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Part 1

**Mentoring Through
the Word of God:
It Is Written**

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**Series: Possessing the Land:
The Process of Mentoring**

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Part 1

Mentoring Through the Word of God: It Is Written

There is, in this universe, *absolutely nothing else like it*. Nothing else in history can hold its secrets. No weapon of war can contain even a fraction of its power. No person can adequately even explain what it does, because it does what no person can adequately grasp.

It looks like a book. It feels like a book. It is even referred to as a book, but no other book is alive. It is a composite of words, but it is so much more than words; those words possess an inherent power to completely remake a man and reshape a world. It is *that powerful*. It exists in thousands of languages, but the incredible part is that not only does each language have its own private interpreter, *each person who reads it, provided they have met its Author, has his or her private interpreter, as well*.

Other books can offer penetrating prose, but this book does more than penetrate the mind to challenge its thinking. It is sharper than the sharpest dagger ever honed, able to enter the human soul at its point of volition, and divide the soul from the spirit, just as a physician with the sharpest instrument made, could remove the tiniest tissue from its place in the body.

Such a threat is this book that whole nations have set out to abolish it; armies have set out to destroy it; fools have set out to blaspheme its truths; *but the more intense the efforts to destroy it, the more powerful it seems to become*. It has the power to teach, but not as other books teach. It has the power to convict and to convince and to redirect a life that has lost its moorings, until the very soul and spirit are one again, and life is attached in a whole new way to its initial roots in God Himself.

It is the Word of God. Everything ever planted will one day be gone. Everything ever built will one day be dissolved. Every flower will fade, every building will crumble. Every monument to mankind will, in a moment, come crashing into the dust from whence it was hewn. But this book; yea, *this Person in a book*, will abide forever; it will not fade, diminish, dissolve, or dissipate in

its authenticity or its power. What it has been, it is, no matter the terrors of society that seek its demise. What it is, it ever shall be, no matter the onslaught of hell itself to destroy it. It will always stand, and it will always possess the same level of transforming power as the God who framed it, the One who spoke every word of it into place.

He cannot change. Neither can His word. His power cannot diminish. Neither can His word. His absolutes cannot deteriorate. Neither can His word. What He is, it is; and what it is, is a Living Person communicating personally one on one. It is the soul of that Person transplanted into each word until, under the direction of His Interpreter, the words literally leap from their pages and enter the human heart at exactly the point prescribed by their Author.

A thousand people can hear the same words at the same time, and each of the thousand will receive a personalized message desiring a personalized response. The words are not subject to private interpretation, but are forever subject to personal interpretation by the One who wrote them and who sustains their power. We underestimate the word of God. We underrate the word of God. We do not stand in awe of its impact as we ought. We toss it about as though it were shot from a cap pistol, when in reality, it is a nuclear power plant, ready to explode with energy in the twinkling of an eye. We talk about it, as though talking about it were the equal of hearing it and obeying it.

We discuss its theological implications as though man's thoughts about what God might have meant hold a candle to God's capacity to simply take it and use it to break the soul of man until His every breath resounds with the Holiness of the One who spoke the worlds into being. We have, for the most part, lost our respect for its dignity, lost our sense of worship at its hearing, lost our sense of confidence in its awesome, incredible power.

We apologize for it when we ought to be using it. We hide it under a bushel when we ought to be hiding it in our hearts. We decry its attackers, but we who supposedly hold it so dear, treat it with little more respect than the latest novel. One day soon, the One who lives inside it will come once more outside it, back into the planet from whence He was so brutally slain. When He does, the heavens will tremble, the mountains will shake loose from their moorings, the powers of hell will be shaken, and the earth as we know it will be no more.

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Until then, we hold in our hands, that same power. We possess in written form, that same hope. We have in our grasp, that same spiritual dynamite, the nuclear explosive that will one day blow the entire enemy army into the oblivion of hell itself where they will be held in confinement for an endless eternity that is beyond the grasp of human understanding. But it will happen. Everything that book says will happen. And everything that happens, will happen exactly as the Author says, at exactly the time prescribed.

The word of God. There is nothing else like it. There never will be. And we and those we are spiritually responsible for, will live and die, spiritually, *in exact proportion to how seriously we take that book*. Those who see it for what it is, and receive it as it was intended, will grow, in ever increasing splendor, from one degree of glory to another. Those who take it as a living, abiding Word of a living, abiding God will forever stand in awe of its every jot and tittle, and will forever stand transformed by its incredible power.

