
The Power of the Word of God Thought Conditioners

Millions of Christians are living far beneath their rights and privileges as children of God because they fail to pay the price of constantly studying God's Word in order to find out exactly what their rights and privileges are and how to attain them in their lives.

A true revelation of God's Word is the single most important element of a victorious Christian life.

God's Word is the highest and best way of hearing from God. If you delight in the Word of God, you will have a consuming passion to continually learn everything you can from God's supernatural book of instructions.

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. Proverbs 4:20-23

Only when we have heard, received and renewed our minds to the Word of God is the truth in us. This is the foundation for a prosperous soul. We must accept God's Word as the highest and the final authority. It is higher than religious traditions, church decrees, family and cultural traditions and every other order of life. God has exalted His Word even above His name. (Ps. 138:2.) Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God will stand forever.

There is only one thing that is needful and that is the Word of God. It is the one thing that a believer cannot successfully do without.

If you will attend to the Word and spend time in it, every other situation in your life will be taken care of because of the faith, knowledge and wisdom that come from God's Word.

Receive the Word. The power and blessing that you get out of the Word of God is according to how you receive it. You must receive it literally as God talking to you, as the Word of God and the authority in your life. You must decide that whatever you see in the Word you will act on. If you receive just a little here and a little there, thinking, "Well, now, that could be true," you will get nothing from the Word.

We have very little control over our emotions, but we do have control over our thoughts, and our thoughts determine our feelings and our responses. That is why it is so important that you fill your mind with the knowledge of God and his Word. You need to see life from God's perspective and respond accordingly.

The Bible tells us that spiritual power has been affecting this physical world ever since time began. In fact, it was spiritual power released in the form of God's Word that brought this natural world into existence in the first place.

The Word of God is infinitely above anything on this earth. The Word of God is filled with precious supernatural spiritual seeds that are filled with the living power of God Himself. If you continually plant these precious seeds from God's Word in your heart, you actually are planting the power of Almighty God deep down inside of yourself.

If God's Word is planted in your heart, you'll receive. It doesn't matter what you feel — God's Word will produce a miracle.

Do you “love” the Word of God so much that “it is your meditation all the day?” Do you love the Word of God so much that you cannot get enough of it? Do you find that you have an insatiable hunger for the supernatural living Word of God?

The psalmist meditated on the Word of God to imprint God’s instructions in his heart. He had a deep desire to follow “the paths of life marked out” by the Word of God. The psalmist “delighted himself” in God’s Word. He meditated on the Word of God continually so that he “would not forget” God’s Word.

As you faithfully obey your Father’s instructions to meditate continually on His Word the Holy Spirit will honor your obedience by giving you increased revelation on the Scripture you are meditating on. The Word of God is vastly different from books written by human beings. The Holy Spirit can and will illuminate the holy Scriptures and cause them to come alive in a fresh and new way, no matter how many times you have meditated on the same passage of Scripture.

God's Word promises to give wisdom to the simple. God's Word will make you wise even if you have been ignorant in the past. You don't have to submit to the lie that says, well, my mind just isn't as bright as somebody else's. The Word of God will quicken your thinking and give you understanding.

The Best Heaven Has to Offer

The Bible is God’s map of principles that will get us where we want to go—both in day-to-day living and eternally. All the philosophies of the world have proven inadequate and bring failure. The world’s broken marriages, children, economy and nations are evidence of that. And while the Word of God may not be popular, it alone gives the principles that guide human beings on how to have happy families, healthy lives and fulfilled destinies. If we will renew our way of thinking according to the principles in the Bible, we will find the freedom in life we so desperately need.

Jesus gave the Church the best heaven had to offer to clean us up and straighten us up! We get clean by the Word! We get sanctified by the Word! We get better by the Word! We get stronger by the Word! We get bigger by the Word! But it can’t and won’t happen unless we renew our minds ourselves with the Word.

What Is the Value of the Word?

God's Word is worth far more than gold, even much fine gold. The Word of God is better than honey. How would you treat God's word if you truly desired it more than money – even large amounts of it – and more than your favorite food?

You'd be able to say along with Job, “I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” (Job 23:12) If you were to seek God through his Word like that, your life would be transformed.

How much benefit would it be to your life if you could be warned before you get into a problem, pursue an ungodly relationship, take the wrong job, buy the wrong car, do something that damages your health, or take a wrong turn? How much would it be worth to you if you could see problems before they came so that you could take evasive action? That's exactly what the Word of God will do. In keeping God's Word there is great reward!

I encourage you to take the Word of God and center your life around it. Meditate on the Word day and night. As you do, the Word will cause change to come in your life effortlessly. It will be automatic. As you renew your mind to God's Word, you too will begin to prove – make manifest to your physical senses – God's good, acceptable, and perfect will.

God’s Word is alive!

God watches over His Word to perform it.

His presence is ever over His Word to bring it to pass.

If you aren't experiencing the abundance and victory that the Lord has promised, it's not God who has failed. Praying longer and petitioning harder won't change anything. You must take the incorruptible seed of God's Word and keep on planting it in the garden of your heart.

You will become what you think. (Proverbs 23:7) The reason most people have the problems they do is because they aren't controlling their thinking. Unless you do something specifically to keep your mind on the Lord, it will naturally go somewhere else. There just aren't very many things outside of God's Word that reflect God – pointing us toward and drawing us closer to Him. However, the Word of God is pure light. (Psalm 19:8) When you study and meditate on God's Word, it changes the way you think. As our thinking changes, so does our life. That's why we must get to where we are dominated by the Word of God.

A Sure Foundation

The Word of God often refers to itself as a seed. There are a total of forty-four verses in the New Testament where the Greek word sperma was translated “seed.” This is the same word from which we derive our English word “sperm.”

To conceive and give birth, whether it's for a miracle you need in your body or for the vision God has given you, you must first plant God's Word like a seed in your heart. Conception, which eventually produces the fruit, cannot take place without first planting a seed.

**Take God's Word like a seed, and begin to plant it in your heart and it
will literally begin to release supernatural blessing/favor into your life.**

I constantly meet Christians who pray and believe for God's intervention in their lives, but remain frustrated with their results. Why? Because they have never conceived their miracles by planting the seed of God's Word in their hearts. That's like a woman who prays to get pregnant and then is confused when it doesn't come to pass even though she has never had a relationship with a man. The seed has to be planted for conception to take place.

In Mark 4, the Lord taught three parables that illustrate that the Word is to the kingdom of God what a natural seed is to a harvest. The first of these parables, the story of the sower, is the key to unlocking all the others (Mark 4:13). If we don't understand these truths, Jesus said, we won't understand any of His other parables.

There are many life-changing truths in these parables, but one fact must be understood to get the full benefit of this teaching: The Lord used the comparison of His Word to a law of nature, which is unchangeable, not an institution of man.

Here's what I mean: Nearly all systems that people have created can be cheated or manipulated. The legal system can be beaten, letting the guilty go free. The educational system can be beaten, passing students who haven't really learned the material. But the process of seedtime and harvest can't be changed.

What if a farmer waited until he saw his neighbors reaping their crops before he sowed his seed? Regardless of how sincere he was or the justification for not sowing his seed at the proper time, he would not reap a crop overnight. The law of seedtime and harvest cannot be violated.

This is why our Lord chose to compare the way His Word works to a seed. The germination process of the Word of God in your life takes time and can't be avoided.

In the second parable of Mark 4, Jesus said, “So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come” (Mark 4:26-29).

The seed is the Word of God (Mark 4:14), and the ground is our hearts (Mark 4:15). Our hearts were created by God to bring forth fruit when His Word is planted in them. Just as a seed has to remain in the ground over time to germinate, so the Word of God has to abide in us.

Jesus said in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

What would happen if you planted a seed in your garden and then dug it up each morning to see if anything was happening? It would die and never produce fruit. You have to have faith that the seed is doing what God created it to do.

Some people put God's Word in their hearts for a day or two, but if they don't see fruit almost immediately, they dig up the seed through their words and actions and wonder why it didn't work. It must be left in the ground over time. Then, there are also different stages of growth.

Mark 4:28 says, "First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

Many people are impatient, wanting to bypass the growth cycle and get the full ear right now. I've actually had to tell people what they were believing God for was not going to happen, not because the vision wasn't good, but because they were expecting a complete ear of corn immediately.

God's kingdom operates on laws, like the laws that govern the fruit-bearing process of a seed. God will not give you the full ear of corn if you haven't seen the first blade. That's the way God's kingdom works.

This is precisely the reason most people don't see God's best come to pass in their lives. They have lottery faith. They think that since God loves them, He will just grant their request regardless of whether they put the miracle of the seed to work or not.

