

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

www.oakhillministries.org ■ 2115 Graefenburg Road ■ Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
OCTOBER 9, 2009

“The Power of God’s Word”

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:31, 32 & 36)

Dear reader, if you have ears to hear our Father’s word, I write you to encourage you in His word, and to challenge you to “contend earnestly for the faith” (Jude 3) by upholding His word, even in the face of opposition from friends, family and the church. If you are a reader who does not have an ear for Father’s word, I write to warn you of the danger that you are in; and to encourage you to “choose to believe” God’s word and to ask Him to “endue you with His power” (the Holy Spirit - Luke 24:49), that you might be counted worthy to be numbered among those who have “ears to hear” (Matthew 11:15).

If you do not have ears to hear God’s word, and no desire to choose to hear, then I tell you respectfully, that to read further would be a waste of your time (John 8:47).

Today, the greatest single problem that professing Christians face, is their outright rebellion against, or the neglect of God’s word. The very root cause of all our problems is not the devil, but rather, it is disobedience; failing to adhere to Father’s commandments, His precepts, and His judgments. Jesus Christ stated that “man cannot live by bread alone, but rather by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”. If we believed Jesus, we would literally be eating His every word----from Genesis to Revelation; His word would slowly take root in us and begin to reproduce after its own kind.

If we belong to Him (1 Corinthians 6:20), then we have the potential within us to think, speak and act just as He did (1 Corinthians 6:16 and John 14: 12-14). This spiritual truth applies to each and every soul that has been spiritually reborn, not according to the will of the flesh, but according to the will of the Holy Spirit (John 1: 12 & 13 and John 3:3-8). Reflecting the likeness and image of Christ is not a grace reserved for the spiritually elite ...the pastor, preacher, teacher, elder, prophet, priest, etc. ---

NO! ----- This potential is in every single true son or daughter of God. Anyone who would tell you different, is a lying devil, and close to being accursed (Galatians 1: 8-10).

The potential of which I speak will never be realized by any mere mortal, apart from the Word of the living God-----Never! Father's word is clear on the matter, and easily understood by those who have "ears to hear". Jesus Christ, the Word of God, declares in John 6:63:

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

To reflect the likeness and image of Christ, one's mind must be transformed by the Word of God (Romans 12:2 & Ephesians 4: 23 & 24). The fruit of this transformation should be evident for all to see. It is a process to be sure, but slowly --- week by week --- month by month --- year by year, the word of God should be steadily reproducing the likeness and image of Christ in and through us. I like to explain this process of transformation as follows:

First: Christ is presented to you through the Word of God.

Second: Christ is revealed in you by His Spirit, through His Word.

Third: Christ, Himself, is confirmed through you; His word reproducing after its own kind.

The Word of God presented to you -----the Word of God revealed in you -----The Word of God confirmed through you! This transformation is brought about by the Power of the Living Word of God; and there is no transformation apart from the Word of God. This truth explains why most of us are so spiritually malnourished, reflecting the likeness and image of the modern-day church, rather than the likeness and image of "The Way, The Truth and The Life ----- Jesus Christ. Simply put, most of us do not know the God of the Bible and have no real-life knowledge of His power, as confirmed through His Word! As it was with our forefathers, so it is with us:

"They are foolish; for they do not know the way of the Lord, the judgment of their God." (Jeremiah 5:4)

"Even the stork in the heavens knows her appointed times; and the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow observe the time of their coming. But My people do not know the judgment of the Lord."

*"Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord; so what wisdom do they have?"
(Jeremiah 8:7 & 9b)*

"Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?" (Mark 12:24)

"For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding." (Jeremiah 4:22a)

To know God, to actually know Him, one must absorb His word; not just read it, but soak in it, meditate upon it ----- listen to it! Soon, you will begin to "think" in harmony with Father; and as you

think, so you will speak; and as you speak, so you will act. This process confirms the word of God in real life; the “will of God”, as expressed through His word is fulfilled. Please listen, as Father expresses His will for each of His sons and daughters:

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on this earth.” (Colossians 3: 1 & 2)

“be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4: 23 & 24)

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
(Romans 12:2)*

Think about it dear reader; if you are one of God’s sons or daughters, you have within you the potential to prove what the perfect will of God is. Let that truth soak into the very depths of your heart! Do not allow the Holy Seed of Romans 12:2 to fall anywhere but on the “good ground” where it will reproduce after its own kind:

“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” (Mark 4:20)

Hear the Word, accept It, and allow It to bear the fruit of reproducing Itself through you. Dear reader, as a true child of God, you have this potential within your being. This is not a fairy tale, nor the vain imaginings of a man; this is truth which was given to us who believe, by God Himself; and it is as certain and true as God is. It is written:

