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God's Truth About God's Word

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Series: The Beatitudes

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God's Truth About God's Word

We will resume our study of Satan's lies and God's truth and the double-mindedness that plagues Christians who believe these lies. We have been studying one of the major areas of Satan's attacks: his lies about authority. If we are to be totally honest, it is the supreme lie from which all of these other lies spring. It is his lie about the authority of the Word of God.

Satan's real message, as we will recall, is that man is his own authority. By authority we mean any person, organization or government that has the right and the capacity to exercise power and control over our lives. By the Word of God, we mean the complete canon of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. It is the written mind of God to man. The Scripture says of itself that it is in itself, all man will ever need. It is all we will ever need. It is all we will ever need to know about ourselves. It will tell us about the nature of man, the needs of man, and even the names of man.

The Word of God will tell us all we need to know about God. It will tell us about the omniscience of God, the omnipresence of God, and the omnipotence of God. It will tell us about the sovereignty of God and the perfect love of God. It will tell us about the perfect truth of God. The Word of God will tell us all we will ever need to know about God.

The Word of God will tell us all we ever need to know about sin. We don't need to experience sin to learn what sin is. The Word of God will tell us about the origin of sin. It will tell us about the depravity of sin, the universality of sin, the deceitfulness of sin, the gravity of sin, the wages of sin and eventually, the solution to sin.

The Word of God will tell us everything we ever need to know about Satan. It tells us about his origin, his fall, his works, his character, his tactics, the defenses needed to counteract him, and the end that is in store for him. All we ever need to know about Satan is told in the Word of God.

All we ever need to know about heaven is found in the Word of God. It tells us where it is, what it is, what it looks like, who will be there, who will not be there, what will happen and who will reign. We can learn about the streets. We can learn about the mansions.

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We can learn about the way to get there. Everything we ever need to know about heaven, we can learn from the Word of God.

Everything we ever need to know about hell we can learn from the Word of God. We can learn about the certainty of it. We can learn about the purpose of it. We can learn about the intensity of it. We can learn about the duration of it. We can learn who will be there, and who won't be there. All we ever need to know about hell, we can find in the Word of God.

All we ever need to know about the past, we can find in the Word of God. We can learn the origin of the angels, the fall of the angels, the fall of Satan, the origin of man, man's fall, God's plan to redeem man, God's plan for Israel and God's plan for the church. All we ever need to know about the past can be found in the Word of God.

All we ever need to know about the present we can find in the Word of God. We can find out about recession, depression, national problems, and personal problems. Everything we ever need to know about the present, we can find in the Word of God.

Everything we need to know about the future, we can find in the Word of God. We can tell how the nations will end their history. We can find how man will end his history. We can find out about the tribulation. We can find out about Armageddon. We can find out about all of eternity yet to come. It is all in the Book.

Everything we need to know about our minds, emotions and will we can find in the Word of God. We can find how our minds work and how God's mind works. We can find how our emotions work and how God's emotions work. We can find how our will works and how God's choices work. Everything we ever need to know about mind, emotion and will we can learn in the Word of God.

In other words, all we ever need to know, God in eternity past knew we needed to know, so He recorded it for us for all of eternity, and He called it the Word of God.

The objective of this lesson is to examine seven basic truths about the Scripture which, if understood, make this lie of Satan's to be the most unbelievable yet. But unbelievable or not, this lie has permeated even the church of Jesus Christ in the twentieth century in an unbelievable way. Many of our seminaries, publications, organizations and churches represent this book to be less, much less than it really is. Satan's lie is that the Word of God is not

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infallible. Satan's lie is that the Word of God is not immutable. God's truth is that it is both and much, much more.

THE WORD IS...

What is the Word of God? I am going to give you seven things that the Word of God is.

1- The Word of God is perfect; it contains no error.

2- The Word of God is permanent. It has not, it will not, and it cannot change.

3- The Word of God is precious. It is to be cherished by God's people above all of life's possessions.

4- The Word of God is personal. It is a divine love letter with specific instructions just for you.

5- The Word of God is practical. It has an answer for every question you will ever ask.

6- The Word of God is powerful. It actually contains life and imparts actual power to implement change.