God ordained that those who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel (1 Cor. 9:14). Even ministers must live from the fruit of what they sow. Over many years, as I taught the Word of God to hundreds and thousands of people, the seeds of those words took root. The fruit of God's Word and our efforts came in the form of changed lives and a desire in the hearts of those who had experienced this change to help others.

This law of seedtime and harvest operates in every area of our lives. If we will plant God's Word in our hearts, then allow the seed to germinate and the plant to grow to maturity, we will reap the fruit of a harvest. That is God's best!

I cannot tell you strongly enough how important it is that you know God's Word and that you plant the seed of His Word in your heart long before you need the fruit of the harvest. It could mean the difference between prosperity and poverty, health and sickness, peace and depression or even life and death.

We need to go beyond the "touchy-feely," emotion-based thinking that many mistake for faith. It's not about what you feel; it's about what has been planted in your heart and what will come to full fruit. It's understanding the power and importance of God's Word in your life – the foundation to receiving the promises of God.

**The forces of life and power coming out of your heart will be
in direct proportion to the amount of the Word going into you.**

Jesus said, "If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening, and perceive and comprehend. And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you, and more [besides] will be given to you who hear" (Mark 4:23-24, The Amplified Bible).

We measure to ourselves the blessing of the Lord by the attention, respect and heed we give to His Word. If you give just a little heed to God's Word, that is all you are going to receive. If you give total heed and attention to God's Word, the power that comes back to you will be great and it will produce results in your life.

To prosper in the faith walk, you must first make a decision that God's Word does not fail. If the Word of God does not seem to be working for you, it is not God's fault. There is something you don't know. More than likely, you are just not standing firm. The Bible says, "And having done all, to stand. Stand therefore."

We're instructed twice in Ephesians 6:13-14 to "stand." That's all. It doesn't say how long. If you catch yourself saying, "Well, the Word is not working for me," then you can know automatically that you are not standing.

**You must have a steadfast faith when it comes to God's Word. If it is not steadfast, it is not faith.
One thing you must know is: GOD'S WORD DOES NOT FAIL!**

Doubt and Unbelief

God wants to move in and through your life in miracles, healings, deliverance, and prosperity. Everything that God is, is now available to you through His Word. You don't have to beg and plead, and then just passively sit back and wait to see what God will do. The Bible calls that unbelief.

Doubt will rob you of God's blessings. Unbelief will rob you and leave you sick. There is only one thing that can stop doubt and unbelief in the heart of a man and that is the Word of God. When a person receives the Word, doubt, defeat and discouragement have to leave. Don't hang on to any doubt or unbelief. Don't even dwell on it. Let the Word of God expel it.

He could do no mighty works because of their unbelief (Mark 6:5-6).

I absolutely refuse to feed my spirit on doubt and unbelief because I know that my very life depends on the faith of God in my spirit. I will not sit under any teacher or preacher who puts doubt and unbelief in my spirit. What you feed into your spirit is a matter of life and death, a matter of victory and defeat. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Doubt comes by hearing unbelief. It is important what you hear.

When we believe God's Word, put it first place, and do whatever it says to do, no doubt or tradition or unbelief can hold us back.

God is wanting vessels that He can use—not vessels tied down by the traditions of men and the things of the world. He wants men and women that He can work through freely. To be that vessel unto honor requires our decision to cooperate with God's Word, to get in line with it and purge ourselves from the things that would rob us of the power of God.

Effortless Change

If you would go to the Word of God, making it your absolute authority and viewing it as God speaking to you, then the Word will overcome any doubt you have. God's Word will confirm everything you need to know. It's the highest and best way of hearing from God.

The whole kingdom of God – the Christian life, your victory, your success as a believer – is as simple as taking the Word of God and sowing it in your heart. If you will just cooperate and let the Word of God germinate, you will change effortlessly.

People who never planted any seeds are disappointed and surprised that they don't have a garden. They wonder, why am I not healed? Why haven't I prospered? Why hasn't God answered this prayer? Why are my relationships

falling apart? Why can't I hold down a job? Why is it nothing in my life ever seems to work? They've been praying and asking God for all of these things, but they haven't taken his Word and the promises therein and sewn these truths in their life.

Many of these people have come to me and said, "I prayed and asked God to heal me." I've asked them, "what Scriptures are you standing on for being healed? What promise or promises – seed from God's word – have you sown into your life to produce that healing?" They've answered, "I don't know what the Word says. I just know that it's God's will. I believe that God wants to heal me." But they don't have a Scripture to stand on. They don't have a promise. They haven't sown his Word into their heart!

The number one reason why people aren't receiving from God is because they literally haven't taken the truths of his Word and planted them in their heart.

This is why people aren't experiencing the victory they are praying for and desiring and begging and pleading for God to give them. This is why the Lord used this kind of a parable of a sower and his seed. He wants us to understand how His kingdom works. The sower sows the Word of God. This seed he's talking about is not a physical seed. Rather, the Word of God is like a seed.

The kingdom of God works from this truth that the Word of God is a seed. Just like in the natural realm, you must plant seeds to produce a crop. You can't have a forest without planting any seeds.

You can't have victory in your life without the Word of God being planted in your heart. It's simple, but it's true. This is how the kingdom of God works.

If you humble yourself and receive this truth, it will provide you with an answer to why you aren't seeing any more victory in your life than you are. It will explain why you aren't seeing more of the power of God at work. The average person isn't meditating in the Word of God. They aren't spending time – both quality and quantity amounts of time – in God's Word. The average person doesn't have a good understanding of the Word of God.

The Word of God must be revelation to you. It has to be alive in you. It never will be if you haven't taken the promises like a seed, planted them in your heart, meditated on them, and seen the Word of God work.

You're wondering, why isn't God answering my prayer? He's given us the seeds but we haven't planted them! That's like someone praying over their ground and saying, "God, why haven't you let the garden grow?" They didn't plant the seeds!

Four Stages of Fruitfulness

The Lord clearly describes four different types of people's hearts, and how the Word of God interacts with their heart to bring forth fruit – or not. I believe he was also describing four different stages towards fruitfulness.

First, you go through a stage where you hear the Word of God but your heart isn't set on it. You aren't seeking after the things of God. The Word goes in one ear and out the other. That's the first type of person.

The second type of person gets excited about the Word, but they don't have root in themselves. The end result is they don't bear fruit either

The third type of person gets excited about the Word, and it takes root. The Word of God begins to germinate and start producing life in them, but then they get distracted by the things of this world. (Mark 4:19)

The fourth type of person is the one who really nurtures and takes care of the Word of God. They focus on it and aren't distracted by the things of this world. So they produce a bountiful harvest. (Mark 4:20)

If you're one of this first type of people depicted in this parable, the Word of God just doesn't mean anything to you. You can hear it and it's gone before you even think about it. You just can't seem to retain God's Word. It's not time for you to pray and ask God to speak louder. It's time for you to change your heart and start focusing on the things of the Lord.

Rooted and Established

There is a period of being rooted in the Word that's necessary for you to be able to produce fruit. There really needs to be a period of time where you take those truths you've learned and, no matter how much they've excited you, let them take root on the inside of you.

In the spiritual realm, many people don't like the root stage. They don't like letting a truth from the Word of God take root on the inside of them and get established in their heart. They just want to skip all this and get right to the fruit as quickly as they can. Therefore, they don't have very much depth in their life. Their heart isn't totally committed to the truth they received.

If you want to be someone who really produces fruit and sees the Word of God work, it's not going to happen overnight. You can't microwave your miracle. It takes time. There is seed, time and harvest. Actually, sometimes it is seed, T – T – T – I – I – I – M – M – M – E – E – E and then harvest. It takes a period of time.

You have to let God's Word just stay rooted on the inside of you. You can't back off of it. You must keep digging and looking for greater revelation.

Failure to let the Word of God take root on the inside is probably the number one reason why people aren't seeing greater freedom manifest in their life. They just aren't giving it time.

Satan would love to get you to where you don't have any depth of root in your life. Then he can come against you and just steal the Word. He wants to pull it up before it ever gets rooted. However, if you grow a good root system, you'll be able to stand despite all the troubles, trials, and hardships that come in your life.

I was more concerned about all of this growth above ground, which is the way most people are. They want some visible results – something physical, something tangible. They desire to see lives being changed, people healed, and all kinds of other fruit. However, before all of this growth can occur above ground, the vast majority of growth must take place underground in the root system. It's actually the root system that determines how big the plant or tree above ground will be.

Once I made this decision to attend to my root system, I actually quit worrying about the visible results to a large degree. Instead, I focused on taking the Word of God and keeping it in my heart. I knew that if I kept God's Word dwelling on the inside of me, instead of just allowing it to come in and out, that it would literally begin to put down roots through every part of my being and the power of the Word would start permeating me.

All the good in my life has come as the seed of God's Word has taken root in my heart and produced fruit. Once that seed has taken root, it just produces. What an awesome truth.

