

Russell Kelfer

What Now?

#1322-B

Series: What the Word Says About the Word

dtm 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

What Now?

His name was Eric. He was a man who never quite made it in life. Maybe you know someone like that. Maybe you think you are someone like that. Everything he tried to do “almost.” Do you know what I mean? He never really succeeded in anything. He never had enough money to get the medical help he needed to feel better. He never had enough money to buy clothes to look nice enough to apply for a job. But then, he never had the chance to get a good job because he never could finish his education because he was taking care of his sickly parents.

Twice in his life he was on the verge of being recognized for something great that he had done, but both times someone else took credit. Because he had no real credentials, no one believed him. He died at the age of 75. Only a handful of people came to the funeral. One of them, a nephew, was given the task of going through his belongings, which didn’t take long.

On a table next to his bed, was a box. In the box was a very, very old, small book. Taped to the corner of the cover was a note from his grandmother. It said this: “Here is something to make your life a little better.” Just before Eric died, the nephew had visited him and asked him about the book. He said, “It’s a pretty good book. It’s a little old. I never did really finish reading it, but you can have it when I’m gone.”

After the funeral, the nephew, in a hurry to leave town, picked up the book and took it home. After a few weeks, he had some time. He picked it up and began to read it. Something about it seemed unusual. Taped to the back cover was a letter from Eric’s grandmother. It was a letter Eric had never bothered to read. It read like this:

Dear Eric,

You have suffered enough. This book is your ticket to a different world. This book is the only copy of its kind in the world. It is a never-published work of the greatest author who live in the 16th century. The last time I checked, it was worth a little over three million dollars. May you never want for prosperity again.

Love, Grandma

What Now?

Tucked inside that note, there was, as well, a certificate indicating Eric was heir to a line of royalty in a small European country. All he had to do was appear in person with that certificate and be proclaimed a prince. He would be heir to a mansion which now had long since gone to ruin.

Eric lived and died a pauper. But he didn't have to. He was, in fact, a millionaire. Eric lived and died a nobody. But he didn't have to. He was in fact, royalty. Eric lived and died, physically a wreck. But he didn't have to. He had the wherewithal to get the best care in the world.

Eric lived and Eric died. But Eric never appropriated or appreciated who he was or what he had. He was filled with dreams and hopes of glory, but he ended up defeated, depressed, and destroyed. Why? Because he never was willing to open up a little book that held the key to his inheritance. Rather than face reality, he lived and died, owning everything and having nothing.

That's a sad story. But I know an even sadder one. It's the story of those of us who come to the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Savior, but never fully take hold of the inheritance that is ours. As joint-heirs with the King, the treasures of heaven have been given to us. The title deed to our royalty as well, rests neatly within the pages of a book, a book left behind as part of our inheritance. But somehow, we live and we die without really grasping what a treasure we have.

We study it, don't we? We teach it. Some of us even memorize it. We want little stars for that. We concede it to be important. We even concede it to be written by God. We carry it to church. We keep it on our bedside at night. We even buy books that tell us what people think about the Book. But somehow the real power of it, beloved, never gets hold of us. Somehow the real authenticity of it slips by and we treat it so presumptuously, it is obvious we really don't understand what we have. We live and we die as Christians with the greatest treasure ever deeded to fallen man, and yet we treat it so casually that we break the heart of the Author, and miss the point of it all.

But it doesn't need to be. It's possible for us to take hold of this Book until it takes hold of us. I don't mean talk about it. We have a degree in that, don't we? I don't even mean just memorizing it. Some of us have, on occasion, even done that. I mean letting the grandeur of what we possess when we possess the Word of

What Now?

God sink into our hearts and totally change our priorities. I mean taking this Book for what it is: The...Word...of...God. Would you say that with me? Somehow, I think we need to. This is: The...Word...of...God. That's what it is. Oh, we call it that. We sing songs about it, but until we live in absolute awe of its contents, until we come to want to be in absolute obedience to its authority, until we want to be so grateful that the Living God would dare to speak to my heart, we'll miss it.

That's what we've been doing for the last twelve weeks. We have been taking a very non-theological look at what the Word of God says about itself. Our desire has been to examine not what men say about the Word, we get enough of that, but what God says about it, and what God says in it. There is a big difference.

We have had a two-fold goal. It is very simple.