7- Because the Word of God is all these things, it must be pre-eminent in the life of the Christian. It must be the controlling, dominating factor in your life. As such, it needs to be the number one priority around which you shape your life. The Word of God.

The Word of God! The Word of God! The Word of God!

The title for this lesson is, "The Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God." You may ask why I say it three times. I say it three times for three reasons.

1- To emphasize its complete authority. The Word of God is perfect authority over man, perfect authority over Satan and perfect authority over all of the spiritual world, both good and evil.

2- To emphasize the fact that it speaks to the three sides of God's personality. The Word of God must be taught by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God always reveals only the Son of God. The Son of God, whenever He has spoken out, always exalts the Father. The Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God. It must be taught by the Spirit who reveals the Son who glorifies the Father. The Word, the Word, the Word.

3- To emphasize that it has three levels of meaning for the Christian:

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- a- There is truth. The Word of God is man's only source of truth. Truth is the Word of God as it comes from God.
- b- As man's only source of truth, it can be man's only source of knowledge. Knowledge is truth as it is received in the mind of Christians.
- c- As man's only source of knowledge, the Word of God becomes man's only source of wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge as it is expressed in the life of a Christian.

To illustrate, we know that a lie is an abomination to the Lord. It is a sin to lie. That is truth. But it remains truth until it comes into the mind of a Christian and that Christian realizes that it is a sin for him to tell a lie. That is knowledge. But, knowledge puffs up and knowledge, in and of itself, will not accomplish anything, unless it becomes wisdom. So the Christian confronted with an opportunity to either tell the truth or tell a lie, turns to the Word of God for his authority and says, "I will stop lying." That is wisdom.

So you see, the Word of God is truth. The Word of God is knowledge. The Word of God is wisdom. The Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

Seven basic convictions to have about the Word.

Conviction 1- Have a personal conviction about the Word of God. Remember that a conviction is something that you would die for before compromising. Do you have a conviction that the Word of God is perfect? By perfect I mean that it is without error and without contradiction and that it is totally complete. In II Timothy 3 we find a verse that is familiar to many. In the Wuest translation it says,

Every Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, for conviction, for improvement, for training with respect to righteousness, in order that the man of God may be complete, fitted for every good work. (II Timothy 3:16 Wuest)

The Word of God. Psalm 19 says,

God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and they give us joy and light. (Psalm 19:7,8 TLB)

The Word of God. Proverbs 30 says,

Every Word of God proves itself to be true. He defends all who come to him for protection.

Do not add to His words lest He rebuke you and you be found to be a liar. (Proverbs 30:5,6 TLB)

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The Word of God. Psalm 119 in the Berkeley translation says,

Your Word altogether is truth. Every one of Your righteous ordinances has everlasting vitality. (Psalm 119:116 NKJV)

The Word of God. Deuteronomy 4 says,

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, (Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV)

The Word of God. Practically speaking, what does this mean? It means that God has said everything He wants to say. It means that He has said it clearly and correctly. It means He has given each of us His Spirit to interpret it, but it is finished. It is without error and without need for change. Therefore, whoever says that God's Word requires an additional revelation is a heretic. Therefore, whoever says that God's Word is accurate except for a certain portion is a heretic. God has said it all. God has recorded it all. He has done it perfectly. You may ask, "Is anything in this life perfect?" Yes, there are three things, the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

Conviction 2- The Word of God is permanent. Not only is it complete, not only is it accurate, but it cannot change. God wants that conviction to be firm within you. If you want to do an interesting study, take the two places in Deuteronomy where God gave Moses the Law. This was the first time God gave man the written word. Moses wrote the Word down and came down from the mountain. Satan got in the way. Moses lost his cool and threw down the tablets of stone breaking the Word of God. God called him back to the mountain as we read in Exodus 34, and said, "Let's go through this again, Moses." God gave the Law to him again and guess what, Moses got it right. Moses translated it perfectly. That is what it means that the Word cannot be broken. It emanates from the heart of God. It has been recorded by the Spirit of God without margin for error in the interpretation. II Peter says,

...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,
for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of
God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
(II Peter 1:20,21 NKJV)

Do you believe that? The Word of God is not only perfect, but it is permanent. Isaiah 40:8 says the grass withers and the flowers fade, but also know that the Word of God abides or stands forever.