He Knows Not How

In the same way you plant a seed in the ground and don't really know what's happening to make it grow, so it is The Power of the Word of God – Thought Conditioners

with the Word. “So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, **he knows not how.**” (Mark 4:26)

Despite all our knowledge, mankind has not been able to figure out why a seed does what it does. It does what it does just because God created it that way. However, even though we don't understand all of the specifics, that doesn't keep us from taking seeds and planting them in the ground.

This is a tremendous comfort to me. I don't have to understand everything about how the Word works. I don't have to understand why just shutting myself in with the Lord, studying his Word, and listening to Him speak to me does what it does. The fact that I can't totally explain it doesn't keep me from cooperating and reaping the benefits of it.

Just start sowing the Word into your heart. Begin meditating on it day and night. The Word of God will germinate, take root, spring forth and grow up of itself.

God put life in those seeds. Man cannot figure it out, but God spoke life into physical seeds. He's also spoken life into the spiritual seed of his Word.

Proverbs 4:20–22 says, “My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they, God's words, our life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

God's Word contains His life in it. If you would take His Words, His sayings, and put them on the inside of you, then God's kind of life would start flowing through you. You would find that healing, prosperity, joy, peace – everything Jesus provided – are contained in God's Word.

The Bible isn't like any other book. It's different. It's alive.

“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)

God's Word is alive. It's different than reading any other book – even books about the Bible. The Word of God is different. There is life in it. If you take it, the Word will give you life where there's been death. It gives light where there was darkness. It's that simple.

We need to believe the power and authority that's in God's Word. If you understand what I'm saying, then you will realize that the most important thing you could ever do is just take God's Word and begin planting it in your life.

The Word has to be in your heart for it to begin to release that life. You can't just read it with your eyes and take a little truth into your brain. You have to put it deep down on the inside of you. You must meditate on the Word until it literally takes root on the inside of you. That's when it will just start supernaturally producing.

Jesus is saying that the kingdom of God is like a man that takes a seed and puts it in the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day. This implies time. You have to exercise patience.

You can't just take a promise, plant it, and expect to receive and reap a harvest right away. You can't just hear 1 Peter 2:24 for the first time, then confess “by his stripes I am healed. I claim it in the name of Jesus,” and then if

you aren't healed in the next 10 minutes, go dig that seed up by saying, "well, nothing's happening." And then the next day, you go back and do it again. That's not abiding in the Word, and letting the Word abide in you. (John 15:5)

You must come to a place where the Word is just part of you. It's not something you study for a little bit and then go out and live your whole day contrary to it. I'm not against specific devotion and prayer times, but you need to keep focused on the Lord and his Word all day long. It does you no good to spend 10 or 20 minutes in "devotion time," being sweet and kind and listening to God, but then once it's over you go back to being a piranha the rest of the day – being just as mean, angry, and vicious in your relationships and business dealings as anyone else in the world. You may have planted the Word in your devotion time, but you dug that Word up. It's not working on the inside of you. It's not staying in your heart, and because of that, you aren't going to see it produce. It takes more than that.

You can't just consider God's Word during your devotion time and expect that to all of a sudden change the way you act that day. You must abide in the Word and allow the Word to abide in you, for it to release its power and impact your life.

Yet many people are trying church, trying prayer lines, and trying everything else except taking God's Word and meditating on it, and they're wondering why they aren't getting the results they desire. This truth is so simple to understand, you have to have somebody help you misunderstand it.

You take the Word of God, put it in your heart, leave it there, meditate on it, and it just produces!

Life and Power

We are going to the Lord as a beggar instead of as a son who has already received his inheritance. Instead of claiming what is rightfully ours, we are begging for what He could do but hasn't done. We think it's God's responsibility, it's His turn to fix this problem, when the truth is that God has done his part. He gave us the seeds of his Word, which will grow the solution to our problem. He's given words that have life to them. All you have to do is take that Word, stand on it, and begin to release the life that is in that seed – the Word of God.

Do you want to see the power of God? Do you want to see change manifest in your life? God has spoken his Word. He has released his life and power by His words. Every word that comes from God is a faith filled word and has the power in it to change everything.

God is going to speak words out of His mouth, and those words will have much life in them. The Word of God will be the greatest display of power in the history of the universe, and he's given it to us. The Lord will destroy his enemies and set everything straight by His Word. We have that same Word right now.

**What you need to do is take the Word of God, plant that seed in your heart, and let it grow.
Then the supernatural life and miraculous power of God will come right up out of the midst of you.**

Meditate the Word

When I studied the Word of God, the Lord imparted truth to me. I could tell that change was happening in my life. I heard the Lord tell me, "if you will take my Word and meditate on it day and night, then My Word will teach you everything you need to know. My Word will change everything." (Andrew Wommack)

From that time forward, I just poured myself into the Word of God. I immersed myself for long periods of time in God's Word.

God is no respecter of persons. If you put His Word first place in your life and meditate on it on a consistent basis, it will change you.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth. (Joshua 1:8) Instead of “this book of the law”, we can say, the Bible, the Word of God.

The Word of God shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou may observe to do according to all that is written therein, for then thou shall make thy way prosperous, and then thou shall have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

Let's start at the end of this verse and work back. Most people want to be prosperous and have good success. Yet, I find it amazing that the vast majority of people bypass the first part of this verse. They'll spend their prayer time asking God to "please prosper my business, please cause my marriage to succeed, please heal my body," but they won't do what the Word says.

Joshua 1:8 reveals that the way you get prosperity and good success in every area of your life is to take the Word of God and meditate on it to the great degree that it saturates what you think about, what you talk about, and how you act. When God's Word literally begins to control your life, you will prosper and have good success physically, emotionally, relationally, financially – in every area.

As you meditate on the Word, faith rises. Many people missed this increase in faith because they read the Word, but don't meditate on it. Everyone reading this may not be able to spend large quantities of time in the Word but everyone can meditate on it day and night.

Regardless of what your circumstances or problems are, you're never more than one Word from God away from absolute victory. The Lord knows exactly where you are and how to get you to where you're supposed to be. All you need is just the slightest instruction, and the impartation of God's wisdom. All you need is a Word from God!

Receive Wisdom from Heaven through the Word of God

We will increase our ability to receive God's wisdom if we continually fill our minds and our hearts with the living Word of God. We are able to receive God's wisdom from the Word of God because every passage of Scripture in the Bible has been given to us by the inspiration of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The inspired Word of God contains numerous instructions from our Father that tell us exactly how He wants us to live our lives. The holy Scriptures show us the mistakes that many people will make if they fail to obey God's instructions. We have been given a standard of measurement for every area of our lives so that we can see where we err. We can learn to make the necessary corrections based upon specific instructions from God.

The Bible is God's training course for a righteous life. It shows us how to live each day in the righteousness that has been provided for us by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Father shows us in His Word how to live a holy life in conformity to the individual plan He has for each of our lives.

The Bible is very different from books written by human authors. The apostle Paul and the other human authors of the Bible received the words they wrote by receiving revelation that came directly from Jesus Christ. Paul said, "...I want you to know, brethren, that the Gospel which was proclaimed and made known by me is not man's gospel [a human invention, according to or patterned after any human standard]. For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ (the Messiah)" (Galatians 1:11-12).

One way to be absolutely certain that the holy Scriptures are inspired by God is to study prophecies in the Word of God that were later fulfilled. As you read these examples, you can see for yourself that God really did inspire every word in the Bible. Who else but God could write a Book where so many prophecies were fulfilled exactly as they were prophesied?

God Speaking

God isn't wringing his hands and wondering how he can pull a situation out for you. There is a simple solution for every situation. Our biggest problem is our inability to hear God's voice. The way we know what God is saying is through His Word. If we would get into the Word of God and meditate on it, the Lord would speak to us. He could give us wisdom and direction.

In Proverbs, chapter 1, Solomon described why he wrote the book that would follow: "To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding; to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; to give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion." (Proverbs 1:2-4)

Solomon said the book of Proverbs was meant to give wisdom to the simple and understanding to those who don't have any. Then he spoke about the good this wisdom and understanding will bring you and the bad it will help you avoid. The truths contained in the book of Proverbs alone will instruct you concerning all kinds of things.

Through God's Word, you can learn how to deal with people. You can gain wisdom if you are a boss, an employee, a salesperson or any occupation.

If you are a parent and you're struggling with your children, there is a wealth of information in the Bible. I have yet to run across a problem in life for which the Word of God doesn't provide an answer.

If you will take this Word, meditate on it, and put this knowledge on the inside of you, then the Holy Spirit will, at the appropriate time, quicken things to you and show you what to do.

