

## THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

What power awaits us inside the pages of the Bible! God's Word is everything we need for every moment of every day, in every situation we face, in every season of time. His Word offers life-giving and life-sustaining power. It provides answers to our dilemmas and purpose to our existence. We have been studying scripture to prove its availability as our *lifeline*, our *plumb line* and our *guideline*. It's our responsibility to make the Word part of our everyday life. May the Holy Spirit whet our appetites for even more of His Word from this study! Let's deliberately...on purpose...pursue truth, making His Word our daily bread. We just can't live another day without it!

### DAY ONE

1. Proverbs 4:20-21 declares the importance of heeding God's words of wisdom. List the four commands given here.

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2. From Proverbs 4:22, what two benefits do we gain from keeping these words?

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3. Where is the Word according to Deuteronomy 30:14? What results?

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4. List the commands of Deuteronomy 30:16.

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5. What results from obeying these commands as shown in Deuteronomy 30:16?

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6. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 challenges us to choose life or death, blessings or curses. If we choose life, what results according to verses 19B-20?

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7. From the last part of verse 20, who is "your life?"

When people choose the Lord, they choose life. The NIV notes that the law, the Lord and life are all bound together. In the context of this verse, “life” refers to all that makes it rich, full and productive—as God created it to be. (NIV note on Deut. 30:20) Do you want that kind of life? It’s your choice. What we say and do does make a difference in the abundant life God desires we experience as His children.

## DAY TWO

We must be intentional in our pursuit of God. It takes discipline to stay focused on Jesus Christ. Remember the old saying, “No pain; no gain.” It’s our choice if we want to achieve. We are composed of body, soul, and spirit. Just as we should take care of our physical body by exercising its parts, so we should take care of the soul and spirit. For most of my married life, I’ve had a walking buddy who meets me on the street every morning. I can’t roll over for more sleep because she’s depending on me to be there. We have a verbal agreement to keep each other going, and when one of us isn’t up to the sprint, the other spurs us on. It’s a good arrangement that has kept us walking fifteen to twenty miles a week for years. We are pretty intentional about our exercise because the benefits are huge. Some people can’t believe we get out there in the dark and cold hours of the morning but it’s been a good choice. We not only keep our bodies healthy but our emotions as well, for we share our burdens and prayer walk our way around the neighborhood. We often laugh at the way we solve the world’s problems pounding the pavement together.

When a bone density test showed some early signs of osteoporosis, I added another discipline to my morning routine. Weight training has been something new and different for me but is proving to be beneficial as well. Rather than taking medication for increased muscle strength, I’m choosing to lift weights and push heavy contraptions at a gym two to three times a week. So far, I’ve been able to ward off the need for medication, but it takes discipline.

It takes intentional discipline to turn off the television and go to bed an hour earlier so I can get up in the morning to pray and read the Word. It requires a new mindset about my choices. I have to exercise my mind as well as my body if I want a rich, full and productive life like that described in Deuteronomy 30:20 above. If we want those results, we have to make a choice. We have to set our faces like a flint and be determined to pursue God’s Word. The rewards are huge!

1. Look at Deuteronomy 32:46-47 and write what we are to take to heart below.
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2. The words God solemnly declared are not “just what”? (v.47)
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3. What does verse 47 say these words are for you?

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God words are not just idle words, empty or worthless trifle for you—they are your life! The Lord is also your life! Remember that the next time you face an obstacle on the pathway of life. God is throwing you a ***lifeline*** to which you can cling; He is setting up the standard by which you should govern your life through the ***plumb line*** of His Word; and He is giving you the ***guideline*** of how to choose His perfect plan for living.

4. What two things has God exalted above all other things according to Psalm 138:2?

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The Lord's character is expressed in His name. His name equals His personality and defines His nature. The Lord's names reveal that He is readily accessible to His people and will protect and provide for them. Our names may not be that significant. Rarely do they express our nature. But in Bible times, desired destiny was the basis of choosing a child's name. The hope for a child's nature and future was wrapped up in his name. I must confess we weren't that spiritual in naming our children! We preferred the names of great grandfathers for our sons. It was kind of reassuring to later learn that their meanings weren't too far off from our unspoken dreams and desires. Defined as "Godly Power" and "Blessed with Bounty," their names ultimately expressed their calling. In a similar way, God's many names are who He is...His nature and character are defined from First to Last, from Alpha to Omega, the Great I AM who is All in All and Everything we shall ever need.

5. How was Moses instructed by God to answer the question, "What is His name?" in Exodus 3:14-15.

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6. List some of the names and characteristics of the Lord that Moses proclaimed in Exodus 34:6.

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## DAY THREE

Meditating on the Lord's names and characteristics is an intentional discipline we discussed in a previous lesson. Instead of thinking about our problems, we can choose to think about God's nature like what's described in Exodus 34:6 above. Remember the ABC's of Replacement Thinking? Next time you're stuck in traffic, use the alphabet to trigger your memory about the Lord. Scripture tells us to "make every effort" to add to our faith. If we take the time to recite our ABC exercise, that's putting forth effort. We are to strive, aim for and eagerly pursue intimacy with Jesus Christ. It may take this elementary exercise to achieve control of our thoughts.

