

WHAT THE WORD OF GOD DOES IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

Psalm 119:11

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt the Word of God is a powerful book but how powerful in the life of a believer is determined by how the believer uses the Word of God. God's Word, the bible is inspired by Him, given through the Holy Spirit to the many authors God chose to record His Words. The Word of God can change a person's life, can guide a person's life, can defend a person's life, can bring assurance to a person, and it can condemn a person's life. When the believer uses God's Word as God intends, just what does the Word of God do in that believer's life?

1. The Word of God is a Sword in the believer's life.

- It is a weapon. *Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12*
- God's people are in constant warfare/conflict and the Word of God is the believer's offensive and defensive weapon against all of his/her enemies.
 - Without God's Word, one cannot defeat any of his/her enemies.
- The Scripture is a sharp, two-edged sword to be used by the believer when tempted by the Devil.
- The believer needs to learn how to use the Sword by daily practice. *Hebrews 5:11-12*

2. The Word of God is a Critic, a Judge.

- *Hebrews 4:12*
- The Word of God judges what is right and wrong, tells the believer how he/she is doing, where he/she is going wrong, why and how to correct things.
- The Word of God is a critic of one's attitude, action, performance, inner life and behavior.
- The believer must hear and submit to the judgment of God's Word in his/her life, being submissive to what God's Word points out that is wrong and needs changing.

3. The Word of God is a Lamp, a Light.

- *Isaiah 5:20; 50:10-11; Psalm 36:9; 119:105, 130; Proverbs 6:23*
- God's Word, as a light, gives illumination/sight, shining in one's life to remove darkness, to light up one's path/walk, keeping the believer from stumbling and running into things which can bring harm. It protects the believer.
- God's Word, as a light stands for truth in opposition to error and deception. It is through the light of the Word that one is able to recognize Satan's delusions of myths and heresies.
- What one does not know about God's Word can be hurt/harmful.
 - *Numbers 32:23; Galatians 6:7-8; Ecclesiastes 8:11-12*
- God's Word as a light brings righteousness. It is not one's own thoughts but God's thoughts that bring righteousness and righteousness and morality cannot exist where God is not known in His truth.
- No light is useful until it is turned on and aimed in the direction one wants to go, thus being a light to others means the believer must live in God's light him/herself, knowing how to use God's Light, His Word.

4. The Word of God is a Mirror.

- *2 Corinthians 3:18; James 1:22-25*
- A mirror reflects one's likeness, one's image and mirrors don't lie thus the Bible, God's Word, is a perfect mirror as it reflects the reality of what a person truly is.
- Not using God's mirror, one fails to benefit by seeing him/herself as God sees him/her.

- Using God's mirror, one can determine just how well he/she is following Jesus' example for one deceives him/herself by not comparing what he/she sees/thinks with what God sees/thinks revealed in God's mirror, deluding himself, by thinking one thing while it is opposite the truth.

5. The Word of God is like Rain, Snow, Water.

- *Isaiah 55:10-11; Jeremiah 17:-5-8; Ephesians 5:26*
- The Word of God is cleansing as when one neglects the water of the Word of God his/her heart is filled with sin/evil. *Psalms 119:9; John 15:2-3*
 - God's Word reveals what is wrong and provides the proper motivation for change, also providing the power to make needed changes that leads to cleansing one's life from sin and the world's defilement.
- The Word of God is refreshment, renewal, like a cool drink of water on a hot day. *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*
- Without the Word of God, a person is like one wandering in the dry, arid desert, exhausted of energy and spiritual strength, weakened by the heat of life, but with the Word of God, it will guide, renew, refresh and inspire one to be able to continue on in the ways of the Lord.
- One's life is wasted, no matter how much is gained of the world and its riches if God's Word is not the center, the wellspring of one's life. *Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1:2-3*

6. The Word of God is like Food, Bread.

- *Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16; Ezekiel 2:8; 3:1-3*
- Just as a person needs physical food to sustain one's life and health, so God has given the believer the spiritual life that must be fed on the spiritual food of the Word of God.
- Living on the Word of God tunes one's ear to God's voice, produces the willingness and courage necessary for service/ministry regardless of any fears or obstacles one might face.
- When one doesn't live in the Word of God, he/she will fail to minister or minister for the wrong reasons and never have the sense of God's purpose and joy. *Mark 4:14-20*
- Bread stands for the normal necessities and details of life by which a person attempts to find happiness, fulfillment and strength. *Deuteronomy 8:3*
- For life to have meaning, one needs to sense the destiny and hand of God in his/her life and life without that is a life of emptiness, futility.
- The believer is totally dependent on the Word of God, His commands, promises, and purposes, for a life to be lived as God wants.
- Sometimes God has to let one experience trials and emptiness before he/she will become hungry for the Word of God. *Numbers 11:4-6; Deuteronomy 8:11-20*
- How is YOUR appetite? You have time to eat physical food, but what about spiritual food?