The words contained in the Bible perfectly represent the heart of God. When I read the Word, I'm not reading a book about God. This is the Lord writing to me! Even some of these things that were said thousands of years ago to other people, He speaks to me afresh today.

Many people take God's Word for granted. They don't respect and honor it for what it is – God speaking to us. That's why they don't get the benefit out of it that I do. Believe me, God's Word has everything in it that you need to succeed. If we would simply do what the Word says, and meditate on it day and night, we would prosper and have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

The average person doesn't believe the truth that God's Word contains everything necessary for success. That's why they don't meditate on the Word of God day and night, which is the reason they're not prospering and succeeding more than they are.

Many Christians don't honor the Word of God by looking at it as literally God speaking to them. When they read it, they do it more out of religious obligation and duty. They don't read the Word expecting God to speak to them.

When I open up the Word of God, I literally view it as God talking to me – and he does. These are living words. The Bible is alive, it's not dead. (Hebrews 4:12) There's a difference between this book and any other book. That's why I choose not to read very much else. I might read one or two other books in a year.

My supreme desire is for the Word. Everything I need is right there in the Word of God.

I'm just going to become so single minded, so focused on the Word of God, that I don't have to have all these supplemental things.

Meditate on God's Word and try to relate it to different circumstances and situations. If you would do that, you would prosper more accidentally than you ever have on purpose.

“My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they, God's words, our life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.” (Proverbs 4:20–22)

You set your affections. This is a matter of your will. You set your mind on those things that gratify your flesh (five senses), or you set your mind on those things that gratify the spirit. God cannot do that part for you.

Place a high priority in value on the Word of God. Start taking each one of these words as being a direct word from God to you. Attend to it. Incline your ear to it. Then you'll start getting the results I'm describing.

God's Word is life. No matter how grave the situation you're in, God's Word is life and health to all your flesh!

Transformed

I don't have to be with you when you plant your garden to see what you've sown. All I have to do is be there when the crop grows up to know what you've planted. If you have death in your life – if you're depressed, discouraged, angry, or bitter – you haven't been meditating on the Word of God. Spiritual mindedness only produces life and peace.

Jesus said, “the words that I speak unto you they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)

Since God's Word is spirit, to be spiritually minded is to be Word of God minded. If you are Word of God minded, this will produce life and peace.

Some might say, but I've done all of these things, and I still have terrible problems in my life. I would say that you may have read the Word of God or heard somebody else quote it, but you haven't attended to it. You haven't inclined your ear and kept his sayings in the midst of your heart. (Proverbs 4:20–22)

You've let your eyes depart and focus on other things. If you do what God's Word says, it will produce the results that the Word said it will produce. Proverbs 4:20 – 22 reveals that God's Word will be life to those who find its sayings, and health to all their flesh.

Do I run to somebody every time I have an illness begin to fight against me? No, I go to the Word of God. Just like if you have a pain, you take a pill. If I have a pain, I take a GOS-PILL. I take the Word of God.

It's not good enough just to quote those Scriptures from memory. I go back and look them up again because of this principle. God's Word is life to those that find them, and health to all their flesh. (Proverbs 4:22) The Word of God is health to your flesh!

“He sent his Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions” (Psalm 107:20)

If I need healing in my body, I take the Word of God and meditate on it. I eat these words because they are life and health to my flesh. I may even quote these words, but I'll still go back to my Bible and study them. As I do, the Bible reveals that: "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

Even people who believe that God's Word is important, don't really live as though it is important. They don't meditate on the Word day and night. That's the reason they don't have good success and aren't prosperous.

It is the renewing of my mind through the Word of God that has completely, thoroughly, and totally transformed me. I attribute every bit of the power and victory that I've experienced to the Word of God becoming alive and speaking to me.

I poured myself into the Word of God. It's the revelation of God's word that has transformed my life and ministry, and the same can be true for you.

All 176 verses of Psalm 119 – the longest chapter in the bible- are about the importance of God's Word. Consider these excerpts from this marvelous chapter:

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. (Psalm 119:9)

Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. (Psalm 119:165)

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. (Psalm 19:7)

Scripture meditation is a vitally important spiritual key that allows us to receive manifestation of the power, ability and wisdom of God. I believe that we must obey our Father's instructions from Psalm 1 and Joshua 1 to meditate continually on His Word if we want to be free and fully partake of the many other blessings He has made available to us.

So many people carry around baggage – hurts and pains from years before – from all kinds of things like previous marriages, losses, disappointments, and broken relationships. They just never seem to recover. That's because they aren't taking the Word of God and properly using it in their life.

Psalm 19:7 tells us that, "God's word is perfect. It will convert your soul." It will restore you to your original God-intended condition. "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

God's Word makes wise the ignorant – people who don't think properly and make mistakes.

Do you know what God's Word says about those who are depressed and defeated? "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart." (Psalm 19:8)

If you aren't full of joy, peace, and rejoicing, the problem isn't your circumstances. (1 Peter 1:8) If you have ashes, mourning, and a spirit of heaviness instead of the oil of joy and the garment of praise it's due to the fact that there is a vacuum on the inside seeking to be filled. (Isaiah 61:3) You don't know the truth of God's Word. The statutes of the Lord are right, and they will rejoice your heart. If you are discouraged, take the Word of God. Start speaking the promises of God to yourself. You can get happy in a hurry.

The Word tells you who you are and what you have in Christ. It reveals spiritual truths and what's happening in the spiritual world. If you want

to experience life and peace, you need to be spiritually minded.

It is worth the effort of meditating on God's Word to be able to see clearly instead of having a negative perception that always makes every cup look half empty. What a benefit it is to be able to see the positive side and to see a way through everything. That's what the Word of God does.

The Absolute Authority

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness." (Galatians 5:22) But all somebody has to do is just say the slightest little thing to criticize you and you fall apart. Whatever has distracted you, it's time to pull your thumb out of your mouth and grow up! We need to recognize that the Word of God is what is supposed to operate in our life.

Get to where the Word of God becomes absolute authority in your life, and you aren't going to back off of it regardless of what anybody has or hasn't done. When you get that kind of an attitude and the Word of God begins to dominate you, then you will overcome doubt. You will be walking in faith.

Some people think that faith is having an absence of any problems, doubts, or fears. It's not. It's just learning how to reject these things and not let them control you as you take a stand on the Word of God.

A More Sure Word

Satan can also appear in the spiritual realm. You can see and hear things from him that could lead you astray. But if you go to the Word of God to hear from God, you'll be safe. The devil can't discredit God's word. The Word of God is the acid test for everything supernatural. It's the number one way of hearing from God.

The most authoritative thing that we could possibly share with you to validate the truth is the Word of God. The Word of God is greater than any other means for you to hear from God.

The Word of God is the strongest, most powerful way that we have to counter our fears and unbelief.

The problem is most people don't honor the written Word of God the way they would honor a prophecy or word of encouragement from a person, or some audible or visible sign. That's backwards, and it's precisely the reason we have so much doubt.

Spiritual Laws

God has established natural laws, and He's not going to break them. He's also established spiritual laws, and He won't break them either. God's Word tells us that the Lord has "sent his Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions" (Psalm 107:20) All through the Word are promises revealing God as our healer and provider and attesting to how He wants to meet our needs, but to see His healing and provision you must take God's Word and start planting it in your life.

The parable of the sower says that in the same way that there are laws that govern how a physical, natural seed has to be planted and germinate, there are laws that govern the spiritual realm. One of these laws is that the Word of God is a seed. If you want results in your life, you must plant the Word of God in your heart.

If you desire certain kingdom fruit in your marriage, relationships, finances, health, emotions – whatever it is – take the seeds (promises in God's Word that speak about those specific things) and plant them in your life. If you will give this seed the proper nourishment and take care of it the way this parable tells you to, then it's inevitable that you will reap the fruit you want.

If you want results in your life, you must go to the Word of God. You must take seeds – promises that talk about the fruit you want to produce – and start meditating on them. Over time, what you have desired comes to pass and you'll receive the harvest.

God's Word is Incorruptible

The seed produces the fruit, not the ground. It's the Word that brings forth the results. This was one of the first truths that God ministered to me out of this parable of the sower sowing the seed.

We are the ground. Our heart is where we either allow the Word of God to have its complete rule, or we can let the Word be choked by the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust for other things. Our heart can become hardened towards God and not give His seed a place to germinate. Our heart can affect the growth, but it's the seed – the Word of God – that brings forth fruit. All I am is ground. (Genesis 2:7) I'm just dirt – a place for the seed to germinate. I provide warmth and nutrients, but it's the Word that produces the fruit.

The Lord has given this revelation that it's not who I am, what I look like, or any other natural thing that will impact the world for Him. It's the Word of God that changes people's lives.