1- To grasp experientially the reality of what we hold in our hands when we hold in our hands the Word of God, and

2- To do something about it.

These are two very simple goals. As we move towards the conclusion, I want to focus on the last objective. What are we going to do about it? Before we can do that, I think it is important that we have what we call a review. Now I hate to tell you that in advance because everybody's mind shuts off, the eyes close and they mentally head for lunch. The whole purpose of this study has been "focus." I want to hit the high spots in this lesson. I am going to turn the lessons into questions. I am going to ask you 11 questions that I hope will give you food for thought. Those 11 questions will be answered by the 11 lessons we've just had. Those 11 questions are as follows:

1- How do we approach God's Word? Every time we see it. Every time we read it, what is the attitude we should have? Is there something special we are supposed to do?

2- What do we ask God when we open the Book? Is there anything in particular? Yes, there is.

3- What should we expect in return? Interesting.

4- How important should this Book be to us? What place should it play in the overall scheme of our spiritual life?

5- Suppose we aren't hungry for it. What is God to do? We will find out.

What Now?

- 6- What do we do with the Word once we have it?
- 7- What is this “heart” we are supposed to put it into anyway?
- 8- What do we memorize and how?
- 9- Why do we meditate and how?
- 10- What do we do once we’ve meditated?
- 11- Can we bank our lives on it?

Those are the questions we’ve asked ourselves. The answers to these questions are supposed to be leading us into a path.

Question 1- How should we approach God’s Word?

I am going to be serious with you today. I’m going to be harder than usual and that’s pretty hard. I am going to ask you to really examine your heart. Isaiah 66:2 is the verse that we captured in the first study. That has been three months ago. What Isaiah said to us was as God is speaking,

...to this man will I look, [this is the guy, this is the gal I’m looking for] even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word. (Isaiah 66:2b)

Now it has been 3 months. I want to ask you an honest question: Are you any more in awe of this Book than you were when we started? Because if you are not, the rest of the study is pretty incidental. The whole key is how you approach God with total humility that says, “Lord, I can’t do it. You can. I’m nothing. You are everything. Feed me.” Then, when He begins to open His mouth to speak, there should be such a spirit of awe come over us that the Creator God who spoke the worlds into being is personally opening His mouth and speaking to us. My friend, until we get that attitude about the Word, you are going to leave here today, go to church and the pastor will open the Bible and begin to read. You may be thinking about something that happened this morning. You may be thinking about what you are going to have for lunch. Or, you may be looking at your watch or reading the bulletin. I don’t care what it is you are doing, STOP! And focus your heart on the Word of God. God is speaking every time this Book is opened.

Question 2- What do we ask God as we approach His Word?

You may remember we did a little study. The conclusion of that study was that you are supposed to ask God to “open your eyes that you may behold wondrous things.” We asked ourselves, what

What Now?

is a wondrous thing? We found in Psalm 72:18 that only God can do wondrous things. The reason is that wondrous things are things that are a reflection of who God is. That means that every time you open your Bible, having trembled at the presence of God, you need to say to God, "Open my eyes that I may see Your character in every word." Most of the time, we want to find facts. We want information. We want to be able to tell our friends, "You'll never believe what I found in III Chronicles." Some of you got that joke. The point of the matter is, it doesn't matter how much information you have. What matters, beloved, is that you found a new aspect of the nature of God in the Word of God. Those are wondrous things. But you have to ask. Let's do that right now.

Father,

Before we go any further, we want to stop again and ask You to open our eyes spiritually that we might behold wondrous things. We ask that the things we say, we search, and we study through the Scriptures today might literally reveal who You are. And the more we know of who You are, the more in awe we ought to be.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

You see, we are not after information, beloved, we are after revelation that will result in adoration. Oh, there is a difference.

Question 3- If that is how we approach the Word of God, what should we expect Him to do?

The Psalmist told us what we expect God to do is teach us. In fact, in about 12 times in about 6 verses or so, the psalmist said, "Teach me, oh Lord." "Teach me, oh Lord." "Teach me, oh Lord." We learned that teaching is not the assimilation of information, it has four facets:

Facet 1- Revelation: The revealing of truths we did not know existed. This is translated into the language of the Spirit so that we understand something about who God is. There were a number of illustrations given. Revelation is when you open the Word or listen to the Word and suddenly you know something you did not know before about who God is. Revelation must be followed by:

Facet 2- Explanation: This is taking what has been revealed and making it personal until you know that God is speaking to you. It is no longer an "academic study." It now becomes personalization, understanding. But explanation is not enough. It needs to be followed by:

What Now?

