

# Living Word Fellowship Church

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## The Importance of God's Word Psalm 119:97-104

The Word of God, as revealed in the Bible, is foundational to our life, touching every aspect of our relationship with God, spiritual growth, and daily living. The one thing that separates **Christianity** from any "religion" in the world is its claim to an absolute written authority from God. Having the Word of God is essential to a Christian's growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (**2 Pet. 3:18**, "*But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen*").

Here are some insights as to the importance of God's Word:

### **Essential Truths of God's Word**

- ❏ **God's Word is Divine Revelation (Psa. 119:160; Exod. 17:14; 34:27; 2 Tim. 3:16)**  
God's Word is a primary means by which God reveals Himself and His will to humanity (**special revelation**).
- ❏ **God's Word is Inspired (2 Tim. 3:16)**  
The Bible is **inspired by God**—the Holy Spirit superintended the human authors so that what they wrote was God's Word without error in its original writings.<sup>1</sup>
- ❏ **God's Word is Authoritative (Isa. 40:8; 2 Pet. 1:21)**  
The Bible carries divine authority; it is the final standard for faith, doctrine, and Christian living.
- ❏ **God's Word is Inerrant and Truthful (Psalm 19:7-11)**  
In theology, God's Word is understood to be truthful and trustworthy in all it affirms, reflecting God's perfect nature.
- ❏ **God's Word is Sufficient (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:17; 2 Pet. 1:3)**  
Scripture contains all that is necessary for salvation and godly living; no additional revelation is required for these purposes. To quote the authors of "**Christ-Centered Exposition, Exalting Jesus in 2 Timothy**",

***God's Word shapes our beliefs as well as our lifestyle.....it meets our deepest needs. It transforms us from the inside out.***<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stephen Olford, *Basics for Believers* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor Books, 2003), 28-36.

<sup>2</sup> David Platt, Daniel Akin, and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition – Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy* (Nashville, TN; B&H Academic, 2013, 201).

❏ **God's Word is Clear and Precise (Psa. 119:105; Deut. 6:6-7; Acts 17:11)**

The essential teachings of Scripture are clear and understandable to believers, especially regarding salvation.<sup>3</sup>

❏ **God's Word is Unified (2 Tim. 3:16-17)**

Despite being written by 40 or so authors over centuries, Scripture has a unified theological message centered on God's redemptive work.

❏ **God's Word is Christ-Centered (Ge. 3:15; Luke 24:27)**

Theologically, all Scripture points to and finds fulfillment in Jesus Christ. I agree with **Bryan Chappel's** assessment. Chappel asserts,

*The Bible is not a self-help book. The Scriptures present one, consistent, organic message, they tell us how we must seek Christ who is alone is our Savior and source of strength to be and do what God requires<sup>4</sup>*

## **Symbols Used of God's Word**

Each of the following symbols reveals a different aspect of the **living Word of God**. They help us grasp its power, understand its purpose, and approach it with reverence and expectancy.<sup>5</sup>

- **A Lamp and a Light** - *"Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light for my path"* (**Psalm 119:105**) - God's Word illuminates our journey. In a world often wrapped in confusion, fear, and moral uncertainty, the Bible shines a guiding light. It shows us where we are, where we are going, and how to walk in righteousness.
- **Fire** - *"Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD...* – **Jeremiah 23:29** - Fire purifies, refines, and consumes. God's Word burns away impurities, ignites passion, and judges unrighteousness. It exposes what needs to change and empowers us to live transformed lives.
- **A Hammer** - *"...like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"* (**Jeremiah 23:29**) - God's Word shatters pride, demolishes lies, and breaks through even the hardest hearts as it thunders, confronting us with truth we need to hear.
- **Rain and Snow** - *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven... so is my word... it will not return to me empty..."* (**Isaiah 55:10-11**). Like rain brings growth and life to the earth, God's Word nourishes and brings fruit in its season. Every time His Word goes out, it fulfills its divine purpose—never wasted, always effective.
- **A Sword** - *"The word of God is... sharper than any double-edged sword..."* (**Hebrews 4:12**) - God's Word penetrates deep. It discerns the thoughts and intentions

<sup>3</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999), 50-51.

<sup>4</sup> Bryan Chappel, *Christ-Centered Preaching* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994), 271.

<sup>5</sup> Christian Life Today, *Symbols of the Word of God*. www.christianlifetoday.co.uk

of our hearts. It cuts through deception, self-justification, and sin, bringing truth and healing.

- **Bread** - “*Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4) - Just as physical bread sustains the body, God’s Word sustains our spirit. Daily engagement with Scripture nourishes our faith, strengthens our soul, and satisfies our deepest hunger.
- **Water** - “...*washing with water through the word*” (Ephesians 5:26) – God’s Word cleanses, restores, and refreshes. Like a spiritual shower, it renews our minds and hearts. It prepares us to walk in holiness and washes away the residue of sin and the world.
- **Seed** - “*The seed is the word of God*” (Luke 8:11) - God’s Word carries life within it. When planted in the soil of a receptive heart, it grows, bears fruit, and multiplies. The seed may seem small, but it contains divine potential for transformation and abundance.
- **A Mirror** - “*Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror...*” (James 1:23) - The Bible reflects who we truly are—*not who we pretend to be*. It reveals our spiritual condition and urges us to be changed, not just informed.
- **The Sword of the Spirit** - “...*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Ephesians 6:17) - In spiritual warfare, the Word is our weapon. It is not just for defense; it is for offense. When used rightly, it pushes back darkness and defeats the enemy’s lies.

