

THE WORKINGS OF THE WORD OF GOD

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Many people including Christians do not respond to the word of God the way God wants them to respond to it, because they do not understand the workings of the word of God. An understanding of this subject will help the believer to respond passionately and reverently to the word of God.

The word of God is alive and active and not dead, and therefore produces result.

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Heb 4:12 NIV)

“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.” (John 6:63-64 NIV)

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thess 2:13 NIV)

The degree of the working of the word of God in any man depends on how he attends to the word of God and receives it. The word of God works in relation to the reaction of the hearer.

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:20-21 NIV)

“Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way chosen for him. He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.” (Ps 25:8-14 NIV)

“My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Prov 4:20-23 NIV)

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor 1:18 NIV)

1. The word of God produces faith.

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Rom 10:17 NIV)

Faith is believing and acting on God’s word. Without faith no man can please God or gain anything from Him. Everything about the kingdom of God from first to last is accessed by faith and kept by faith. Only the word of God builds faith.

2. The new birth

The word of God regenerates a man and makes him a new creature in Christ Jesus. Without the hearing of the gospel, no man will be convicted to repent of his sins and receive Jesus Christ into his life. It is the word that does the work in man.

“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.” (James 1:18 NIV)

“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23 NIV)

3. It produces nourishment for the spirit and soul

There are stages of development in Christ. God does not give us everything in one day. He teaches a little at a time as much as the person can assimilate and retain. As the person mature through use, more and higher things are released to him.

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” (1 Peter 2:1-2 NIV)

“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matt 4:4 NIV)

“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!” (Heb 5:12 NIV)

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.” (Isa 28:9-10 KJV)

4. It produces physical healing

“Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.” (Ps 107:17-20 NIV)

“My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.” (Prov 4:20-22 NIV)

Follow the prescription in order to be healed. Do whatever God tells you in His word to do, and it will be well with you.

5. Mental illumination.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Ps 119:105 NIV)

“The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” (Ps 119:130 NIV)

6. The application of the word gives victory over sin and Satan.

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Ps 119:9-11 NIV)

“As for the deeds of men--by the word of your lips I have kept myself from the ways of the violent.” (Ps 17:4 NIV)

Jesus used the word of God to resist the devil and overcome him in time of temptation (Lk. 4:1-14). Use the word of God to resist the devil, and he will surely flee from you.

The word of God is a sword that the believer uses to battle and defeat the enemy. You must know it to use it as a sword. You must know the right scripture to use at every given point in time.

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Eph 6:17 NIV)

“I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” (1 John 2:14 NIV)

7. Cleansing and sanctification.

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17 NIV)

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water

through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Eph 5:25-27 NIV)

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

Sanctification is making holy, which requires four agents:

(1) The spirit of God

“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.” (2 Thess 2:13-14 NIV)

“Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.” (1 Peter 1:2 NIV)

(2) The word of God.

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17 NIV)

(3) The blood of Jesus.

“How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?” (Heb 10:29-30 NIV)

(4) The faith of the Christian

“To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” (Acts 26:18 NIV)

The purpose of sanctification is to get the believer to conform to the standard of Jesus Christ.

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Rom 8:29-30 NIV)

8. The word of God serves as a mirror and judge.

“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the

perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-he will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:23-25 NIV)

“Then men will say, “Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth.” (Ps 58:11 NIV)

“As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.” (John 12:47-48 NIV)

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (Matt. 13:1-23)

Jesus taught that the word of God produces differently in people depending on how they respond or attend to the word heard. In the parable of the sower, he told the story of a man who went out to sow some seed and the result of the seeds he sowed. Here are the four categories of people he described in his parable. And all these describe the response of people to the word of God that they hear.

1. One who hears the word and does not understand due to hardness of heart and indifference, the devil takes that which he has heard away from him.
2. One who hears and receives the word of the kingdom with joy, because he is not rooted in the word by faith (did not put his faith in God’s word), and due to some wrong beliefs, doctrines, ideologies and misconceptions, when persecution, trials and tribulation come, he falls.
3. One who hears the word, but the delight for riches, the pursuit of career and the care of the things of this world choke the word and displace it and it becomes unfruitful to him (he falls -away).
4. One who hears the word and understands it and receives it, he is not interested in riches and cares of this world. He is firmly rooted in the word of God (He puts his trust and faith in the word of God) he bears fruit according to his response to the word. The level of fruitfulness differs from person to person in that category. Some bear 30%, some 60%, and some 100%. **The attention a man gives to the word of God determines how the word produces in his life.**

NOTE

(1) Members of Jesus family are those who do the will of God which is revealed in the bible

“Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” (Matt 12:49-50 NIV)

“He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” (John 8:47 NIV)

(2) The word of God reveals the will of God.

(3) If you continue in the word of God you are truly the disciple of Jesus. In studying, you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32 NIV)

CONCLUSION

Give the word of a God a chance to work in you and for you to the glory of God. Never play with the word of God for it is true, alive and effective. Let it change your perspective to life, give you new values and principles to live by. Submit to the wisdom of God and your life will take on a new meaning.