7. The Word of God is like Gold and Silver.

- *Psalms 19:10; 119:71, 127; Proverbs 8:10-11; 8:19.*
- To compare God's Word to gold and silver is to form an obvious picture that emphasizes the supreme and intrinsic value of His Word, valuable all over the world, rare and beautiful.
 - It is of supreme value because it is from God's own mouth, it is God's Holy Word, containing the words of life.
- It is through the Word that one finds the gospel message of redemption purchased for mankind, not by gold and silver but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
 - Money cannot salvation from sin's penalty nor deliverance from sin's power, ONLY faith in the

grace of God in Jesus can give that. Thus, it is the Word of God, more precious than gold that produces faith. *1 Peter 1:18-19; Proverbs 2:4-12*

- What does one do when he/she finds something valuable? What have YOU done with the Word of God?

8. The Word of God is like Fire.

- *Jeremiah 23:29; 20:9*
- God's Word gives warmth to one's heart, changing cold, lukewarm hearts into hearts on fire for God, burning with His truth, values, purposes, concerns, love, grace and control.
- God's Word burns away and cleanses what is impure and useless in one's life, and purifies one's values, priorities, purposes, attitudes, thoughts and standards of right and wrong.
- God's Word judges one's life and if one does not judge his/her life by the Word of God, he/she will be judged by the Lord through discipline and finally at the Judgment seat.
1 Corinthians 11:28-32; 3:13-15
- If one fails to allow the Word of God to do its work, then there are consequences to be faced.

9. The Word of God is like a Hammer.

- *Jeremiah 23:29; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Acts 20:32*
- Only the Word of God has the power to build one up in Christ (along with the Holy Spirit) and to develop spiritual maturity and stability.
- Often one must tear down old ideas, structures of the human construction that stand in the way of new spiritual building.
- Through prayer and study of God's Word, attitudes, viewpoints and thinking that are contrary to God's Word such things are destroyed and new things according to God's Word are built up.

10. The Word of God is like Seed.

- *Mark 4:14, 26-28; Colossians 1:5-7*
- The Word of God prepares the heart.
- The Word of God prepares one to be able to produce spiritual fruit for God.
- The Word of God enables one to live/work automatically, spontaneously for the Lord.
- In witnessing, God may use one's life to prepare the soil of the hearts of others for the seed of the Word which others must hear about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- God may use many spiritual blessings to aid in a person's growth but ultimately it is God's Word that has been sown and cultivated in the heart and mind that brings true and complete spiritual change.
- How is YOUR attitude toward God's plan for YOUR life? What do you lack? What kind of soil are YOU?
- To prepare the soil of one's heart he/she must:
 - Be in fellowship with the Lord - *1 Peter 2:1-2; James 1:21*
 - Be prayerful, dependent and expectant of God to teach and reveal His truth clearly. *Psalms 119:18*
 - Be open and teachable, allowing the Word of God to speak for itself.
 - Be studious, learning and applying what is learned from the Word of God. *2 Timothy 2:15*
 - Be diligent, applying and judging one's life with the Word of God.

11. The Word of God is like Honey, a Honeycomb.

- *Psalms 19:10; 119:103; 81:16; Proverbs 24:13; Ezekiel 3:1-3*
- Honey was a symbol of blessing, of prosperity, value, luxury, a basic part of life, thus the Word of God is like honey.

- Honey has never been reproduced exactly by any human being and in the same way God's Word has never been reproduced or refined or added to in any way. It is pure, containing every spiritual need one has in his/her life walk with God.
- Bees are used in making of honey, and human beings were used as authors of God's Word, simply being instruments of collection but not contributing anything to the original source.
- Like honey, God's Word is delicious, attractive and inviting, but it is beneficial only IF personally eaten and used for the specifics in one's life. *Psalm 19:1-10*
- God's Word adds sweetness to life as it reveals God and His grace. *Psalm 34:8*

CONCLUSION:

1. The Word of God can have a dramatic and wonderful impact on a person's life but one has to study and get into God's Word with an open, unprejudiced mind to learn God's truth.
2. The Word of God is God's gift to man and it will never change nor be added to.
3. What does the Word of God mean to YOU? Is it a book that lies on some bookshelf or table and is picked up only when YOU attend worship? Is it a book that YOU keep in YOUR car but never take into YOUR house? Is it a book that you read often and study the thoughts it gives YOU?
4. There is not another book that has ever been written or shall be written like unto the Word of God for its author is almighty God.
5. Christian, take God's Book and learn how to live your life by its Words.