The problem is that as we journey towards the end of the age, while there is a proliferation of different translations and interpretations, there is a simultaneous decline in the respect and awe shown its miraculous power. It is everywhere in every form, but often treated with such casual neglect that its very presence presents a dilemma—it is God Himself, but it and He are not treated as immutable, eternal, and omnipotent. They are treated as a good source of sermon material, a reasonable ground for doctrinal discussion, and an interesting addition to man's religious library.

In reality, none of that will suffice. Either it is what it says it is, or it is a hoax. Either it does what it says it does, or it is earth's equal masquerading as heaven's arm. Either it is alive and powerful as it claims to be, or it is dead and impotent as men treat it to be. It cannot be both; never claimed to both; never will be both. It is everything or it is nothing; this incredible word of our incredible God.

It is to that word that we turn as we continue our journey through the process of mentoring. Without that word and the power it possesses, mentoring in the true sense, cannot take place. Mentoring without the word is like a doctor giving you an empty bottle that should contain the medicine that will make you well, saying, "I don't have the medicine, but hold on to the

bottle, maybe something will happen.” Something will happen, all right. You will simply get worse. The word of God is the only medicine God has prescribed for spiritual healing. Without it, you simply play-act, pretending that by giving out information you will effect transformation. But the truth is: only God’s Holy Word when used by His Spirit carries with it the capacity to change a life. It is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. That about covers it all. As mentioned before, it will teach you, touch you, turn you, and transform you. It will put back the missing pieces in your soul as it takes your spirit and makes it new.

Nothing else can. Nothing else will. The question, then, is *how do you use the word of God?* And is it such a part of your life that it is your natural response when you are praying, witnessing, teaching, sharing, and counselling? Or is it something in your life you refer to as though it were a resource you use along with all of the other resources the world has placed at your disposal?

Is your heart so saturated with the word of God that it has become your very life? Is every decision you make made from the vantage point of what God has said? Is your counsel not only Bible-related, but *Bible immersed*? Is it such a part of your prayer life and your personal worship experience that the most natural thing you can do is pray or sing God’s own words back to Him?

If so, then you are becoming equipped to be a mentor. You are laying up the raw materials necessary to plant truth in the hearts of those who follow you, and you are planting the one thing that is guaranteed to bear fruit unto life eternal. Nothing else will. Assuming that is your goal, what must we understand about that Word? And what must those we mentor understand about this incredible Living Word of God so that the multiplication will continue and the harvest will be plenteous, indeed? Let’s examine what God Himself has said about this book. That, of course, is the only thing that really matters. Here are some questions to ask yourself and those you mentor:

1- Are you becoming more and more in awe of the Scripture with every passing day?

I believe that most of us, as we go through life, fail to become increasingly aware of the marvel of the Scriptures. Instead of our hearts becoming more and more tender towards the word, more and more open to its every thought, more and more receptive to

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its absolutes, we tend to take it more and more for granted. No longer do we stand in honor when it is read. If an angel were to blow a trumpet, and announce that God Himself was about to appear to speak to us, like the children of Israel, we would hide in fear, or bow in adoration. *Yet, every single time you read or hear the Scriptures, the living God is speaking personally to you.* We often treat salesmen on the telephone with more respect than we do God. The miracles of the word ought to be increasing in our lives daily. What does that mean? Listen to the Scriptures:

In Acts, chapter six, the apostles were getting caught up in details and they were called upon to appoint others to do those things. Their calling?

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:4)

Having come to that conclusion, look what happened,

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)

Look at Acts chapter 12,

And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

But the word of God grew and multiplied. (Acts 12:21-24)

Look at chapter 13,

And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. (Acts 13:42-44)

The word of God grew. What does that mean? The word “grew”

means to grow as a plant grows, or as a child grows. It means there is measurable, visible change in the form of increase. The word “multiplied” is a word that means to “abound” or to “increase excessively”. It means that everywhere they went, the word of God was becoming the topic of conversation. With every passing day, it became more apparent that when this word was shared, God was speaking. As a result, it became more and more the sole focus of the lives of those touched by it. God allowed certain things to happen that made the gospel flourish. One had to do with the role of the leadership of the church. One had to do with a man seeking glory for himself. One had to do with the spreading of the word to the Gentiles. Before long, the word was not a tool that a few fanatics were hawking on a street corner. The word around town was, “Hurry, let’s go to the synagogue, someone is reading the Scriptures.”