## **The Role of God’s Word for the Christian:**

- **God’s Word Reveals Who God Is** (2 Timothy 3:16, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*”).

God’s Word is not just a book—it is God speaking to humanity. Through Scripture, we learn God’s character: His love, holiness, justice, mercy, and faithfulness. Without God’s Word, we would rely on opinions or feelings instead of truth.

- ② **Who God Is**: The Bible reveals God’s character—*His love* (1 John 4:8), *holiness* (Isaiah 6:3), *faithfulness* (Lamentations 3:22-23), and *justice* (Deuteronomy 32:4).
- ② **God’s Plan for Humanity**: It explains God’s purpose for creation, humanity’s fall, and His plan for redemption through Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15; John 3:16).
- ② **Knowing God Personally**: Through Scripture, believers come to understand God’s heart and deepen their personal relationship with Him (Jeremiah 29:13).
- **God’s Word Gives Direction for Life** (Psalm 119:105, “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*”).

Life often brings confusion, challenging decisions, and uncertainty. God’s Word guides us, showing us how to live, love others, handle challenges, and make wise choices. Just as a lamp helps someone walk safely in the dark, God’s Word helps us **walk rightly in a broken world**.

- ☐ **Spiritual Nourishment**: Just as physical food sustains the body, the Word sustains the spirit, as Christ makes clear in Matthew 4:4.<sup>6</sup>
  - ☐ **Faith Building**: Faith is strengthened by hearing and meditating on God’s Word (Romans 10:17). This growth enables believers to trust God in all circumstances.
  - ☐ **Sanctification**: The Word sanctifies believers, setting them apart for God’s purposes (John 17:17).
- **God’s Word Strengthens Our Faith** (*Romans 10:17, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God”*).

Reading and hearing God’s Word builds faith, especially during trials. When we know God’s promises, we are less shaken by fear, doubt, or circumstances.

- ☐ Scripture is the primary way God reveals Himself (Psalm 19:7–11).
  - ☐ *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (Romans 10:17)
  - ☐ Hearing aligns our thinking with God’s thinking, cutting through the noise of competing voices (John 10:27).
  - ☐ When we regularly expose our ears and hearts to God’s word, we let His unchanging truth recalibrate our worldview, fueling steady, growing faith.
- **God’s Word Transforms Our Lives** (*Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is alive and active... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”*).

God’s Word does not just inform us—it changes us. It convicts us of sin, encourages repentance, and helps us grow in holiness.

- ☐ Romans 12:2, Paul writes: ***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*** This verse reminds us that when we read and apply the Bible in our lives, it renews our minds and helps us to conform to God’s will, rather than the ways of the world.
- ☐ Isaiah 55:11 says, ***“So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall***

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<sup>6</sup> John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary – New Testament* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1983), 26, “*The fact that Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy showed that He recognized the inerrant authority of that book, one often criticized by scholars.*”

***prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*** This Bible verse reminds us that God’s word is powerful and always accomplishes what He intends for it to do.

- ❑ 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul writes: ***“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful.....so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*** The apostle Paul makes it clear that every word in the Bible comes from God, not man! Every word.
  - ❑ Proverbs 30:5 says ***“Every word of God is flawless.....”*** This Bible verse is so powerful because it reminds believers that the Bible is the word of God. Man can know God only because He has revealed Himself through the written Word, the infallible Scriptures.<sup>7</sup>
- ***God’s Word Is Our Defense Against Sin (Psalm 119:11, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you”).***

Knowing Scripture helps us recognize temptation and resist it. Jesus Himself used God’s Word to overcome temptation (Matthew 4).

- ❑ Defensive Weapon: Ephesians 6:17 describes the Word as *“the sword of the Spirit,”* used to combat spiritual attacks.
- ❑ Jesus’ Example: In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus countered Satan’s temptations by quoting Scripture, showing its power in resisting sin.
- ❑ Victory Over Sin: Memorizing and meditating on Scripture helps believers overcome temptation and live in obedience (Psalm 119:11).

## **Conclusion and Challenging Applications**

God’s Word is essential for knowing God, living wisely, growing in faith, and being transformed. It is not optional for believers—it is foundational.

- ❑ To know God personally, we must spend time in His Word (Col. 3:16, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.....”*).
- ❑ A weak connection to God’s Word often leads to weak faith (Rom. 10:17).
- ❑ When we obey God’s Word, our thoughts, actions, and attitudes begin to reflect Christ (Heb. 4:11-13 – *the challenging transformational power of God’s Word*).
- ❑ The more God’s Word is in our hearts, the stronger we are spiritually (Psa. 119:28, *“My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word”*).

### **RESOURCES:**

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<sup>7</sup> John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary – Old Testament* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1985), 969.

- Bryan Chapell, *Christ-Centered Preaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.
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