate on the Word of God, you're not going to be spiritually prosperous and have godly success.³

The Word of God has to be placed on your heart and you are to meditate on it. The Scripture never told us to meditate on anything else. We're never to meditate on the words of man. That's where cults come from. We meditate on the Word of God. And the only way I know of to meditate is to first memorize. We are going to talk about that this morning and next Sunday. And we would to pray that, at least some of you would come back next week, because this lesson is preparation for that week.

Today we are going to talk about how to memorize, and I'm going to give you some suggestions you may not like. But that's okay; you smile and pretend to like them. I can't look at your heart. Okay? Next week we are going to meditate together. You won't have to do anything. But we're going to learn how to meditate on the passages we've been memorizing, or hopefully memorizing.

³ Joshua 1:8,9

A Thread of Truth

Once again we ask the question, “Are you sure we have to memorize?” I will only give you answers from the Scriptures. I’m just going to read you a few of the verses we’ve been looking at and add a few more. You listen to them and draw your own conclusion.

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. (Psalms 119:11 NKJV)

Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, that I may not be ashamed. (Psalms 119:80 NKJV)

The law of his God is [where?] in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. (Psalms 37:31 NKJV)

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.. (Proverbs 4:23 NKJV)

I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart. (Psalms 40:8 NKJV)

Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. (Proverbs 6:21 NKJV)

My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.

Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye.

Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 7:1-3 NKJV)

...lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life... (Deuteronomy 4:9 NKJV)

Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (Deuteronomy 11:18 NKJV)

But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, (Deuteronomy 30:14,15 NKJV)

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 preach: (Romans 10:8 NKJV)

Do you get the picture? Somehow the Word of God is saying to us, that this Scripture is not to be something that’s on a shelf

A Thread of Truth

that we grab occasionally. It's not to be something that we come to Sunday school or church to hear, although we do that, and then go our way and expect it to stick. It will not stick. Those of you who are in education will certainly agree that you can't learn anything else that way. Beloved, you put the Word in your heart or on your heart—*inscribed on* is what the literal word means. These verses tell us what is going to happen:

1- Psalm 119:11,80 says it will guard us against temptation.

Maybe there is a problem you have been struggling with all of your life. You begin to meditate on the Word of God as it relates to God's quality that overcomes that temptation. And before long the enemy comes along and he hits you between the eyes with the very same temptation that has always gotten you in the past. Maybe it's anger, maybe it's lust, maybe it's fear. But suddenly there wells up within you, "It is written." And the Word comes into your heart and the Holy Spirit takes the Word and the enemy flees. He gets out of town. What happened? The Word of God, it was laid up in your heart.

2- Psalm 37:31 says that it will keep us from regressing in our faith. When we get discouraged, it says none of your steps will slide.

3- It will give you the desire to do the will of God.

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

(Psalm 40:8)

4- It will help you keep God's perspective on. (Proverbs 4:23)

5- It will help you learn to make godly decisions. (Proverbs 6:21-23)

6- It will help you remember who God is and what He has done. (Deuteronomy 4:29)

Lest you forget, let me remind you what makes all those things possible is because:

1- You literally made a necklace out of the Scripture and tied it around your heart. (Proverbs 6:21)

2- You engraved the Scripture, word upon word, on the tablets of your heart. (Proverbs 7:1-3)

3- You made the Word so permanent it seemed to be written on your hands and engraved on the eyeglasses you look through.

(Deuteronomy 11:18)

4- And you made the word appear on the tip of your tongue at all times. (Romans 10:8)

Now you see that the Word of God then, beloved, must become the consuming, controlling, transforming focus of your life. You don't worship the Word, you don't worship memorizing the Word, you worship the Living God. But the Word of God, which is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword,⁴ keeps in the forefront of your mind, at all times, who God is and what God's done, and what God wants to do through you.

The Word of God is the tool Jesus used when He was confronted in the wilderness with the enemy. When He was at His weakest point, and Satan began his onslaught, Jesus didn't say, "Let me tell you about the latest book I read." Jesus didn't say, "Let, me give you an illustration about this sermon I heard last night." Jesus didn't say, "Let me argue a little theology with you." Jesus simply said to Satan, "It is written." Three times He said it, and the third time Satan got out of town. And the angels came and ministered to Him.⁵

The Word of God—engrave it on your hearts, beloved. Memorize it, review it, and personalize it. And let me give you one last thought before we go on, and we'll get to this in more detail in a later study. Most folks can't do it, or won't do it on a continuous basis, unless they are accountable to somebody. It's just the way life is.