*“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
(Numbers 23:19)*

“the Scripture cannot be broken,” (John 10: 35b)

The word of God is the single most powerful force in all of creation; like God, Himself, His word is spirit (John 6:63) and cannot be seen by mortal man. However, our God manifests Himself to man by confirming His word ---- “It is written”. In John 14:21 through 24 Jesus clearly states that “only” those who “have” His word abiding in them actually love Him. He also states that those who love Him, can expect Him to manifest Himself to them, and that He and Father will make their home with them. When man receives and abides in God’s word, God, Himself makes that man or woman His temple ----His home (1 Corinthians 6:19). This union between God and man is consummated through the Word of God and through the Word only! I find no basis in God’s word for any man to expect God to accept him as His own, much less to manifest Himself to them, except as “It is written”.

Failure to embrace the Truth, as Father has recorded it through the written Word has rendered man powerless in this life, and doomed in the life to come. Failure to present and teach the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth, has resulted in an unimaginable loss of souls. When man rejects

God's word, choosing rather to follow His own heart, his church or denomination, or another man ----- he signs his own death warrant and has no one to blame for his eternal future but himself.

While here in Person, our Lord stated that the number one commandment that man was given by God, was to love Him with "all" the heart, soul, and strength (Matthew 22: 36 – 40). He then defined "love" as obedience to His word (John 14:21 – 24). The second great commandment was to love our neighbor, as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39). It is worth noting that the second commandment follows the first. We are incapable of loving others as we love ourselves (from God's viewpoint) until we have, within our heart met the terms of the first commandment. Our transformation into the likeness and image of Christ hangs on this first and greatest commandment --- Love --- our love of our Father --- and that being the fruit of obedience to His word. Without this love in the heart of man --- man is "nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1 & 2). As long as we fail to embrace "every word" that proceeds from the mouth of God, we reject life and embrace death. We sow to our flesh rather than sowing to the Spirit, "the Word" (Galatians 6:8). We walk not in the Spirit, but according to our flesh (Romans 8:1, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 14). Concerning the power of God, as expressed through His word and confirmed by Him, we know nothing! We are left with our religious "form" but no power; truly, this describes a dead religion, of which I want no part; and I pray that you, dear reader, want no part of it as well.

The "power of God" is contained in His word and confirmed by Him through His sons and daughters. Listen to the very word of God:

"They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs." (Mark 16:20)

Christ, who is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His person,
"Upholds all things by the word of His power," (Hebrews 1:3)

"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us." (2 Corinthians 1:20)

The manifested (or confirmed) word of God should be the rule, not the exception, among those who say they believe in, and are following Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The indisputable fact that this is not so, tells us that we, for the most part, do not believe that the Holy Bible is actually God's word. We as much as call it a lie by our very response to it!

Is it any wonder that we are so powerless when faced with the flaming arrows and fiery darts of our enemy Satan (Ephesians 6:12 – 18)? Is it any wonder that the signs that Jesus said would follow those who believed (Mark 16:16 – 18), are rarely found within our ranks? How could it be otherwise, dear Reader? Sadly, for the "many" it will only get worse, until God does what He has always done, to His people, when they chose to walk contrary to His word. If you are interested in knowing what to expect from God when conditions are as they are today among His people, I invite you to read Leviticus, chapter twenty-six, in its entirety. You may want to read it in your prayer closet, while on your knees.

I cannot close this letter without reminding those who have "ears to hear" what God has to say to us through His word; there is much found in His word, that should greatly encourage us. In every generation, regardless of their overall spiritual condition, Father has had a small remnant who believed Him, and as a result, our Father covered them and protected them from His judgment. This has always

been the case, and it is so today! We should not cease to pray to be found worthy to be numbered among those chosen for the remnant. Never take your good standing before a holy God for granted and call it faith; God does not ever look on religious pride favorably:

“On this one I will look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” (Isaiah 66:2)

The Word of God contains the power to: heal us, deliver us, to protect us, save us, sanctify us, fill us with peace in the midst of the storms of life, to lead us into all Truth, to allow us to know God, and to know His will. The word of God contains the power to allow us to live life here on earth as our Father intended us to live it. All of God’s power, that benefits man, is found in His word; and He invites us to eat His word, and thereby be found abiding in Him (John 6:53-56). For those of us who have accepted our Lord’s invitation and have chosen to believe our Father, we can rise up each day expecting Him to confirm His word through us. I do, and I hope that you do as well.

I close, praying that you be numbered among those Paul addresses in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, where he writes:

“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

Your brother,

©All rights reserved

Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)