

**ST. PAUL WORD ON WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY HANDOUT**  
**THE WORD AND OUR WITNESS**  
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Introduction:

God's word is a reference to the holy Bible. It is a limited expression of His nature. The Word was written to convey the following:

1. The History of Mankind. God created man in His image (Genesis 1:26).
2. God's work through the life of humanity from the beginning (Genesis to Revelation).
3. The origin of sin (Romans 5:12).
4. The revelation concerning His Being-ness. In other words, what is God like?
  - a. He is wholly other.
  - b. He does not sleep (Psalm 121).
5. Introduces us to miracles:
  - a. The creation of the universe (Genesis 1:1).
  - b. The resurrection of Christ (Mark 16:1-10; 1 Cor. 15:12-10).
6. Case studies of those who had relationships with God and how He delivered them (Hebrews 11:1-40).
7. God's dispensational plan to redeem mankind as a result of sin (2 Cor. 5:21).
8. God's plan is expressed to humanity through 66 books.
9. The revelation of the Messiah from the Old Testament to the New Testament.
  - a. Daniel 9:24-27 (Mark 13:14). The distance of prophecy is approximately 530 years.
  - b. Hosea 11:1 (Matt. 2:13-15). The distance of prophecy is approximately 700 years.
  - c. Isaiah 7:14 (Matthew 1:23). The distance of prophecy is approximately 700 years.

The Word of God is intended for all of humanity. For the lost, it offers an invitation to get to know the God who created the universe. To those who are saved, it reveals God's sanctification plan and purpose. In other words, every Christian has the ministry of reconciliation assigned to them by God. Paul writes,

***<sup>18</sup> Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.-2 Corinthians 5:18-19.***

Christians are saved based on God's word. His word dominates the problem of sin and alleviates the stronghold. As a result of this experience, the Christian exemplifies gratitude by living fully for Christ and testifying on His behalf. Our Word and our Witness are inextricably connected. We share the good news, because of the Great Commandment as found in the Scriptures (Matthew

## THE NATURE OF GOD'S WORDS

- A. It is a reflection of God (1 Corinthians 14:36; Ephesians 6:17)

When believers live by the word of God, it is a witness to those around them. God's words are shown to be truthful due to the behavior of His children.

- B. It Is Pure (Psalm 12:

Just like God is pure (without contamination) so is His word. This pureness is what humanity need and desires. This perfection makes God's word vastly different from any other writing.

- C. Right (Psalm 33:4)

God's word is upright (**straight**). It is a spiritual ruler for those who thirst after righteousness. We can gauge whether or not our conduct is holy or unholy by consulting the Scriptures.

- D. Means for Creation (Psalm 33:6)

Many try to make sense of the world. Where did we come from? How did we get here? Where did the first man come from? These pressing questions are answered by the word of God. The Bible fills in the blanks for those who thirst for the truth concerning human origin. The world was created by the word of God. He spoke the world into existence (Genesis 1).

- E. It can be rebelled against (Psalm 107:11)

His word is an expression of perfect love. God gives all humanity **free-will** and the ability to choose or reject Him. As a result, some will rebel against His word due to sin. It is His desire that no one perishes but God allows each person to freely make their choice.

This is the warning that all believers must preach to others.

- F. It is True (Psalm 119:160; 2 Corinthians 6:7; 2 Timothy 2:15)

God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). Since it is impossible for God to lie, it is also true that His words are true. The Scriptures gives us an honest assessment about every aspect of life. The Word not only bears witness to the will of God but it also exemplifies what God can do in accordance to His nature.

His words are true concerning marriage, singleness, sex, money, death, purpose, and

everything associated with life. His words are always true regardless of gender, race, class status, or education. His truthful words address all of our issues from the superficial to the core. The author of Hebrew writes:

***For the word of God is alive 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.-Hebrews 4:12.***

G. It is Fulfilled (Psalm 148:8)

God's words will never return back void. If He says something will come to pass, we can depend on it. Everything He told us would happen in the past came to fruition. Likewise, His future predictions will also come to fruition. Christians who trust God through faith concerning His promises, is a demonstration to others that we bear witness to God's omniscience.

H. They are Revealed (Proverbs 1:23; Revelation 1:3)

There are many things in this life that we do not know. God's words reveal to us knowledge through general and special revelation.

I. It is Spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:13)

His word is spiritual because God is Spirit. Our lifestyle is a physical representation of an inward conversion. God becomes visible when we allow Him to work in our lives.

J. It is Righteous (Hebrews 5:13)

His word is righteous. God is upstanding and virtuous. As a result, those who read His words can learn how to also be upright. It is equitable in relation to justification.