The Scripture, you remember, in Ecclesiastes 4 says,

Two are better than one, [that's good arithmetic, because] for they have a good reward for their labor.

For if one falls, he has another to help him up. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10)

So I'm going to encourage you, if you begin the process of memorizing the Word on a consistent basis, to get a partner. You get somebody to be accountable to or accountable with. Because let me tell you something. You'll look in the mirror and think you're doing well, but, in essence, you're doing half of what you committed yourself to do. You say why would I do that? Because the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. And you'll fool

4 Hebrews 4:12

5 Matthew 4:1-11

yourself, if you're like the rest of us, into being satisfied with less than what God has in mind.

Now, how do you memorize the Scripture?

1- You can memorize whole books or whole chapters of the Bible.

You can memorize, say the book of Colossians, this week. (Chuckle, chuckle.) Or you could memorize Psalm 37. Or some of you youngsters that have a bright mind could memorize Psalm 119, by this afternoon. But seriously you can memorize the Scripture in books or chapters. Now what are the advantages and the disadvantages?

The advantages of memorizing entire books or Psalms:

- 1) You do not miss portions you might otherwise overlook.
- 2) You see each passage in its proper context.
- 3) It is likely to continue to flow when you begin to share verses 1 and 2, verses 3, and 4 are likely to follow. Those are the pros.

The disadvantages:

- 1) You don't really have a "peg" to hang anything on. Sometimes if you're dealing with specific areas it's more difficult for the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind, the verses you need.
- 2) You do not have isolated thoughts or precepts separated from Scripture and combined with like passages, so there's less power involved sometimes.
- 3) You may be less likely to be personalize it that way.

But it works for a lot of people, and for some people it works some of the time. So keep that in mind as one way to memorize Scripture.

2- You can memorize topically.

Topical memory is taking several verses on the same subject or doctrine and putting them together. Say, memorizing all the verses on the Holy Spirit, or all the verses on the Second Coming of Christ or all the verses on the key doctrines, and learning them together.

The advantages:

- 1) It gives you have a peg to hang things on to remember it.
- 2) It gives you quicker recall.
- 3) And you are more likely to compare Scripture with Scripture, which is an incredible way for the Holy Spirit to give you the whole counsel of God.

The disadvantages:

- 1) Sometimes you may have trouble finding the verses unless you use verses that are given to you.
- 2) You may end up learning doctrine but not applying it.
- 3) You may miss vital passages you really need, because they do not fall into topics you have memorized.

But if you are struggling, one topic you can begin with even this week, is why to memorize in the first place. That might give you a place to start.

3- The need system.

Let's say you have a problem in your life with anger. In fact you get angry that I mention the subject. Or maybe you don't have a problem with it, but your mate does. Anyway, you know what I'm driving at. You can take all the verses on anger, put them together in a book or on some cards, and begin to memorize them.

The advantages:

- 1) You are more likely to personalize that way and apply it.
- 2) You will be more likely to remember them because you've got several verses on the same subject.

The disadvantages:

- 1) You may tend to become too focused on yourself rather than on who God is.
- 2) You may avoid some of the passages God really wants you to learn because you don't want to deal with them.

Now I want to tell you about a fourth way and that's what we're going to look at in this lesson. The method is not important.

A Thread of Truth

So we'll be together on this, and some of you are not memorizing at all, let me give you a system to start with that really kind of combines all of the other three. It's called a thread of truth.

4- A thread of truth.

Now a thread of truth takes a series of passages and puts them back-to-back, so that one verse leads to another. The purpose is to try to give you a focus on one of the attributes of God, and in the process deal with areas in your life that you want to deal with. You can use chapters or portions of chapters, or topical verses. The key is that you don't dwell on yourself and the problem; you dwell on who God is. You give the Holy Spirit a track to run on and it really helps some of us who are getting too old to remember we're old.

Not all of you are going to respond to one method, and that's not important. The method is not important. But I'm to going go through the thread concept with you for two reasons:

1- I would like you understand it enough to decide whether or not it will work for you.

2- I'd like us to have something in common to work toward as a class, those of you who are not otherwise memorizing, because next week we are going to meditate together. Again, you won't have to do anything out loud.