2 Peter 1:5 encourages us to ***make every effort to add goodness, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love to our faith.*** These are the virtues that produce a fruitful life. His character in us! It doesn't happen without making *every effort*. Our knowledge of God should affect the way we live. We are all a work in process, and we have to pursue continual spiritual growth through the choices we make each day. Devouring the Word is a good place to start on our journey.

1. What does God's Word say we should do with the name of the Lord in these verses?

Psalm 7:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 20:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 52:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 61:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 69:36 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 89:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 116:4, 13, 17 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does His name provide for us from Proverbs 18:10?

## DAY FOUR

Because God has exalted above all things His Name and His Word, so we should remember to do the same. His Word will stand forever and it will accomplish His purposes. When we study the Bible, we learn His names and will be able to meditate on them. Our goal should be to magnify the Lord, making Him bigger than our problems, just like a magnifying glass does to fine print. Let's purpose in our hearts to never exalt or magnify any obstacle or trial over the name of the Lord or His Word. What a difference it will make when we put our magnifier on the right target!

I am reminded of this truth constantly whenever I face a difficult season of life. My nephew's baby boy has been through a deluge of medical tests to determine why his physical development is impaired. Our hearts were heavy as he was on a feeding tube for several days in the hospital because he was too weak to eat on his own. Our human tendency is to magnify the unknown reasons. We can choose to search the internet for possible solutions and then apply our own diagnosis to the symptoms. But we've chosen to remember what we know in the face of the unknown: that our God is Jehovah Rapha, our Healer. He is all wisdom. He is love. He is the one and only Potentate, the Blessed Controller of all things. He is Lord of all. All things must bow to Him. There is nothing too hard for God. He is Omniscient; He knows and sees all. That's what we must magnify in the face of this trial, and the truth found in God's Word is the foundation on which we stand. We cannot doubt in the dark what God told us in the light.

1. From James 1:22-23 what two things are we to do with the Word of God?

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2. What are we like if we don't do what the Word says from this passage?

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3. What should be our practice from Psalm 119:55-56?

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4. The Word of God is a powerful tool when we speak it out loud over our circumstances. How is the power of God's Word described in Isaiah 55:11?

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5. Describe the contrasts given in Isaiah 40:8 regarding God's Word.

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6. Read the account of the wise man in Luke 6:47-48 and name the foundation on which this man is building.

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7. What must the wise man do from verse 47?

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8. What wise things does the man do in verse 48?

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9. When the floods came, why could the house not be shaken?

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10. What does the foolish person do and what happens to his house?

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Are you building your foundation on the Solid Rock? Jesus said in the above passage that when we come to Him and hear His words and put them into practice, we are building our lives on a deep and solid foundation. When the obstacles of life loom in our path or the floods come to overwhelm us, we will not be shaken because we are so well built. Remember ***we are all being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*** (Ephesians 2:22). Don't neglect the Word; in fact, devour it! It will be life to you and health to your whole body.

## DAY FIVE

1. What does Psalm 119:11 say will keep me from sinning?

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2. What should our prayer be before we read the Word from Psalm 119:18?

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3. How valuable does Psalm 119:72 say the Word is to us?

4. List the benefits of knowing God's commands from Psalm 119:97-100?

5. What must we do to insure those benefits from Psalm 119:97, 100-102?

6. As we end this study, let's look up Job 22:21-28. While Eliphaz has been accusing Job in these chapters, his suggestions here are commendable for us today. List what we should "make every effort" to do from this passage. Look for the verbs or actions words on one side and list any results you find on the other. It's a little tricky, but please hang in there. There are no wrong answers.

## MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO

#### SO YOU WILL EXPERIENCE·

I especially love verse 28 in the Amplified version. It says, "***You shall decide and decree a thing, and it shall be established for you; and the light of God's favor shall shine upon your ways.***"

Don't you want the light of God's favor to shine on your ways? We've been talking about speaking out the Word of God over our circumstances and the power that will bring into our lives. We can declare the decrees that God has already ordained. It's our privilege to speak His Word out loud thereby calling in His will which was written down in heaven long before we were born.

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8. Write out Lamentations 3:37 below for further confirmation of this truth.

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Oh, the benefits of studying God's Word! We can declare what the Lord has already authorized and commanded in His royal register in heaven. It's not about our own fleshly desires or pursuits. He longs to bring His will to pass in our lives. May the Lord use this study to make us all hungry for more of the Word of God so we too can say with the prophet, "***When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.***" (Jeremiah 15:16)

It is my hope that you have had your appetite stimulated to want more of God's Word in your life. It is through His Word that you can leap over a wall and run through a troop. God's plans for you are good and His purposes will not be thwarted. Hold on to the ***lifeline*** of God's Word to defeat obstacles of despair. Use the ***plumb line*** of Scripture to rise above obstacles of offense. Apply biblical ***guidelines*** to conquer obstacles of indecision. You have the power of His promises at your disposal, enabling you to find victory through each trial that comes your way.

Remember the truths of Zechariah 4:6-7, "***It's not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord. What are you O mighty mountain of human obstacles... you will become level ground, a mere molehill.***" Don't make mountains out of molehills, but let God make molehills out of your mountains! God bless each of you in your pursuit of overcoming obstacles through the study of God's Word.

*My prayer for you regarding this teaching has been from Deuteronomy 32:2, "Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."*

*Lord, may each of us devote ourselves to be close to You by making Your Word our Daily Bread. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

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