The Word of God has to be planted in your heart for you to effectively change. If you follow the instructions of this parable, you will find that change is as normal and natural as when a seed is planted in the ground and grows up. If you would take the Word of God and meditate on it day and night, it would change you. The Word would transform your life.

It's the Word of God that controls your thinking and transforms your life.

In the natural realm, it's possible to get seed, plant it, and not have it produce the desired results because the seed was bad. However, in the spiritual realm, God's Word is the seed, and its incorruptible.

Being incorruptible means God's Word always works. God's Word never fails. We may fail to understand and properly apply it. We may fail to take the corresponding actions it tells us to. But God's Word never fails.

Satan isn't really against you personally. He knows that on your own, you are nothing. You aren't going to be a threat to him or anybody else.

The Word of God will work the same for anyone. This seed wasn't the variable in any of these four instances. It was the ground. Now that fact is very, very important.

It doesn't matter who you think you are or what you think you have, apart from the Lord and his Word, you are never going to truly change this world and have a powerful impact for God's kingdom.

But if the Word of God ever starts taking root on the inside of you and growing up and producing, the devil has had it. Satan is petrified of the Word! He's going to come against the Word of God immediately and try to steal it out of your heart.

You have to be born again by the incorruptible seed of God's Word. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Peter 1:23

The Word of God is incorruptible seed. Satan does not have the power to stop it. Disease does not have the power to overcome it. In your life only you have the power to stop the Word from working.

It's never the Word's fault. The Word always produces. Just like natural seed, the Word has the power hidden within it to reproduce itself. As one minister said, "The Word is like natural seed. Everything depends on the treatment it gets."

God's Word is the seed. It must be planted in the ground of our heart. This is also like sowing a seed in the womb of a woman. You can't conceive a child apart from this seed being sown. There was only one virgin birth, and there isn't going to be another. You must get out of your prayer closet and sow the seed of God's Word.

Once you make a commitment to stand on the Word of God – when you determined that the Word is going to be number one in your life – don't be deceived into thinking that all of your problems are over. They've only just begun. However, if you will continue to stand on the Word of God and not give in, you'll be victorious. You'll be a winner, but it won't be without a fight.

Understanding

Understanding is what allows the seed to sink down inside you. Understanding allows the Word to penetrate your heart. It's the door that permits the Word to come into your life. If there isn't understanding, then the Word is never going to germinate. So the Word of God must be spoken in such a way that it's easy to understand.

Understanding is the doorway that allows the Word to get into your heart. If there isn't an understanding on your part, then the Word will be stolen from you immediately. Satan will come and take it away. The only people the devil can steal the Word from without any effort are the people who don't understand. You must understand the Word in order to receive it.

There are many people who have heard the Word of God, but they don't understand it. They hear Scriptures, but they don't have a clue what they mean. There is no spiritual understanding on the inside. Therefore, the Word doesn't release any of its life – any of its nourishment into their life.

The Word is Never the Variable

The parable Jesus gave in Mark 4 about the sower sowing the seed is one of the most foundational teachings of the Bible. In Mark 4:13, the Lord said that "if you don't understand this parable, you cannot understand any of the others." This passage is the key that unlocks the revelation of important foundational truths that you will use every day for the rest of your Christian life. It's truly that important.

Jesus was using the illustration of a man sowing seed which fell on four different types of ground. The kingdom of God is likewise.

God's Word is the seed that must be planted in our life to bear good fruit.

The Word of God is what brings change.

God's Word is never the variable. It has the same potential in every single person's life. What makes the Word produce differently isn't the seed itself, but rather the type of soil on which the seed finds itself. This parable illustrates four different types of hearts. The Word of God has the same potential to produce in every person's life, but the difference in fruitfulness is related to how we respond to the Word. This parable reveals that there is really only one type of response that will allow the seed of God's Word to fully produce its fruit.

Choked!

Today we are constantly bombarded not only by news and the problems of this world, but also by all kinds of entertainment. We have an abundance of television, movies, and video games. Also, it seems that on the job,

people are working harder than ever before. Americans are some of the biggest workaholics on the face of the earth. Individuals who work 40 hours a week are the exception. Most workers put in more. People are just pouring themselves into all this information and activity, and it will choke the Word of God.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that God wants us all to leave life and enter a monastery so we can just sit there and study the Word 24 hours a day. That's not what I'm talking about. However, I am saying that meditating in the Word takes time. It takes quantity time, not just "quality" time, for the Word to take root on the inside of us. Many of our lifestyles today are not considered conducive to the Word of God taking root in our life.

"Busyness" is not conducive to spirituality. There needs to be a balance in life, but most people aren't walking in it. Most of us are far too occupied with things other than God and his Word. If you were to ask the average person how they're doing, the majority of their responses would center around how busy they are.

According to Mark 4, it's "busyness" like this that will stop the Word of God from working in your life and producing fruit. You need time sitting and soaking in the Word of God for it to be able to release its power in your life.

A lifestyle where you are going fast and frantic all the time will stop God's Word from working in your life.

Working your job and spending time with your family are good and right in their place, but it's not good when we cram so much into our life that we have very little or no time left for God and his Word. You may be occupying your life with decent things – things that aren't immoral in or of themselves – but if you have no time to sit and meditate on the things of the Lord, it will stop the Word of God from working in your life.

I have to keep the main thing, the main thing!

If you are going to see effective change – the Word of God producing fruit in your life – you must start spending some quantity time fellowshiping with God through the Word. You have to take these truths, plant them, and keep them in your heart.

You may be one of these people who love God, place an importance on his Word, and want to see the fruit, but are so occupied with all kinds of good things that the seed of God's Word is being choked out in your life. Many Christians are simply involved in too much. They're constantly taxing their kids here there, and yonder, and they're involved in everything the church has to offer. If you're not careful, it will choke the Word of God and keep you from being productive. These things aren't bad – just natural.

Less Is Better

God showed me that it was the seed – the Word – that produced the fruit. And the ground that produces the best fruit wasn't the ground that had more, it was the ground that had less, less stones, less thorns, and less weeds. The real productive soil wasn't soil that had more than everything else; it was a soil that had less.

This told me that I didn't necessarily need all of these external talents that people normally put emphasis on in order to be fruitful. It's really just a matter of the heart. If I would rid myself of the stones, thorns, and weeds, I could bear much fruit. I just needed to eliminate the things that occupy my attention and devote myself completely to God. If I put the Word of God first place in my heart, then the Word will produce an abundant harvest in my life.

You may not feel like you're the sharpest knife in the drawer. You may be acutely aware that you have all kinds of liabilities that other people don't have. Yet, you can commit yourself to the Word of God and meditate on it until

God's Word takes deep root in your heart. You can refuse to allow anything else to divert your attention or sap the strength of your heart that could be going toward the Lord.

If you devote yourself completely to the Lord and his Word, God's Word will make you a success. It will cause fruit to come in whatever area He has called and anointed you to minister.

Every second you spend meditating in the Word of God and planting those seeds in your heart, you're starting in motion a process that cannot be stopped. Seeds are powerful.

God has put seeds in his Word. We need to take the seeds, plant them in our heart, and just leave them there. If we keep the Word of God fresh and alive on the inside of us, it'll continue benefiting us 20, 30, even 50 years from now, should the Lord tarry.

This is how the kingdom of God works. Once you understand this principle, you can take the Word of God, sow it in your life, and keep it there. Instead of being discouraged that it takes time to grow, you can be encouraged. Once you get this system going, and you've invested this time, the Word of God will just supernaturally change you. You'll be changed effortlessly by the Word of God. It'll just spring forth and grow up in your life. You'll be transformed.

The time you take getting God's Word rooted and grounded in you isn't wasted time. You will reap its rewards for the rest of your life.

Whose Report Will You Believe?

You need to get to where you believe God's report more than the worlds! You've crossed over into the spirit when God's Word dominates you more than what you can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel. Instead of letting the devil tell you what you can't do or somebody else saying that you'll die or your checkbook telling you you're in deep trouble again, you focus your attention on what God says about you, what He says you have, and what He says you can do. Once you do that, you'll find it'll break the dominion, the power, and the control of the flesh over you.

There was an incredible conflict between what I saw in my spirit through God's Word and what I felt in my physical body. My flesh and my spirit were fighting each other! I'm still in process, but I'm renewing my mind.

You overcome by being mindful of what God's Word says about you—especially the New Testament. When you're Word minded, you're spiritually minded because God's words are spirit and life (John 6:63). In your spirit, you're completely changed, eternal, sanctified, holy, and perfected forever. As Jesus is—so are you! If you'd dominate yourself with those thoughts, all it would produce is life and peace.

Whether you ever see your true spiritual potential released into your physical life or not depends on what you think (Rom. 12:2). If natural things—either sinful or just plain carnal—dominate and control your thoughts, you'll shut off the flow of God's Spirit through you. But if you dominate yourself with the truths of His Word and get beyond the natural limitations of your five senses, you can start releasing the supernatural life that's inside you.