Facet 3- Illumination: This is the process by which God compares Scripture with Scripture and verifies and validates the truth you've heard. Somebody comes up to you and says, "Where can I get a good commentary on the Scripture?" You tell them, "I know where you can get it. It is called the Bible." The Bible is its own best commentary. Get a concordance and a topical Bible and use the Word to validate itself before you go looking for what men say about it.

Facet 4- Simplification: This is the last thing most theologians want to do. We've talked about it before. As most theologians, we want to complicate it so we are needed to explain it. God wants to simplify it so we'll just obey it. If your theology is too complicated for a child to understand, chances are it is too complicated. Don't come up with new words and new doctrines and new phrases. Just speak plainly the way Jesus did.

Question 4- Just how important should this Word to be to us in the overall scheme of things?

We answered this question from Psalm 119 and others. It is supposed to be

More important than gold, yea fine gold, yea more than honey
and the honeycomb. (Psalm 119:10)

Then we went over to Job 23 and found out that the crux of the matter is that the Word of God is supposed to mean more to us than "our necessary food." Our necessary food, we found basically was bread and water. So now if a choice ever came to us whether to starve ourselves physically or the option would be to lose our handle on the Word of God, it is no contest. We would rather starve. Until the Word of God means that much to us, beloved, we will never fully grasp what we have. But you say, "I don't hunger for the Word like that. What am I going to do?" God's got a plan.

Question 5- What does God do to help us hunger for His word?

This is not a popular plan. It wasn't passed by democratic action. The Psalmist understood it. He said,

Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now I have kept thy
word. (Psalm 119:67)

He added,

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn
thy statutes. (Psalm 119:71)

What Now?

So God's plan to give us a hunger when we pray for it, incidentally, is to afflict us. We learned from that lesson that there are three ways to be afflicted.

1- Some affliction is self-inflicted. It is called sowing and reaping. And all things work together for our good, but the affliction is part of the process.

2- Some affliction is the result of spiritual warfare. Satan comes to God and says, "Let me at him," or "Let me at her." God says, "Okay. You think you are going to destroy them. I know I am going to use it to change them. Have at it."

3- Some affliction is allowed by God or caused by God or initiated by God for our benefit. But always remember that we went back in the Old Testament and looked up the word "affliction." It always means to bring one to humility. So the goal of affliction is to bring us to our knees so that we might basically come before God with an understanding that He is everything, we are nothing and He basically can meet the needs of our heart if we will humble ourselves and tremble at His Word. So affliction is God's tool to help us along the way.

Question 6- What do we do with the Word once we hear it or read it or study it?

We found out from the psalmist that we are supposed to put it in our hearts. That's what we're supposed to do. The word is "focus." We are supposed to stop, change our bent from that of acquiring more knowledge or information so we can be proud of ourselves, to focusing on line upon line, precept upon precept, to take this Book and put it someplace called "the heart."

Question 7- What is the heart?

The heart is what God sees when He looks at you. You may be proud of yourself theologically and spiritually, and all your neighbors may be impressed. That doesn't impress God. What is the "heart?" The heart is what you think when you think no one knows what you think. The heart is what you would do were there no restraints and no consequences. The heart is what God sees when He looks at you. He sees the anger. He sees the lust. He sees the self-centeredness. He sees the fears. He is not impressed when we come to church and everyone is impressed with us and we are impressed with ourselves, but inside of us there is still bitterness, vindictiveness, and greed. He hears the conversations we have in

What Now?

our minds, not just what we say. God, it seems, hears the language we think, not just the language we speak. And, it breaks His heart.

The truth of the matter is that the Word says it is the heart that must be changed. Yes, you obey and through your obedience God is honored in your behavior, but that is just the surface. My friend, if you don't deal with the heart, at some point in time, like a cancerous disease, what is in your heart will burst forth and every one will know what God has known all along, that you are a play-actor, a hypocrite playing on the stage of life—Christian behavior, but not Christian character. The key is the Word of God. The Scripture says it is “a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” What do we do then? How do we change it?