In Mark 13 we see Jesus say,

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Heaven and earth will pass away but My words shall not pass away. (Mark 13:31 NASB)

In Matthew 5:18 Jesus said,

For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18 NKJV)

Time is an ally to the Word of God. Given a little time, the philosophies and religions of this world will erode, change or evaporate. But given time, every word of God proves true. Given time, time amplifies the Word of God. Time glorifies the Word of God. As time passes, the more prophecy is revealed to be true. As time passes, the more principles prove to be reliable. As time passes, the more testimonies confirm the message. Time is the enemy of the world. It decays, runs scared and changes its mind. Time is a friend of the Word as it becomes a rock, a fortress and an impregnable defense. Given time, God will vindicate His plan. Given time, God will finalize His reign. Given time, God will establish His kingdom. Given time, God will exalt His Son, the King. He said He was coming, and He did. He kept His word to the day. He says that He is coming again, and He will. Time will vindicate this book, and every day that passes will vindicate it more.

We live in a world that seems to be changing every hour, every day, every year. Satan says that nothing written before time can be relevant for today; it must change with human experience. That is a lie. God is in this book and God IS. He lives in eternity unhindered by time. "Before Abraham was, I AM", Jesus said. If God is eternal, His Word as well is unhindered by time. Time is a parenthesis allowed by God to give man a frame of reference. God IS and His Word is as timeless as He is.

Now be honest with yourself, the character of man never changes. The character of God never changes. The character of Satan never changes. Neither will man's needs nor God's provisions nor Satan's lies ever change. There are three things in life that do not change. Now you know what they are: the Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

Conviction 3- The Word of God is precious. We need it to contradict the lies of Satan. Psalm 138 says,

Lord, with all my heart I thank You. I will sing Your praises before the armies of angels in heaven.

I will face Your Temple as I worship, giving thanks to You

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for all Your lovingkindness and Your faithfulness, for Your promises are backed by all the honor of Your name.

(Psalm 138:1,2 TLB)

Isaiah says,

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

(Isaiah 55:10,11 NKJV)

Here we see that every seed has purpose. Psalm 19 says,

They (God's laws) are more desirable than gold. They are sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

(Psalm 19:10 TLB)

Now ask yourself, do you reverence the Word of God? Is it as precious to you as pure gold? Is it as sweet to your taste as fresh honey? Do you ever just sing for joy because you have a Bible? Did it ever dawn on you that one day, apart from what is engraved on your heart, the Word of God could be taken away from you and could happen in this generation? Is it to you a treasured letter from the Lover of your soul, or is it like the Sunday newspaper that is stepped on in the car, thrown into the trunk or tossed about like a disposable rag? If your children's respect for it was based upon your awe of it, how would they do? Do we possess so many translations, so many commentaries and so many versions that we no longer rise at its reading and no longer bow at its power, no longer stand spellbound by its content? God's Word is all that God has to say. God's Word is everything God has to say. How precious that makes the Word of God.

Conviction 4- It is personal. By personal, I mean that while Scripture has meaning to all people, each Scripture has special meaning to each person as God's Holy Spirit chooses to use it to speak directly to that person.

How many times have you read in the Scripture, "The Word of the Lord came to me; The Word of the Lord came to Moses; The Word of the Lord came to Joshua"? How does the Word of the Lord come to you today? It is through this book, for He has told us that it is His final Word. It is everything He has to say. God in eternity past, knowing the specific needs of your heart today has purposed,

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if you ask Him, to speak directly to the need of your heart from the Word.

Now I can read a passage of Scripture, and it can speak to all of you, and each of you uniquely. Its message won't change, because truth cannot change, but the application and appropriation of that message can be as personal as the hairs of your head which God has numbered. That is why the Scripture in Psalm 119 admonishes us to pray,

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

Do you pray that prayer when you get together with the Lord in the morning to spend time with Him? Did you pray that prayer on the way to church this morning? Let's stop right now and pray that prayer, "Father, open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy law. Speak to each of us individually as You speak to all of us collectively. We pray in Jesus name, Amen."