You'll be able to experience a peace that passes understanding. Even when it seems like everyone's against you and everything's crashing in the physical realm, you'll enjoy God's supernatural peace as long as you stay focused on the Word. "And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

If you want to experience God's best, you must understand these truths concerning spirit, soul, and body. You have unlimited potential, but it's all in the spirit. The victory God's given you isn't in your flesh, it's in the part of you that's been born again. As you mature in the Christian life, you don't become less carnal; you just let less carnality dominate and manifest because you're yielded to the spirit instead.

It's not easy! In fact, changing your focus from the flesh to the spirit is one of the hardest things you'll ever do. It's a gradual, but total, reprogramming of your natural mind to agree with your spirit. Through renewing your mind to God's Word, you can become spiritually minded!

Will You Receive?

The question isn't, "Will God save you?" but "Will you accept His salvation?" The gift has been given, but will you receive it? It's the same with everything else in the Christian life! God has already healed, prospered, and delivered you. Yet most people beg and plead, attempting to manipulate and control God through prayer. Their underlying attitude is "How do I make God do something He's unwilling to do?" That's totally wrong! Prayer is not trying to twist God's arm to make Him do something. Prayer is receiving by faith what He has already done!

God's Word is absolutely true; it never fluctuates or varies. Never compromise on the truth of God's unwavering faithfulness. If you don't see something come to pass, it's not God's fault. It's your fault! I'm not trying to condemn you, but to bless, inform, and instruct you. If God's faithfulness is in question, then all of us are in trouble!

I believe God has done it whether you can see it or not, and it's up to us to manifest it.

Some people think, Well, when you did that, then God moved. No! God moved two thousand years ago in the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son. He instantly answered my prayer thirty minutes earlier, and His power had already been working. We just hadn't directed it right. We hadn't yet spoken to the mountain!

Power & Authority

(Example of a lady trying to get pregnant without having sex....) Didn't anybody tell her the facts of life! Don't they understand how things work? Yet this is exactly what many Christians are doing in other areas of life. They are asking God for healing, but they aren't doing what the Word says. God's Word says to speak to your mountain.

"Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."
Mark 11:23

That's one of God's laws. Yet, people aren't doing what the Word says and they wonder why hasn't God healed me yet? That's just as foolish as a woman who prays constantly to get pregnant without having any relationship with a man, and then when nothing happens, says, "Why hasn't God given me a child yet?" God gave us power and authority in this area.

This power and authority God has given us comes with responsibility.

A Legal, Binding Contract

Most people don't see the kingdom of God as operating under law. Instead, they see it as being directly under the Lord, and they think He often changes His moods. They'll say things like, "You never know what God is going to do," and "You can't put God in a box." God is definitely bigger than—and outside of—the little "box" you've tried to contain Him in, but He has also established spiritual laws that even He will not break.

Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. Psalm 138:2

Although many scriptures reveal the power of the name of Jesus, God has magnified His Word even above His name. The name of Jesus is powerful because He never breaks His Word. When God says something, it becomes a legal, binding contract.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that
The Power of the Word of God – Thought Conditioners

every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil. 2:9-11 NKJV

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. (Psalm 89:34) When God speaks something out of His mouth, His Word is a covenant. It's a contract He will not break.

Jesus upholds "all things by the word of his power" (Heb. 1:3). In other words, our entire universe is held together by the integrity and power of God's Word. If He were to ever break a promise or otherwise violate His Word, this whole world, the universe, and you and I would all self-destruct. It's God's integrity that holds everything together.

Ignorant of What's Been Provided

(Story of man on ship across Atlantic only ate his own cheese and crackers when the ticket provided access to the banquet room...) So many Christians are the same way. They are ignorant of the abundant life God has given us. Consequently, they live without enjoying many of the salvation benefits Jesus died on the cross to provide. Because they are unaware of what the Word says, Satan has them convinced, "You aren't really going to be blessed by God. You'll just have barely enough to get by."

Are you aware of what the Word promises you concerning prosperity? Deuteronomy 28:8 says that God has commanded His blessing upon all the work of your hands. Psalm 35:27 reveals that God delights in the prosperity of His servants. If you don't know these spiritual laws, you won't enforce them.

You won't demand Satan to quit stealing from you and to turn loose of your God-given provision. You won't experience what's rightfully yours in Christ. So in order for you to use your authority and experience God's blessings, you need to know what the spiritual laws are and what has been provided for you.

No Exceptions

The law isn't sometimes in effect, and other times not. The law is constant—it's the same all the time for everybody.

It's the same in the spiritual realm. There are no exceptions. The Word doesn't just work for some people but not for others. It's not that God just likes some people and causes His power to work for them, but others He doesn't. That's not it at all.

God has established laws, and we need to learn how to cooperate with them.

Remember, we can be confident that we will receive anything we ask according to His will. How can we know God's will?

GOD'S WORD REVEALS HIS WILL

Store Up Knowledge in Mind and Heart

Every aspect of your life should revolve around your mind and your heart being filled continually with the supernatural power of the living Word of God. You will focus on God's promises and instructions continually if your eyes and your ears are constantly being filled with God's Word. You will be encouraged if you saturate yourself in the Word of God.

Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction. (Proverbs 10:14)

The instructions that King Solomon gave to his son also are God's instructions to you today. God emphasizes through repetition. Please note the words "lay up." Your Father definitely wants you to "lay up" His Word deep down inside of yourself. Are you doing this? The amplification of this passage of Scripture says that you should have

God's Word living inside of you "for use when needed." The Word of God is a marvelous spiritual "treasure." "Wise men store up knowledge [in mind and heart]..." (Proverbs 10:14 AMP)

The effect of filling your mind and your heart with the Word of God is cumulative. Meditating on God's Word for a few days or a few weeks may not produce appreciable results. However, continuing this meditation indefinitely for as long as your Father requires you to continue definitely will produce specific results.

Can you say that you love the Word of God? You should be like the psalmist who said, "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies, for [Your words] are ever before me. I have better understanding and deeper insight than all my teachers, because Your testimonies are my meditation" (Psalm 119:97-99).

Attend to the Word

You may be thinking, "I've met people who know the Bible from cover to cover and still can't get delivered or healed or blessed!" No doubt you do. But if you'll look at Proverbs 4, you'll find it doesn't say anything about "knowing" the Bible. It says, attend to the Word.

When you attend to something, you give your attention to it. You make it top priority. You set aside other things so you can focus on it. When a nurse is attending to a patient, she constantly looks after him. She doesn't just leave him lying alone in his hospital room while she goes shopping. If someone asks her about her patient, she doesn't feel it's sufficient to say, "Oh, yes. I know him."

In the same way, if you're attending to the Word, you won't leave it lying unopened on the coffee table all day. You won't spend your day focusing your attention on other things. On the contrary, you'll do what Proverbs says to do. You'll continually incline your ear to God's Word.

Inclining your ear includes more than just putting your physical ears in a position to hear the Word being preached (although that, in itself, is very important). It also means opening the ears of your understanding by meditating on and pondering that Word. To truly hear, you must listen with the ears of your spirit to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you through the written Word.

Mark 4:23-24 puts it this way: "If any man has ears to hear, let him be listening, and let him perceive and comprehend.... Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure of [virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear" (The Amplified Bible).

Let them not depart from thine eyes

Keep your eyes trained on the Word of God. Don't look at the circumstances that appear contrary to what you are believing for. Keep your eyes on the Word of God. Be like Abraham and consider the Word instead of your body. What you receive through your eyes and ears can make the difference between life and death, so keep the Word before your eyes and keep the Word going in your ears.

WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART IS REGULATED BY WHAT YOU GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO.

Keep Them in the Midst of Thine Heart

Keep the Word of God alive in your heart. Keep the Word working in your heart. Just as you feed your physical man, you must feed your spiritual man. Your spirit man cannot live and stay strong on the Word that you received last year. Don't try to rely on what you remember from the Word. You keep God's words in the midst of your heart by - attending to the Word, inclining your ear to the Word and letting the Word not depart from your eyes - will keep God's Word in your heart.

Keep your spirit strong with the Word of God. Continually feed yourself with God's Word in order to keep the Word producing the force of faith.

Bad news does not discount the Word of God. Your heart is established, trusting in the Lord. The thing that should be in authority in you is the Word of God. Go by what God's Word says. It is the key to victory in any situation. Learn to rely on God's Word.

Delight in God's Word

When challenges in your life threaten to dominate your thoughts and your emotions, you must have something to offset the stress and anxiety. The "something" you must have is an abundance of the Word of God living in your mind and your heart. Regardless of the type of struggle you are facing, you must have an ample supply of God's Word living in your mind and your heart so that you will be able to reach deep down inside of yourself to receive powerful spiritual sustenance.