We are going to meditate together on the verses that I'm going to ask you to think about memorizing. Let's suppose you have a hard time getting up in the morning or somebody you know does. And let's suppose you have a hard time focusing the lens of your spirit on the person of Jesus Christ. All kinds of thoughts come into your mind—how bad you hurt, how much you've got to do, and before long your mind is all messed up. And then you think I've got to have quiet. I've got to spend time with God.

Let's think about a thread that would be something we can memorize that will come into our minds the minute we open our eyes, or even if we don't. I started to say to the first class, the minute you pop out of bed, but everybody looks like they didn't pop out of bed, so I said when you roll out of bed and a couple of them got it. Finally, I said when you fall out of bed, and everybody looked up. So, I'm assuming that's what you do. What we're thinking about then, is a thread of verses that we can memorize and meditate on first thing in the morning, that'll put

our focus on who God is, and give us a heart for that day.

This is the process:

1- We always look for key words. The four key words for this thread will be: awake, morning, day, and sing. Those will be our four key words.

2- Our objective will be to begin the day in the Word before the enemy has a chance to fill our minds or flood our minds with negative thoughts.

3- Remember every thread needs to focus on at least one attribute of God. This one is the faithfulness of God.

Now if you were to say to me, "How would I do this myself?" I would suggest that you take a concordance, and you look up the word *day* and the word *morning*. If you have a computer, you just type it in. If you don't, you take a concordance, (I understand fountain pens still work), and you write them out on a piece of paper. Then as you write them out, two or three other key words are going to surface because they seem to appear in a lot of verses. You take the concordance and find those verses and by now you should have thirty or forty verses. You go through those verses and pick out the key ones that speak to your heart and put them in an order or sequence that would lead you to a conclusion of praising God. Having done that, you put them on cards or put them on a sheet of paper, and begin the process of learning them in that order.

I'm going to give you a thread on awaking. I hope you stay awake.

1- We are going to start out by taking a verse or two out of context, to get our attention. I want to tell you that before we start so you won't feel bad about it.

2- Then we will state our desire to begin the day by focusing on who God is rather than how bad life is.

3- We will begin to worship Him and we'll remind ourselves how Jesus began His day.

4- We will look at the importance of focusing on who He is in the morning.

5- Then we remind ourselves that His compassions fail not; they are new every morning.

A Thread of Truth

6- We are going to begin to praise Him.

7- We're going to ask Him to cleanse our hearts and forgive us of sin.

8- And then, hopefully, in a crescendo of praise, we conclude the thread by worshipping in the beauty of His holiness.

9- Then we ask Him to open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of His law. And then we are then ready for our quiet time.

Let's try it. I'm going to skip a few for the sake of time. They are all listed if you want to use some of them. You can just listen, if you will. Imagine rolling out of bed, or falling out of bed, or whatever it is you do, and the first thing that comes into your mind is Ephesians 5:24, and we'll go on from there.

A Thread on Awaking

*...Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light. (Ephesians 5:14 NKJV)

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD! Awake... (Isaiah 51:9 NKJV)

*As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness. (Psalms 17:15 NKJV)

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you will hear His voice:

Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, (Psalms 95:6-8a NKJV)

*This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalms 118:24 NKJV)

Do you see how the tone of your day should be shifting by now?

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. (Mark 1:35 NKJV)

And in the morning, you shall see the glory of the LORD; (Exodus 16:7a NKJV)

A Thread of Truth

Here is your response:

*My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.
(Psalms 5:3 NKJV)

Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.
(Psalm 30:4,5 NKJV)

*Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning [clean slate]; great is Your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22,23 NKJV)

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?
(Psalms 27:1 NKJV)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast [right] spirit within me.
(Psalms 51:10 NKJV)

Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
(Psalms 51:12 NKJV)

*Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble [fear] before Him, all the earth.
(Psalms 96:9 NKJV)

*Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.
(Psalms 119:18 NKJV)

This is a long thread. You can just take ten or eight or how ever many you want. You take those in the sequence they're in, take as many weeks as necessary, and memorize them in that order, so that when you begin to think of one verse, the natural progression will be that you will follow up and think of the next verse, because you learned them in that order. It's called a thread. Decide before you start if you're going to learn the long one or the short one, because you'll really get confused if you try to mix the two.

I'm not worried about the system. You can use any system you want. The key is you memorize the Word of God. You get it in your heart the way it will most change your life. Now maybe you like the idea of trying the thread, but you'd like something more practical. Maybe you wake up without a problem, or maybe you don't wake up, whatever. Anyway, maybe you would like

A Thread of Truth

something different. So let me give you one more thread to show you how it works.