You see, nothing else in life is as personal as the Word of God. God has collected all of our tears in a bottle. He says that the hairs of our head are numbered. Psalm 139 tells us that when we awake, He is still thinking of us. He delights to show us personally what He wants to do. The Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

Conviction 5- The Word of God is practical. This conviction is as important as any conviction that we can have. Would you like to know how to run your home? It is in the Book. It will tell you what to eat, how to build your house, how to keep your house, how to keep order, how to discipline your children and so much more. It is all in the Word of God.

Would you like to know how to run your business? Guess what, it is in the Word of God. It will tell you about inventory. It will tell you about notes payable. It will tell you about get rich quick schemes. It will tell you about record keeping. It will tell you about working hours. It will tell you about loans. It will tell you about co-signing notes. It will tell you about usury. It will tell you about high risk investments. It will tell you about labor-management relationships. It will tell you about sales methods, employee attitudes, partnerships, profit-sharing and much more. It is all in The Book.

Would you like to know about social activities and relationships? Guess what? It is in the Book. It will tell you the kind of places you

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ought to go. It will tell you the kind of things you ought to do. It will tell you the kind of friends you ought to have. It will tell you how to dress when you go there. It will tell the husband how to treat his wife. It will tell wives how to treat their husbands. It will tell parents how to treat their children. It will tell children how to treat their parents. It will tell a brother how to treat his sister. It will tell grandparents how to treat the grandchildren and vice versa. It will tell you how to treat widows and orphans. It will tell you how to deal with peer level friendships. It will tell you how the older ones should treat the younger ones. It is all in The Book.

How would you like to know about the church? It is in The Book. The purpose of the church, the government of the church, the problems in the church, the management of the church and the leadership of the church is all in the Word of God. How would you like to know about your ministry? It is in the Word of God. It will teach you about priorities, methods, and even men.

This Book is an authority. It is an authority on animals, agriculture, astronomy, and armies. It is an authority on health, history, and happiness. It is an authority on music, marksmanship, and money. It will tell you how to build, how to buy, and how to behave. It is more relevant than today's newspaper. It is more comprehensive than the world almanac. It is more personal than a private tutor. The Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

Conviction 6- The Word of God is powerful. Hebrews 4 says,

The Word of God speaks and is living and filled with awesome power. Like a dagger, razor-sharp on both sides it can separate the joints from the marrow. It alone can set the spirit apart from the soul.
(Hebrews 4:12 paraphrased)

The Word of God. To the Christian this Book is not just a book. It is a Person. That Person through this Book transmits all the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. It is God's medicine chest of power. It is His antibiotic. It purifies the inner life of spiritual disease. It is His vitamins. It builds up the spirit to withstand difficulty. It is God-stimulated to encourage and energize the soul. It is God's tranquilizer that can settle you and give you peace. It is God's antiseptic that can clean the wounds of life. The Word of God. This is why truth becomes knowledge and then becomes wisdom. It is because of the power that is in the Word.

Testing the Fruitfulness of the Word.

The purpose of the Word is change. How much the Word is

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your authority cannot be judged by how much you know, but by how much you know changes your life. You may ask, "How can I tell that the Word of God is changing my life? Do I need a seminary degree? Do I need to accumulate certain information?" Let's let the Word tell us what the Word does and we test ourselves. I am going to give you a quiz to test the fruitfulness of the Word of God in your life. I have eight questions.

Question 1- Do you have a vision of Jesus? It is in the Word of God. In John 5:39 Jesus says,

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

(John 5:39 NKJV)

In Luke 24 Jesus is on the road to Emmaus and we see,

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him;

(Luke 24:27, 31 NKJV)

That is the purpose of the Word of God. John 16 says,

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

(John 16:13 NKJV)

The more time you spend in the Word of God, and the more you allow it to become wisdom, the clearer your vision of the person of Jesus Christ ought to be. How real is He to you? How personal is He to you? When you pray, are you talking to a friend? Are you aware of His presence throughout the day? Is the price He paid for your sins so real that when you are tempted to sin, you shrink back? That comes from the Word of God.