Question 8- The next step is to get the Word into our hearts by memorizing it.

It is so simple; I'm not sure why we make it so complicated. The psalmist and the book of Joshua and other places clearly say, “This book of the law must not depart out of your mouth.” You've got to memorize it. I issued a challenge to you. We spent a week on Scripture memory. The challenge was if anyone could come up with another way to get it into your heart, please let me know because this is hard. We are all open to better ideas. So far, I've had no takers. So until I do, I'm going to assume that there aren't any options. We are going to memorize this Book.

Some of us who are getting a little older were talking the other day. We are realizing that when we get up to teach or to speak or witness or share that the verses we learned in our 20's and our 30's and even in our 40's pop right into our minds. And they're there and they're there and they're there. The verses we've tried to learn in our 50's and 60's are pretty tough. We are all so proud of our little children who go to AWANA's or go to Bible memory associations and they learn the Word. Beloved, we ought to be because it needs to start then, but it ought not ever stop. Most of us have a bridge in our lives. If you are a Christian at a young age, and you memorize the Word of God until you are about 15 or 16, then you think you are too old for that. Then sometime you get older like me and you suddenly realize, “Golly, I know what I should have been doing for the last forty years, and it's too late.” Well, it's never too late.

My friend, get the Word of God in your heart. The way to do it is to memorize it. We looked at some systems, and systems don't

What Now?

mean much. You can memorize by chapters. You can memorize by subject. You can memorize by need. I have given you some “threads” that help you to take a subject that meets a need in your life and start out with the problem. Then instead of focusing on the problem, do what David did in the Psalms. Turn the problem then into that character, worshipping God for that quality of His character that overcomes it. So instead of focusing on the problem, you are focusing on who God is and appropriating His nature through your life as you meditate on it. We will talk more about this in lessons to come.

Question 9- Why do we memorize, and what do we do now?

We memorize for one reason according to Joshua,

...that you might meditate therein day and night. (Joshua 1:8)

I was hoping that day and night meant once in the daytime and once in the night. I did a study on that and don't ever do it. What it literally means is all day and all night. It means without stopping. Non-stop. That is what it means. It means you never stop meditating,

...as you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up... (Deuteronomy 6:7 paraphrased)

The Word of God.

We looked at that word “meditate.” We don't have time to deal with it in this lesson, but it means to focus. It means to take a truth from Scripture that God is trying to deal with in your life. You block out everything else momentarily, chew on it, regurgitate it, personalize it, apply it, and pray it back to God. We took a Sunday and we did that. We are going to do it again in the future.

Question 10- So we've meditated. Now what?

You get a certificate. You put it on the wall. You tell your friends you are a meditator. No, that's not what you do. Joshua said,

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein...

(Joshua 1:8)

Oh no! Yes. So you memorize so you can meditate. You meditate so can obey. That's the hard part. We think that if we talk obedience then we've obeyed. We think if we preach obedience, we've really obeyed. The truth of the matter is we haven't obeyed

What Now?

until we have obeyed. The reason most of us don't obey, beloved, is that we don't focus on the one issue that God is trying to deal with us long enough to deal with it. We scatter more information into our minds so we don't have to think about the last thing God told us to do. I think most of us have bought into one of two lies:

Lie 1- We think we are what others think we are, therefore, we really don't have a big problem.

Lie 2- We've been this way so long God doesn't expect us to change.

These are two of the biggest lies Satan has ever perpetrated. God simply says, "Obey." This is a lesson that was taught using the life of Noah and absolute obedience. We tried to figure out what it would have been like if we had been asked to build the boat. I can tell you one thing, if I had been asked to build the boat, it never would have gotten built. But if it had, I wouldn't have gotten on it even if it was raining.

Question 11- What makes this book so different, and can we count on it to remain true?

It is complete.

It is totally inspired.

It is inerrant.

It is immutable.

It is profitable.

It is practical.

It is powerful.

It cannot diminish.

It is indestructible.

It is eternal.

What about this Book? If we are going to give our lives to it, if we are going to make it the main priority in our life, what is it? What is different about it? In the last lesson, we found some things about this Book.

It is the only thing in this world that will remain true. The Bible says about itself that,

The grass will wither and the flower will fade but the Word of our God will abide forever. Forever, oh LORD, it has been settled in heaven. (Isaiah 40:8 paraphrased)

This book is complete. Nothing can be added to it. Nothing can

What Now?

be taken from it.