Chances are, when you first came to Christ, every word you heard from the Scriptures spoke right to your heart. It was as though God was speaking directly to you. Every time you opened your Bible you expected a new word from God. When you read something that pierced your heart, you responded. It was, “Thus saith the Lord,” and you knew it. Three things happens to us as time goes by: familiarity, presumption, and compromise. Familiarity takes over because Satan says to us, “Oh, yeah, I’ve heard that passage before.” or “I tried to obey that verse, but never could succeed.” Before long, instead of seeking new, deeper insights, we begin to unconsciously yawn in our spirits, always seeking some new experience or some flamboyant speaker to tickle our imaginations with his style or illustrations.

The truth is: every time we hear the word of God there ought to be a deeper hunger for truth. And every time we hear a passage there ought to be some new, richer insight to challenge our spirits in Christ. You cannot plummet the depths of God’s word, Beloved. Every hearing can go deeper, and you will never reach the limits of God’s truth. If that is happening, the church becomes alive with the word. The word of God “increases” and “multiplies”. People stand in line to hear it, read it, study it, and memorize it. They don’t shop around for a sermon topic that sounds like it could make it to the best seller list. They humble themselves in the presence of their God, open His word, and cry out to God, “Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Test those you mentor, and test your own heart at regular

intervals. Is the word becoming more alive to you, daily? Or are you slowly becoming anesthetized to its life-giving, soul-changing transforming power?

2- Are you constantly aware that the word of God is the only thing in life that has an unlimited guarantee? Whatever it says will happen, will happen. Whenever it says something will come to pass, it has and it does and it will. This is no 99.9% guarantee. Therefore, when God promises something or prophesies something, don't you ever treat it as a possibility. You treat it as a certainty. As you do, those you mentor will absorb that confidence and begin to see the Scriptures for what they are, the only perfect mirror of past, present and future. The Word makes no errors in its history. The Word makes no errors in its principles. The Word makes no errors in its projections of the future. None. Not a jot or a tittle will ever fail. Look at what the Bible says about itself,

And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Luke 4:21)

When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. (John 2:22)

Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? (John 7:42)

I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. (John 13:18)

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. (John 17:12)

They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. (John 19:24)

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. (John 19:28)

For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

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And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. (John 19:36,37)

For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. (John 20:9)

Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. (Acts 1:16)

God did not allow any details to go unfulfilled, lest the Scripture go unfulfilled. Whatever He said would happen did happen, that the Scripture be fulfilled. God's word is God's word. It cannot be partially true. It cannot be almost perfect. It says of itself, "All Scripture is God-breathed." Either it is or it isn't. And if it is, there ought to be in our lives such an overwhelming confidence in its principles and its prophecies that never do we fall into the category of taking its promises lightly. In II Peter 3, we read:

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

(II Peter 3:3-10)

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Beloved, don't fall into the trap of thinking: "Oh, God said that, but times have changed, and that's never going to happen." If He said it, it will happen; and if it's going to happen, it ought to affect every thought we think and every thing we do. The problem with taking prophecy lightly is not theological; prophecy is practical. It is designed to show us God's plan so we can live in God's will. Don't spend your time arguing over how and when it will happen. Take God at His word. It will happen. What conclusion did Peter draw? The next verses tell us:

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

(II Peter 3:11-14)

Do those you mentor see Scripture in the light of its perfect accuracy? God's clock runs at a different speed than ours. Praise God that it does. "He does not will that any should perish." But His calendar is unchangeable. When the mili-second comes to pass that He has chosen in eternity past, every single thing He has prophesied will come true. Not most. All. Not some. All.

There are many more aspects of God's word to consider. We will pursue them as we progress. There is one more, however, that I believe we often overlook, and by missing its impact, miss the power that is inherently ours as we hold in our hands and in our hearts this incredible Living Book. It is simply this:

3- As God's Living Word, the Scriptures are our primary weapon of warfare in the daily battle we face against Satan and his demonic host. Theologically speaking, most of us realize that. We teach it. We acknowledge it, though often with an increasing amount of skepticism in the practical application of it. Seldom do most of us stop, when the raging fires of testing fall upon us, and simply, quietly respond to Satan's onslaughts: "It is written". All too seldom, when temptation comes, do we stop immediately and cry out to God for His word to speak to our drifting minds,

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calling them back to the point of volition, calling them to a level of obedience that can only be prompted by the voice of God. Too seldom, as well, when our hearts are aching and our spirits are grieving do we lay our heads upon the shoulders of God and listen carefully to the word of God as He speaks comfort to us in our grief or in our weariness.