Question 2- Is yours a life of joy? Contrary to a popular misconception, Christians who are filled with the Word of God are not the ones who go around with their chins on the ground. You see, the Word of God is the source of man's joy. If knowledge is becoming wisdom in your life, then you ought to be joyful. I John 1 says,

And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

(I John 1:4 NKJV)

In other words, read this Book, and you will be filled with joy. Psalm 19 says,

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The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
(Psalm 19:8 NKJV)

Jeremiah 15 says,

Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;
(Jeremiah 15:16 NKJV)

A good indicator of the real relationship of your life to the Word of God is the joy in your heart.

Question 3- Can you make wise decisions, or do you vacillate like the wind of the sea that is driven and tossed as we see in James 1? Scripture says that the more of itself you get into your life, the more ability you have to make wise decisions. Psalm 119 says,

Your words make me wiser than my enemies for they are always with me,

I have deeper insights than my instructors, because I meditate on Thy testimonies.

I have a better grasp on the truth than the aged because I have obeyed the truth. (Psalm 119:98-100 paraphrased)

I have memorized it, I meditate on it and I obey it, so I am wiser than my instructors. I am wiser than my enemies. I am even wiser than the aged.

Do you have wisdom beyond your years? If you do, the reason is in this Book. Would you like to become wise like Solomon? Here is the answer in this Book. Psalm 119 says,

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. (Psalm 119:130 NKJV)

That is us. In Mark 12 they were asking for answers and Jesus answered,

Your trouble is that you don't know the Scriptures so you don't know the power of God. (Mark 12:24 TLB)

The more you are in the Word, the wiser your choices and the wiser your counsel. It takes time, but it happens. You can't rub it on the top of your head and become wise. You can't put it on the top of your coffee table and become wise. But, you can put it in your heart and work it into your life. Over a period of years of doing this, you will gain a wisdom that few people have. The Word of God.

Question 4- Are you really in the Word and staying there? If you have, you should have power over Satan. How can even a young man cleanse his ways? By taking heed to the Word of God.

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

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the
power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,
(Romans 1:16 NKJV)

Concerning the works of men, By the word of Your lips, I have
kept away from the paths of the destroyer.
(Psalms 17:4 NKJV)

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having
put on the breastplate of righteousness,

...taking the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God.
(Ephesians 6:14, 17 NKJV)

It is the only offensive weapon you have when Satan attacks
you. It is the only offensive weapon Jesus used when Satan
attacked Him.

Question 5- Do you really know how to love?

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected
in him. (I John 2:5 NKJV)

A good yardstick of your time in the Word is not the depth of
your theology, but the depth of your love.

Question 6- Do you have peace in the midst of trial?

Psalms 119 says,

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes
them to stumble. (Psalm 119:165 NKJV)

Question 7- Do you hate evil? Psalm 119 says,

Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate
every false way. (Psalm 119:104 NKJV)

The more you are in the Word, the more you hate sin.

Question 8- Is your faith growing? Are you able to trust God for
things you couldn't a year ago?

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

These are the real tests of the fruitfulness of the Word of God
in your life. These are things that impress God, because they are
things that God does.

Conviction 7- The Word of God should be pre-eminent in the
life of the Christian. The final conviction of the Word of God is the
result of the sum total of the other six. If God's Word is perfect, if

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it is permanent, if it is precious, if it is personal, if it is practical, if it is powerful, then it ought to be pre-eminent in the life of a Christian. By pre-eminent I mean has it become your very life? As you follow Jesus through the gospels, watch Him use the Old Testament. For the Scripture to become your life, meditate on the Word of God when you go to sleep at night to protect you, and to garrison about your mind from evil. Is the Word of God before you when you rise up in the morning? Before the enemy has an opportunity to touch your mind, do you begin to quote the Word?

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad
in it. (Psalm 118:24 NKJV)

You may not feel like it, but by faith you accept the fact that this is God's day, and this is God's Word. When you begin to shower, this is the time to sing and praise Him. Nobody can hear you except for God. Praise Him with the Word,

...wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:7)

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken
to you. (John 15:3 NKJV)

The shower is a good place to confess sin and be cleansed because you have a visual illustration of that process. The Word of God. Men, as you shave, or women as you put on your make-up, look in the mirror and recite,

Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the
heart. (1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV)

The Word of God. As you eat, talk about and review the Word.