This book is totally inspired. All of it is God-breathed.

It is inerrant. It will never have any mistakes. There are no contradictions or partial truths.

It is immutable. It will never change.

It is profitable and practical. It says of itself it will teach us, touch us, turn us, and train us.

It is powerful—so powerful it can dynamite into the depths of your soul and actually discern the soul from the spirit.

It will never diminish or decay. It won't weaken in its impact, or be tarnished with time.

It's indestructible. Nothing Satan can do, nothing man can do can ever cause it to disappear or be destroyed.

It is eternal. Only the Word takes us into the realms of eternity before time was. Only this Word can show us what will happen after time has ceased to be. And only this Word can teach us spiritual truth and change the spirit. This Book we hold in our hands, Sunday after Sunday, week after week, is a piece of dynamite waiting to explode. It will forever remain the same. Its truths will not change. Its power will not change. Its principles will not change. It is the one, eternal, unchanging, everlasting Word of our God.

Do you believe it? Because if you do, you've got some decisions to make, don't you? What it boils down to is that God equipped us to live the Christian life in victory on our way to heaven. All He asks us to do is take this unchanging, explosive, transforming Book and engrave it on our hearts, line upon line, precept upon precept, meditating on it so we can obey it.

You say, "That's too simple." It is too simple for the religious mind, that's true. But God didn't come to earth to tickle the religious mind. The religious mind was already in Satanic concrete. The religious mind, even when Jesus came, had already drawn two conclusions:

1- If you knew something it was the same thing as being spiritual.

2- If you behaved it was the same thing as being.

Those two lies caused the demise of power in the church and have ever since.

What Now?

My friend, this age is coming to a close. I kid you not. Soon the trumpet will sound. Soon the archangel will issue his clarion call. Soon Jesus will come for His own, then one day soon He will come with His own, to take what He owns and own it.

The days are short. The challenge ought to be clear. It is not complicated. We make it complicated. What is clear is that whatever it takes and whatever time we have left, we need to get on with becoming the men and women of God we were called to become. There is a lost world out there waiting to see what Jesus looks like in real life. We're it. There is a Christian world out there confused and wondering why they have been saved from hell but seem to be living in it on their way to heaven. No, maybe we can't change the world. But we can change *our world*.

Some of us in the room today can stop playing games and stop playing church and get so serious about putting this Book into our lives, word upon word, line upon line, that we will never need to teach a series like this in this class again. But it will only happen if we stop long enough to do something about it. If we just go on to another subject and start pumping more information out and we begin to write new notes, and we forget all about this, we will have missed it.

So the question in this lesson title today is, What Now? I'm going to tell you and you'll wish I hadn't.

Step 1- If nothing changes in your life, has or does, as a result of this twelve-week study, I want to be honest with you, you are in worse shape than you were before. The Scripture says,

...to whom much has been given, much will be required;

(Luke 12:48 paraphrased)

The more you learn, the more accountable you become. Some of you are saying, "I stayed home most of the time, I wish I had stayed home the rest." That is a choice. But the truth of the matter is, the more you receive, the more responsible you are to respond. What now? I'm going to tell you.

Step 2- I think it is time for at least some of us in this room, today, to make a commitment, if we haven't made it before, that we are going to quit fooling around. We are going to spend the rest of our lives—it may be a day, it may be ten years, it may be fifty years—but however long God carries or leaves us here, we are going to spend the rest of our lives pouring this Book into our hearts,

What Now?

trembling at the presence of God, meditating on it day and night,

...that we may observe to do according to all that is written therein.

(Joshua 1:8)

Sinless perfection? Absolutely not. But progressive maturity? Yes. We are going to quit giving God the same weak excuses over and over for the same besetting sins that we have learned to live with, and think He has learned to live with as well. Now I don't know about you, but my Bible, over and over and over calls on people to make decisions not necessarily born of emotion, but born of choice. You wouldn't be here today if at some point in time you had not made a decision to give your life to Christ. It didn't just "happen." Some of you at another point in your life may have made a decision to commit your body as a living sacrifice. Maybe since that time there has been a different kind of resolve in your life, I don't know. Those of you here that are married at some point in time, I trust, made a decision to get married. You counted the cost. You considered the consequences and the alternatives and you determined that is what you wanted to do with your life and you did it.