## **THE EFFECT OF GOD'S WORDS**

A. His word Heals (Psalm 107:20)

Christians should testify about how God has healed them both spiritually and physically. We as children of God must testify to others that through the work of Christ on the cross, we have experienced healing. The prophet Isaiah writes:

***Surely He has borne our griefs  
And carried our sorrows;***

*Yet we esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed.-Isaiah 53:4-5*

We should bear witness to what Jesus has done for us based on the written word.

B. His Words can Keep you pure (Psalm 119:9)

We are made pure through the blood of Christ. Pureness is not an innate quality. It is a vicarious quality made possible through the atonement. The following verses convey the idea of purity:

*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.-  
Psalm 51:7*

*<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.-1 John 1:7*

In terms of position, God views us through the blood of Jesus and we are deemed justified, cleansed, and purified.

C. It Revives (Psalm 119:25)

As part of our ministry of reconciliation, we must tell others about how we have been quickened or made alive. Regardless of how good-looking or smart we think we are, outside of Jesus we were dead in our sins or trespasses. Only by accepting Jesus can we be made alive (quickened).

The Christian do not just live but we **live abundantly**. We do not have to live under the bondage of sin. Accepting Christ liberates us from the fetters of unrighteousness. The message of God (Scriptures) revives us and allows humanity to have a relationship with our loving Creator.

The witness of this reality is two-fold. We bear witness through our **conversion** and **sanctification**. We no longer practice sin but are fixated on following the Holy Spirit. As a result, of our passion for our new life, we tell others. We proclaim the message of the gospel as we bear witness through our lifestyle.

D. It Strengthens (Psalm 119:28; 2 Thessalonians 2:17)

God's word produces power because He (God) is powerful. For the meek, His word can

provide boldness; for the wounded the word provides healing; for the weak, the word of God gives strength.

We find this evidence through the narrative of the early Disciples. Despite their deficiencies, the word of God served as an impetus for their boldness so they could proclaim the gospel boldly. The Apostle Luke writes:

***When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.-Acts 4:13***

We should bear witness to how the Word has transformed us.

E. It Gives Understanding (Psalm 162:169)

If we seek wisdom and understanding, the Scriptures are the perfect source. Proverbs and Psalms offer pithy sayings that are intended to make us wise. A good understanding will help the believer avoid unnecessary pain. As a result, we must love others enough to share this story with testimony with them.

F. It Delivers (Psalm 119:170)

If we write the word of God on the table of our hearts, we can remember it when we need to be delivered. The story of Daniel who was held in Babylonian captivity is an example of how God's words can deliver us Daniel refused to eat food that would defile him according to God's words (Deut. 14:1-21). In addition, the Psalm writer also writes in the Psalms how God delivered him from his enemies. The Psalmist writes, Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word (Psalm 119:170). The apostles also were delivered by God through their reliance on the Scriptures (Acts 5:29). They refused to disobey God due to the words of Jesus. Due to their faithfulness God was able to deliver them from their oppressors.

God's word offers deliverance and we must testify about this reality.

G. It Gives us Hope (Psalm 130:5)

Media reports are littered with those who are experiencing hopelessness. Despair is rampant within all communities. Many have concluded that there is no hope. However, this is not the case. In Christ, there is hope. There is no situation too rough that God through His word cannot smooth out. As Children of God, we have the message of hope. Believers must serve as witnesses to the power of God who infuses hope to all situations.

H. It melts (Psalm 147:18)

His word displays God's autonomous control over His creation. Many wonder how to contextualize science with our faith. We must testify to the fact that there is no contradiction.

I. Discover What is Good (Proverbs 16:20)

Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.-Proverbs 16:20

I realize there are many who believe they are innately good. God's word tells us something entirely different. There is no one that is innately righteous. Paul in his letter to the Romans says there is no one that is innately righteous (Romans 3:10).

J. Produces Knowledge (Proverbs 23:12)

Commit yourself to instruction; listen carefully to words of knowledge. If believers commit themselves to God's words it will ultimately become a part of them. The reading and studying of the word fosters knowledge generated from general and special revelation. When we gain knowledge, we must let others know how we gain the information.

K. It Produces Wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:4)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. Reading God's words expose the reader to true wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge applied. It is not enough to be hearer of God's word. We must be a doer or follower of His word. The word of God can give special insights into what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. This type of wisdom originates from God alone.

As we grow into the process of becoming wise, we must give credit to the one who gave it to us. Testifying about the God who liberally disseminates wisdom will cause others to pursue Him (James 1:5)

L. It Reconciles us back to God (2 Corinthians 5:19)

We were once estranged from God but we can be reconciled through His Son. This message of the gospel is certainly good news to those who have fallen short of His standards. Just like the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), our relationship with God can be reconciled or made whole again.

M. It Produces Life (Philippians 2:16)

God's words definitely produce life. We were dead in our trespasses but His word quickened us that we may live more abundantly. The Bible is the word of life. As we learn God's will through His word we learn to live in a whole different way. Our minds are transformed (Romans 12:2) which also means our actions will be transformed.