I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my
necessary food. (Job 23:12b NKJV)

If there is not enough time for breakfast AND spending time in the Word of God, if you have to choose between physical and spiritual food, don't fill your stomach, fill your heart.

Memorize the Word. It is the most important single thing a Christian can do for growth in the years to come. Do you realize that if you only commit to memory five verses a week, that at the end of the next year, you will have learned 260 verses? Do you realize that at the end of five years you will know 1,360 verses? Do you realize that at the end of twenty years, you will know 5,200 verses? You will be a totally different person because of the Word of God. They could take this Bible away from you, and that could happen, but you would have so much of it in your heart that you would be

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a transformed person. You would be the source of strength and power to everyone around you. The Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

As you pray, pray back the promises to God. Give Him His Word as Moses did. Pray back the principles of God. If you ask anything according to His will, He will use you. Tell Him what His will is, it is in the Book. As you drive, you can memorize and meditate on the Word. As you are tempted, claim before Satan in the name of Christ the Word of God as Jesus did,

It is written, It is written, It is written. (Matthew 4:4,7,10)

Satan can't stand it. It is the one thing he cannot stand. As you encounter trials, meditate on the Word. You will become like a "tree firmly planted by rivers of water, your leaf will not wither, and whatever you do will prosper". As you witness, use the Word of God. It is a sword, and the person you are dealing with cannot cope with it, because it discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. The Word of God.

As you listen to taped messages, use the Word of God. Don't just listen to a tape and absorb what you have heard before or what you are hearing for the first time. Stop, take out a notebook, open your Bible, stop the tape machine, and look up the verses. Be like the Bereans who were more noble than those in Thessalonica, because they searched the Scriptures daily to see if the things taught were so. Check out every verse. As you study, study the Word and don't just study books about the Word. Study the Word. This is why Bible Study Fellowship is so important. That is why the Colossians 2:7 Series is so important. That is why Wednesday night Bible classes are so important. That is why growth groups are so important. You need to take these things on at a personal level and get this Book into your life, and I need to get it into my life on a daily basis.

The Word of God transmitted by the Spirit of God on a one to one basis is the foundation for your growth. This is exciting, and this is a part of it, but the key to spiritual growth is between you and God on a one to one level. This is what changes your life. The Scripture tells you it will guide you as you go, as you stumble it will lift you, as you cry out it will calm you. The Word of God. In other words, I am not saying to make the Word a bigger part of your life. Make the Word your life. Satan hates that.

I will give you Satan's version of Joshua 1:8-9. "This television

God's Truth About God's Word

set shall not depart out of thy eyes, but thou shall meditate thereon day and night, that thou mayest be programmed to do according to all the evil that is evidenced therein. Then, shall thou make thy life empty and spiritually enjoy no success. Has not Satan commanded thee? Be confused and confounded and bewildered for Satan's philosophy is with you whithersoever thou goest." These are Satan's lies and God's truth about the Word of God.

If what God says about His Word is so clear: that it is perfect and without error; that it is permanent and without change; that it is so personal that it can affect our lives independently apart from any other life around us; that it is so practical that it can answer any of the day to day questions that we have in our lives whether it be business and home; that it is so powerful that it not only has the knowledge but the wisdom to allow us to perform that which it tells us to do; and if it is so terribly precious that we are to cherish it with our lives, how can we give it ten minutes a day and toss in two hours on Sunday and expect God to say to us, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant"?

In other words, at least some of us need to pause right now and vow to God that by His grace, beginning right now, we are going to make some changes in our relationships to the Scriptures. The rest of our lives can be the best of our lives, if for the whole of our lives, we build it around the only three things that last. What are they? The Word of God, the Word of God, the Word of God.

Note: Russell wrote each of these lessons in a manner that would enable him to clearly communicate them to his weekly class. The grammar or punctuation you encounter may not be technically perfect, but you will certainly "hear" his unique gift for making the message applicable to the common man in everyday situations.

It's been said of him that he was really a writer who read his stuff. And that's a very accurate statement!

May you be richly blessed as you "hear" as you read.

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