If you sincerely desire to be free in every area of your life and to be spiritually mature, you must "delight" in God's Word. You must "desire" to learn and to do exactly what your Father has instructed you to learn and to do to receive blessings.

You must understand that the Scripture you are meditating on is alive – it has a spiritual life of its own and is "full of power" from God.

When Satan tries to make you mad at God and you say, "God, I've done all these things. I've confessed Your Word and it's not working for me," you can remember that it is not God. God never fails. The Word never fails. Don't test and examine God. Test and examine yourself. Don't judge God. Judge yourself.

**When you learn to be moved by God's Word— not by circumstances, not by
how you feel or what you see—you can receive anything that God's Word offers.**

Do Not Waver

Abraham did not waver. No unbelief or distrust made him waver. Doubt will keep you out of the blessings of God. Wavering is doubt. Train yourself to rely only on what God's Word says. Train your eyes and your ears to be obedient to the Word.

What your eye sees does not discount the Word of God. What your ear hears does not discount the Word of God. Bad news does not discount the Word of God. Your heart is established, trusting in the Lord. The thing that should be in authority in you is the Word of God. Go by what God's Word says. It is the key to victory in any situation. Learn to rely on God's Word.

The Word will rid you of unbelief. It will rid you of bad teaching that robs you of God's power. Receive the Word and stand in faith. Demand that doubt and unbelief go somewhere else.

A Spiritual Mirror

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

Since the spirit realm can't be naturally seen or felt, the only way to accurately perceive spiritual truth is through the Bible. Simply take God's Word and believe it!

When you look into the Bible, you behold yourself in the spirit. God's Word is a spiritual mirror!

God's Word perfectly reflects who you are in the spirit. It's the only way you can know. You can't just assume, "If I had God's power inside of me, I'd be aware of it" because that which is Spirit is spirit and that which is flesh is flesh! It would be like trying to feel if your makeup was on or your hair was combed. Those things just can't be felt! You must look in God's mirror and trust the spiritual reality you see!

God's Word tells you what is spiritually true. It gives you the new values and attitudes you should conform yourself to. As you continually look into the Lord's spiritual mirror, you'll begin to see and experience yourself for who you really are!

As you look in the mirror (God's Word), discover your identity in Christ (who you are in the spirit), and act on that knowledge in faith, you'll see the life of God within you manifest.

Keep Your Heart

Proverbs 4:20-23 says: My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

In this passage, we see that the issues of life come not from outer circumstances but from the heart.

Just because someone is living a defeated life doesn't mean they seek after sin or evil. It means they are living in separation from the knowledge and will of God. They live constantly in fear and unbelief, and their minds have opened the door to negativity, separating them from the protection and provision of the Father.

The carnal mind is death—separation—but the spiritual mind is life and peace.

The focus of our minds is vitally important. When we focus on fleshly, sensual, greedy and materialistic desires or thoughts of anger, frustration and violence, we are cut off from the life and peace of God. Then we find ourselves living out our thoughts. But when we focus on the thoughts of God, the Word of God and the way God would have us live each day, we live out His thoughts and have His peace, provision and protection.

Attend to My Words

Give your undivided attention to God's Word. Pay heed to what He says. Whatever it says, you believe it and act on it. If you attend to someone, you take care of that person.

Everything we do should revolve around the Word of God because the Word of God has the answer to every problem. The Word of God will make your time count. It will save you mistakes that cost time.

Sickness costs time. The Word of God will make your life better and your time more productive. You cannot afford to be without the Word.

Whenever I get under pressure and begin to think, "There's no way that I can do all that I've got to do," I know immediately that I have not been spending enough time in God's Word. When I get bogged down in the affairs of life and pressure comes, I know that my time in the Word has gone for something else.

The Word of God causes your life to work. You won't get stressed out and full of anxiety in the affairs of life if you will take time to spend in the Word, to meditate in it and see what God is saying to you.

The Bible says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3). When you spend time in the Word and stay your mind on the Word, you will be kept in perfect peace and you will trust in Him. That is faith.

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. (Isaiah 26:3).

Your mind will be free from doubt when you keep your attention on God's Word. When you are trusting in God's Word you are trusting in Him. Stay your mind on the Word. Because you have committed yourself to God's Word, fear and doubt have been driven out. God's Word will keep you in perfect peace.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). You will be kept in this perfect peace because you trust in Him. Your faith will stay strong. You will be trusting in the Lord, not in the things you can see.

**When you keep your attention on God's Word, your mind will be free from doubt.
Many people try to believe, but they don't have the Word in their hearts.**

Faith is not a mental process. Believing in the heart comes from time spent in the Word of God. It takes more than just a mental decision (head knowledge) to cause your thought life and vocabulary to be in line with God's Word.

"Incline thine ear unto my sayings." Believers are going to any length to get under the Word. They know that if they get the Word in their hearts, they can get anything else they need. If you spend enough time in the Word, it will change everything you do.

From Glory to Glory

The Word of God tells us plainly who God is and what He wants us to do. And for the believer who understands God's image properly, the adventure of renewing our mind and changing from glory to glory should happen every day. The Spirit of Truth brings the change to pass, but we must want to be changed.

When believers' minds get blinded to the point at which heaven is the only Christian reality they can see, the god of this age is then able to control their lives. Maybe they accept the New Testament mentally, but they don't participate in it. So from Monday to Saturday they function like the world. They struggle and deal with issues just like the world does. Then when Sunday rolls around, they nod their heads in approval at everything we pastors preach. But the glorious truth of the gospel isn't affecting their lives, so they aren't being changed from glory to glory.

It's not that our brothers and sisters who allow themselves to fall into this trap are bad people. It's not that they've been predestined to some negative position in life. It's not their IQ, their husband or wife, kids or something in their marriage; it's the god of this world. And it really angers me! Jesus died to make His followers new creations, and the god of this world blinds so many from the basics of Bible truth.

But now, what would happen to these same Christians if the light of the message of the glory of God, the image of Christ, were to shine on them? I'll tell you what would happen: They would be transformed into the image of Christ. Once born-again believers begin to see the good and loving image of our big, compassionate God, they will be transformed into that image from glory to glory. But too often this isn't the case.

There are so many false and worthless images of God in the Church today.

Many don't come to Christ in the first place because they believe that if they were to live by God's "rules" in the Word, they would have to give up so much. That's the god of this world blinding their minds. But it also happens to Christians after they're saved. Blinded Christians say, "If I really get committed, I'll lose my free time. I'll lose some money, or I might have to give up some other good stuff." They worship the same small image of that phony golden calf.

If your image of God is small, warped or perverted in some way, your mind is blinded to the things of God. Satan certainly knows, and he must snicker at people's deception from the cradle to the grave.

The Power of the Word of God – Thought Conditioners

Reproofs, instruction, confrontation and corrections from the Word of God are designed to bring change to our lives. In Proverbs 6:23, Solomon tells us that change is a way of life. If we want to walk with God, know His perfect will and experience the fullness of His plan for our lives, we must change continually. This is the transformation that Paul is talking about in Romans 12:2. A lifestyle involving regular instruction and correction moves us forward in Christian growth.

Throughout the book of Proverbs, the words reproof, reprove, rebuke, correct, instruct and teach show us that to have the wisdom and ways of God, we must be willing to change. As I said earlier, renewing the mind is more than learning and changing oneself. It involves more than just gaining new insight or information. The process of change has as much to do with “taking off” as it does with “putting on.” It involves both subtracting and adding.

In Ephesians 4:22-24 we read: Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and 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.

It is obvious that just hearing or learning the truth is not all there is to being free. Jesus said that it is as we abide, or live, and continue in His Word that we will know the truth and that when we do this, the truth will set us free.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31-32

The word “know” in this verse means to understand in an experiential way. Its use implies that something has been removed, taken out or taken off and then replaced by the truth. This is when the truth will really set you free.

So many Christians can quote Scriptures about finances, health, marriage or family, but they aren’t free in these areas. Just learning a verse or a passage of Scripture doesn’t mean you will be free. Old thoughts that aren’t in line with the thoughts of God must be replaced or rejected by truth. The new man can’t be put on without taking the old man off.

YOUR SOUL, (MIND, EMOTIONS & WILL) MUST PROSPER BEFORE YOUR LIFE WILL PROSPER

Lack of Knowledge

The prophet Hosea said in chapter 4, verse 6 of his book, My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me. Lack of knowledge devastates many Christians and holds them in a life of mediocrity.