Some of you here today have made others choices: what college you were going to go to; what career you wanted. I doubt that very many of you went to college and the last day walked up on the stage and peeled open that diploma and said, "Hot dog! I'm a doctor!" In all likelihood, you made a decision to pay a price to go through a process because you determined that's what was worth it to you. The people who will do that, give their lives to that, and yet, will still not give their lives to this Book, don't make sense. And we are all in that group.

So before we go on to another subject, let's focus for just a moment. Let's focus on nothing but what we are going to do to see that the seed-snatcher doesn't take away from us any resolve or conviction we have come to during this past twelve weeks. The Scripture over and over says, "Choose this day. Make a choice." I'm going to ask you to do that.

Step 1- Make a decision that once and for all, as honestly as we know, we are going to make a decision today to never again approach this Book without falling on our faces before God and trembling. And *whatever the cost*, and believe me, it *will* cost, we are going to do whatever it takes, cut out whatever we have to, to have the time to memorize this Book, meditate on this Book and

What Now?

be accountable to somebody to do it. Otherwise, I could teach this lesson again in one year and it will be all new to you. If you are really serious, you may want to make a vow to God. Be careful.

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it, better it is that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay. (Ecclesiastes 5:5)

But God is honored when you come to a place in your life with such heavenly conviction that you are willing to go before Him and say, “By Your grace, dear Lord, I never want to violate this absolute again.” But even if you don’t want to make a vow, you can tell God the intention of your heart and drive a stake in the ground. I would encourage you to go home, get a piece of paper out and write a letter to God. Say, “Lord, forgive me. You’ve written this beautiful love letter to me and I’ve left it sitting on a shelf. Or, I’ve studied it. I’ve been active in Bible study, but I’ve never put it in my heart. Starting today, Lord, I’m never going to be guilty of that anymore.” Sign your name and put the date. Fold it up and put it in your Bible somewhere that only you and God can see it, but where it will be a reminder to you. You need to make a decision.

Step 2- Get whatever tools it takes. The tools are incidental to the problem, but necessary. You don’t focus on the tools. I’ve given you some information with Scripture memory you can start with. Those are just ideas. You can form your own. But if you don’t have your own, get something. Let someone help you.

Step 3- This is the hard one. You thought the other two were. Become accountable to somebody. You do what you do when you go to school. You get in front of the teacher and you check it out and see if you have learned anything. If you haven’t, you go back and do it again. You don’t go onto the next grade. You need to have somebody to put your feet to the fire. We see in Ecclesiastes,

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.

For if either of them falls, the one will pick up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10 NASB)

It can be done in a group. We will make that available to you. If you are a pastor or missionary, it is your task to make it available to those you minister to. Maybe it will be a group of three or four. Maybe one-to-one. But don’t try to go it alone. The odds are terrible for those who try to go it alone.

What Now?

Step 4- The key to it all, and the key to the Christian life, is prayer. If you have decided that from this day forward, you don't really want to slip back into the old consciousness of what the Word means to your life, I'm going to ask you to pray for five things:

1- Pray regularly for the grace to be faithful. The Scripture says in Hebrews 4:16 that you can approach the throne of grace boldly, and ask for grace. If you don't ask, beloved, you receive not. So if you want the grace to begin to be faithful, you ask for it.

2- Pray for a hunger for God's Word. Be careful this is dangerous. Most of us don't hunger for the Word like we should. Now I'm going to warn you that if you pray for hunger, you may be afflicted. It will be good for you to have been afflicted. But beware. That's what you are praying for.

3- Pray specifically for someone to keep you accountable. Expect it.

4- Pray for the strength to stay focused. Stop hopping around, looking for new nuggets of truth until you've chewed up and swallowed the ones God has given you. You'll get spiritual indigestion and accomplish nothing.

5- Pray for one another. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," as we read in James 5:16. If we pray for each other in our relationships, that God will make the Word central and real in our lives, those prayers will in essence, go a long way toward changing the lives of the people we pray for.

So we have searched the Scriptures for twelve weeks to find out what it says about itself. What it says is, "Wow! The Word of God is everything. And the Word of God is waiting to change our lives." You say, "What now?" And I say, "It's up to you."

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

(05.27.22.dvd)