I'm going to give you a thread on weakness to strength. Maybe you are one of those who wake up in the morning and you think I can't do anything. How could God use the likes of me? Or maybe you are just so beaten down with circumstances that all you can think about is there's just no way out. Well let me give you a thread of verses that, I believe, might help you if you meditate on them day and night, night and day, as you get up in the morning and so forth. It starts out with honesty. We're going to meditate on this next week but it starts out with Psalm 62.

A Thread on Weakness and Strength

*Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I *am* weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O LORD—how long?
(Psalms 6:2,3 NKJV)

I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. (Psalms 6:6)

Loose translation, "I'm a basket case, Lord." Honesty.

Here is a key verse. You follow your acknowledgement with this,

*The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. (Psalms 6:9 NKJV)

*And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (II Corinthians 12:9 NKJV)

*Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

...that no flesh should glory in His presence.

(I Corinthians 1:25-27, 29 NKJV)

A Thread of Truth

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

(Psalm 27:13 NKJV)

I wait for the Lord [you see the tone change?], my soul waits, And in His word I do hope.

Here's your response.

My soul waits for the LORD, More than those who watch for the morning—Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

(Psalms 130:5,6 NKJV)

Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;

(Psalms 37:3-7a NKJV)

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

*He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have no might* He increases strength.

*Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

*But those who wait on the LORD, Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

(Isaiah 40:28-31 NKJV)

Blessed be the LORD, He is my strength, (Psalm 144:1a)

Do you see the difference between the beginning of that thread and the end? At the beginning, beloved, you are acknowledging your weakness. And then you are beginning to thank God for your weakness, because it means He can be strong. And then you are appropriating His strength and acknowledging there's nothing you can't do in Him. It's just the way David was when he wrote the Psalms. So many of the Psalms begin with a woe is me

A Thread of Truth

Lord, my enemies are after me, life is weary, what am I going to do? And then he remembers, "Ah, but my God." And he'll recite some quality of the nature of God and by the end of the Psalm, he's jumping up and down off the pages praising God. Don't you see? That's what we've got to do. We've got to take the focus off the problem and place them through the Word onto the nature of God and begin to rejoice.

Now I don't care what system you use or if you use a system. But I want to beg you, beloved, (and I don't beg a whole lot), don't leave this place today without at least asking God if it's really that important that you lay the Word on your heart, and asking God to help you do something about it in the next seven days.

If you've never done it before, if you've tried thirty times and failed, by God's grace we're going to try to set up some parameters of accountability in the class, just for those who want it. What I'm asking you to do, if you have no other way to do it, take two of these threads and next week we're going to learn how to meditate together on the Word of God.

You say, "Do I need to memorize Scripture to be important in the Christian community?" Absolutely not. You say, "Is it going to be easy?" Absolutely not. Do most Christians do it? Absolutely not. But, my friend, if you really want your life changed, if you want it to stick, if you want the inside to match the outside, again, I beg you to begin to systematically to put the Word of God in your heart. If you learn to memorize and learn to meditate day and night, night and day, and you don't stop until Jesus calls you home or the Lord returns, I can promise you from the Scriptures, *your life will be changed*. The Word of God will become as frontlets before your eyes.

GOD'S PRECIOUS WORD

Oh, to take God's precious Word
And the power it imparts,
And faithfully inscribe that Word
On the tablets of our hearts.

Word by word, line upon line,
From now until life is done,
Day after day, until finally
His mind and ours become one.

Let's pray.

A Thread of Truth

Our Father and our God, we pray that the truth may remain. May we not leave this place saying, "You know that's a good idea, I need to do that someday." We've all done so much of that.

Father, if it is really vital to our spiritual growth, if it's really necessary to our becoming godly, don't let us rest until we've done something about it. By Your grace, line upon line, precept upon precept, may we put that Word where it can't get away, where we can call it to our hearts, personalize it, praising You and praying it back to You. Until it's such an intrinsic part of every thought that we think that our lives are transformed. Oh, dear God, by Your grace may this week be different, and all the weeks yet to come.

In Jesus' sweet and precious name we pray.

Amen.

dtm DISCIPLESHIP TAPE MINISTRIES, INC.

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230

210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778

www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org • © Russell Kelfer

(05.05.22.dvd)