One of the greatest areas of confusion and lack of knowledge is in understanding the difference between the soul and spirit. Some teachers say they’re both the same thing. Some say they’re different but function together in harmony. While this is not a theological treatise, I do want to give some scriptural definitions of the soul and spirit, because it is crucial to living out the Word of God. If we don’t know what the Lord is telling us to do, there is no way we can do it; and if we can’t do it, we can be destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Here we see that the Word is the final authority in all the issues of life. It alone will infallibly discern what is from the Lord (Spirit), and what is from man (soul). Only the Word is the final authority when judging the thoughts and intents of the heart of man.

**Most believers have only known a part of their redemption.
Their faith will operate to the degree of their knowledge of God’s Word.**

Meditate the Word, Part 2

We must practice setting our minds on the things of God, not the things of the world, so that our control centers will direct us toward God. Meditation is simply thinking about something. We all meditate every day, all day. But

the problem is, we often meditate on negative, selfish, fearful, worldly things. However, if we think on or meditate on the Word of God day and night, Psalm 1:3 says that we will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

**When you can control your mind, you can control your destiny,
because the truth of God's Word is the basis for all success in life.**

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4,5

Paul is showing us in this passage where the greatest warfare of the Christian life really takes place—the mind. Though we do have to deal with demon spirits, Jesus has already defeated them and has given us His victory. However, we still do have to fight for the victory over the negative thoughts that can fill our minds and control our lives. As we have already looked at briefly, Paul says there are “strongholds” that can take root in the human mind but which must be brought down.

Some Christians have strongholds of fear and worry. Others have strongholds of anger and bitterness. Others have strongholds of sexual sin, greed, selfishness or laziness.

The first step in dealing with negative thoughts is to become aware of them so we can “capture” them. To capture these thoughts is to reject them from our minds once we recognize them. Then we must submit them to the Word of God. By rejecting negative thoughts and focusing on the thoughts of God, we pull down these strongholds and drive them out. Of course, this is not an instantaneous change. It takes discipline and diligence, but it can be done.

.....that night he would wonder why he was so tired, why the day was so sad and why all his work associates can't stand him. The reason? His image. The image this man had of himself and his world was no doubt very negative. And the same can happen to a Christian if he doesn't meditate on God and His promises.

When you're meditating on what God's Word has to say about you, you don't get up thinking about your sickness. You get up seeing yourself healthy and whole. You don't get out of bed thinking about your bills. You get out of bed thinking about how God meets all your needs according to His riches in glory. When you're meditating on the Word, you don't turn on the television to find out who died, the latest disaster or who's been having sex with the wrong person—before 6 AM. No, you just open your Bible, find something good about your God and yourself and fix your mind on it.

Believe and proclaim the truth of Joshua 1:8 for your life: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

When you meditate on God's Word, you prosper and have good success. You raise your level of prosperity just by what you focus on. But you will never do it if you choose to think like your local union, your corporate bosses or the ungodly world media.

God's Word Has Creative Power

God compares natural seed to the seed of the Word, saying, So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth (Isaiah 55:11, AMP). In other words, within God's Word is His creative power to bring His promise to pass.

Thank God, we have His Word written down for us so that we can be as full of that supernatural seed as we want to be. We may be limited in how much money we can deposit in our bank accounts. But if we have a Bible, we are not limited in how much Word we can deposit in our hearts!

God has given us scriptures of blessing and promise—supernatural seed to be planted in the good soil of our hearts and then spoken out of our mouths in faith. Faith released in the spiritual realm brings tangible substance in the natural realm (Hebrews 11:1).

Mature in the Faith

If you would just take God's Word and use it for yourself, you wouldn't have to follow people around from meeting to meeting begging others to pray for you. Don't take what I'm saying out of context. I'm not against you having someone else pray for you. But it takes time to get into the Word of God and start seeing the life that's in the Word released into your life. During that period of time, when you're sowing the seed and waiting for it to increase and grow to the point that it will bring liberty in your life, don't be so stubborn or proud that you won't go to someone for help and ask them to pray for you.

Don't be one of those people who just refuses to take personal responsibility. These people don't get into the Word of God for themselves and let it transform them, nor do they have any plans for doing so in the future. Their life is just occupied with work, pleasures, or other distractions. They have no intention of making the Word of God a central part of their life. Like many others, they try, instead, to allow someone like me or another pastor to do their seeking of the Lord for them. That's just not going to work.

If all you're doing is receiving your nourishment from God after it's already been digested by someone else, you aren't going to grow much. If you aren't going to take in the Word firsthand, then you aren't going to mature.

He does show compassion and love toward you if you are discouraged – I'm not discounting that – but God is so much bigger and has so much more to offer you than just compassion. Instead of settling for something emotional that will make you feel good today, but then tomorrow you'll be left needing another emotional fix, what you need to do is seek the truth of God's Word. Whether you feel like it or not, stand up and start saying, "I am an overcomer in Christ Jesus. I don't care what I feel like, what somebody else has said, or what has happened to me. I'm going to rise again. I am a victor and not a victim." Start taking God's Word and applying it to your situation.

If I were to go by my emotions, there would be times when I would feel like running away. There would be times when I would feel like giving up and quitting. But I've learned to go by the Word and not by how I feel. This truth has changed me, and it's worked in my life for decades.

I'm sharing this to encourage you. Even though your emotions are pulling you one way, you know what the Word of God says. You can come to the place where God's Word is more real to you than what you feel. That's what the Bible calls faith. That's what the Word calls maturity.

Good Ground

"And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred" (Mark 4:20).

It has not been the ground that has prevented the Word from bearing fruit in any of these illustrations but the things that were allowed in the ground—Satan, the stones and the thorns.

You have learned from the previous scriptures what will keep your heart from being good ground. Now Jesus teaches how to be good ground for the Word, and thereby produce the harvest.

The Word of God is the will of God. When the Word is planted in good ground—free from hindrances—the crop produced will be God's will for your life.

Give the Word first place in your life in order to be good ground for the Word!

The law of Genesis is that everything brings forth fruit after its own kind. You plant the Word of God in your heart, water and cultivate that Word, and it will bring forth the fulfillment of that Word in your life.

In order to produce the harvest God intends, the Word has to be received and taken into your heart. It has to be guarded and kept in the midst of your heart during trouble and persecution. Your heart can't be overcrowded with the cares of this world and the lusts of other things for the Word seed to produce (Mark 4:16-19).

Jesus tells us the thrilling result of the seed of the Word planted in good ground. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).

Get in the Word and find out what God's Word says about you. Find out what His will is, then open your spirit to receive the power of God. Let the power of God flow through you unhindered, in the Name of Jesus. We all want the power of God working in our lives and we can have it. It is available to us. We need to set our goals to be the ones that the power of God can flow through. When we believe God's Word, put it first place, and do whatever it says to do, no doubt or tradition or unbelief can hold us back.

The Knowledge of God

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue." (2 Peter 1:3)

This verse says that God's divine power has (past tense) already given unto us all things. Most people want God to just come with his power from the outside, in. This scripture says that all things that pertain unto life and godliness come through the knowledge of God. This includes healing, prosperity, deliverance, joy, peace, success in business, good relationships, and anything else.

Everything that pertains to life and godliness comes through the knowledge of God. This means that the born again Christian already has the peace of God in their spirit. As they renew their mind to who they are and what they have in Christ, they draw that peace out into their experience.

The dominant experience of your life is a reflection of the way you are thinking on the inside. (Proverbs 23:7) Instead of looking for a change to take place externally in everybody and everything else around you, the first thing you need to do is recognize that change begins on the inside of you. This occurs according to the knowledge that you have of God. (2 Peter 1:2-3)

You can turn any circumstance in your life around by getting God's perspective and starting to think his thoughts. Some people call this by different names, but I believe this is what the Bible calls faith. Faith is simply seeing things from God's perspective.

If you want something to change on the outside, then you're going to have to start by changing something on the inside. You cannot keep the same internal thought processes and believe that your external circumstances will change. That by definition, is insane! It begins on the inside. If you want change in your life, then you're going to have to do something differently in your spirit.

The Appropriate Response

When we find a promise in the Bible, the only appropriate response is to claim it. When we find a commandment in Scripture, we should obey it. And when the Bible tells us the truth about who we already are and what Christ has

already done, again, there is only one appropriate response – to believe it. I point this out only because the verses in Romans 6:1–10 are not commandments to be obeyed; they are truths to be believed. Christ has already died to sin, and because you are in Him, you have also died to sin. You cannot do for yourself what Christ has already done for you.

Carnal Christians are not able to receive the solid food of God's Word because of improper priorities or unresolved conflicts in their lives.

Long Term Perspective

I do not believe in instant maturity. It will take us the rest of our lives to renew our minds and conform to the image of God. The seed that was sown in us by God is only a beginning. Being a child of God and being free in Christ is positional truth and the birthright of every believer. Because of a lack of repentance and ignorance of the truth, many believers are not living like liberated children of God. How tragic!