Oh, we mean to. We know that is what we ought to do. But somehow, we are tempted to call upon our own energy to fight the battles; our own resources to settle the grief; our own vision of our calling to counter the weariness. What happens? We either get temporary relief or reach a new level of futility, but nothing happens spiritually. Why? Because we are trying to use physical and emotional resources to fight spiritual battles, and they will never suffice. Ephesians 6 says this:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (Ephesians 6:10-17)

God wants us clothed in the armor of His Spirit, trusting Him with confidence by choice as those fiery darts come our way. Fiery darts are destructive. They have the capacity to obliterate their targets. We must learn to take a stand when the enemy begins his onslaught. There must be, however, one offensive weapon that, once clothed in His Spirit, we are to use. That weapon is the word of God. As it was with Jesus in the wilderness, only that

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word can stop Satan in his tracks. Each time He was assaulted with temptation, Jesus simply answered: "It is written". The third time, Satan fled.

How often do you use God's word as a sword? How often do you realize the spiritual implications behind the physical happenings that are going on in your life? And how often, when you do, is there a Scripture that leaps into your mind, calling you to take it as a sword and wield it in warfare against the one who is out to destroy your walk with God? It is not something to take lightly. No more lightly than you would if you were enlisted in the army, sent to battle, and arrived on the battlefield without your gun. Maybe you had on all of your fighting gear, had a workable battle plan, maybe even had a gun, but no bullets. Do you think the enemy would take you seriously once he saw that you had absolutely no ammunition to use against him?

Do those you mentor understand the place of God's word in spiritual warfare? Do they grasp what it means that you "wrestle not against flesh and blood?" Do they understand what II Corinthians 10 means when it says:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

(II Corinthians 10:3-5)

We live on this earth, but the war is going on in the heavenues. What we see is physical, but the real battle is a spiritual battle. It is a struggle over strongholds. The surface conflict may be over finances or relationships or sickness or vocation or pain. Focus on that and you will become eternally frustrated. Those are only the battlefields. The battle, Beloved, is spiritual, and weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God. They are spiritual weapons aimed at winning spiritual battles. And the primary weapon in the arsenal is the word of God. Learn to use it properly, and you will begin to see strongholds dissolve under the mighty hand of God. Make a list of the fiery darts Satan throws at you, and create an arsenal of promises from God with which to penetrate the heart of the evil one so he will flee from you. For instance:

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When you are confused, say “It is written” and meditate on II Corinthians 14:33 and II Timothy 1:7. God will begin to reorder your thoughts and Satan will flee.

When you are worried, say “It is written” and review I Peter 5:7, John 14:1, and Philippians 4:6,7. God will quietly begin to take your anxiety and settle your heart and Satan will flee.

When you are discouraged, quietly respond, “It is written” and let Philippians 4:8, Psalm 138:7, John 14:27, Galatians 6:9, and Psalm 31:24 flow through your mind. God will begin to grant you courage and “encourage” your aching heart, as Satan retreats in horror.

Are you afraid? Meditate on II Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:15, I John 4:18, Psalm 91, Proverbs 3:25,26, and Psalm 56:11. The fear will begin to dissolve into faith. Your heart will begin to be renewed and Satan will flee in disgust.

Those we mentor must come to understand the wonder of this wonderful book. Use it to create a book of promises, and begin committing them to memory. Teach those you mentor to do the same. Then, when the enemy appears and I guarantee he will, simply, quietly use the word of God. Use it carefully, but use it confidently. As you do, you will begin to grow in your understanding of God’s incredible power as it is expressed through His unchanging, infallible, immutable, incredible word. So wonderful and so powerful is that word that we are told in Psalm 56:

In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? (Psalm 56:4,8)

In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. (Psalm 56:10,11)

And all the people said..... “Amen”!

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For Further Study and Application

- 1- Begin making your own private book of promises.

- 2- Seek to get someone to be accountable to so you will be faithful in laying up those promises in your heart.

- 3- Ask God specifically, as the enemy throws roadblocks in your way this week, to bring to your remembrance, the Living Word of God, so you can use it.

- 4- As warfare comes, quietly say, "It is written" and expect God to bring to your mind promises from His word. As He does, meditate on them with all your heart. Personalize them.

- 5- Thank God daily for His word. Sing praises for His word.

- 6- Ask God, for as long as you shall live, to make you increasingly hungry for His word, and increasingly sensitive to His word. Ask Him for His word to increase and multiply in your life and in your ministry.

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