

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD #1

Introduction

Psalm 119:89-91 NKJV

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants.

Psalm 119:89-91 NLT

89 Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven. 90 Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created. 91 Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans.

Tonight we begin a new series of studies on “The Power of God’s Word”, and more specifically, what the power of God’s word will do for you if you meet God’s conditions.

We will be in this series for several months; but let’s begin with a look at what we mean by “the power of God’s word” and...

I. The Power of God’s Word

A. What God’s Word Has to Say About Itself

Psalm 33:6

By the word of the Lord the Heavens were made and by the breath of His mouth all their hosts.

1. The Psalmist is singing the praises of the power of the 2 agents that created the universe:

- The Word of the Lord
- The “breath” of His mouth

a. The Hebrew word translated here as “breath” is “ruach”, which means “spirit”; so the reference is to the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

2. This corresponds with the account of the Creation in the opening verses of the Bible:

Gen 1:1-3 NKJV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

a. Here we see a perfect picture of the power that created the universe: the Spirit of God and the Word of God functioning together in perfect agreement to bring the world into existence!

b. There is a dynamic partnership between the Holy Spirit and the spoken Word of God; the power of God's word brought all things into existence.

c. The writer of Hebrews says it this way:

Hebrews 11:3

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed (formed) by the Word of God...

...the universe was created by the Word of God (Apologetics Study Bible)

3. Most Christians acknowledge the Holy Spirit, and give at least lip service to the value of the Bible, but many never truly appropriate the power of God's word.

"If we have the Word of God and the Spirit of God, we have the total creative power of the universe within us."

Derek Prince

B. The Power of God's Word is Guaranteed by God Himself

Isa 55:10-11 NIV

**As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread
for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**

1. God compares His Word to rain and snow, the water He sends from heaven for the purpose of making the earth bring forth fruit; the water He sends does its job; it accomplishes His purpose!

Other Translations of Isaiah 55:10-11

“My word, which comes out of my mouth, will not come back to me without results” (God’s Word Translation)

2. This is an amazing declaration where God, in a sense, guarantees that His Word will always produce the desired result!

Isaiah 55:11 (Today’s English Version)

So also will be the word that I speak — it will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do.

a. The literal Hebrew says: No spoken word of God will be devoid of power to bring the Word to pass!

b. When God sends His Word, it come with the power within it to fulfil whatever God says!

3. In this series of messages we will look at all the things the power of God’s Word will do for us if we meet the conditions God sets forth in His Word.

II. What God’s Word Will Do For You

A. Overview of our Study

Here is a list of:

WHAT THE POWER OF GOD’S WORD WILL DO FOR US

It will give us revelation of the nature and character of God

It will create faith in our hearts

It will produce the new birth

It will nourish our souls

It will heal our bodies

It will provide deliverance, protection and prosperity

It will bring mental illumination, wisdom and knowledge

It will give us victory over sin and over Satan

It can cleanse us from sin and make us holy

It will give us Divine guidance

It will be our spiritual mirror to our true self

It will supernaturally transform us into the image of Christ

It will be our Judge

1. It will give us a revelation of the nature and character of God.

- a. The Bible is God's "self-revelation" of Himself!
- b. The Word of God in the Bible does much more than tell us what God does. It reveals to us Who He is.
- c. It is only through the Word of God that we can truly get to know God: Who He is, how He thinks, and how we can be friends with Him.

2. The Word of God has the power to bring faith to our hearts.

**Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
Romans 10:17**

- 3. The Word of God has the power to produce the new birth:

1 Peter 1:23 NASB
... for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

4. And then once we are born again, the Word of God has the power to nourish our souls; it is our spiritual food!

**For man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.
Matthew 4:4**

- 5. The Word of God not only has the power to get us born again, and to feed us, it also has the power to heal our bodies and give us divine health.

Psalm 107:20

**He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.
Proverbs 107:20**

- 6. This Word that heals us also produces prosperity:

Joshua 1:8

This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all

that is written therein, for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.

7. The power of God's word will give us victory over sin and over Satan.

a. The Psalmist said:

Psalm 119:11

I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

b. Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan 3 times in the wilderness, each time quoting the Word of God: "It is written..."

Revelation 12:10-11

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

8. The Word of God has the power to cleanse us from sin and make us holy, as Jesus prayed:

John 17:17 NLT

Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

9. God's word will provide us with Divine guidance, wisdom and understanding.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Ps 119:99-100 NASB

I have more insight than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Thy precepts.

10, The Word of God has the power to show us our true selves like a spiritual mirror and to reveal to us the distinction between body, soul, and spirit.

Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV

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.

11. And this “word” is not dead letters on a page; it is Christ Himself!

Hebrews 12:13

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

12. This verse reveals that the Word of God is Jesus Christ Himself; He is the Word and He is also our Judge!

B. A Personal Word

1. Look at this list of benefits and blessings: how many are you walking in?

2. When we read the Word of God we realize there is a tremendous gap between the promises and the power contained in God’s word and the quality of Christian life many are living today.

3. There is a well-documented deficiency of Bible reading and Bible knowledge in the average American church; but even beyond that there is a general lack of understanding about meeting the conditions God requires for appropriating His blessings.

4. The level of the power of God’s word that is released into our lives is directly related to how we respond to the Word of God when we hear it or read it.

III. 3 Conditions for a Proper Response to God’s Word

A. Faith: Receive the Word of God for What it Truly Is

1. In my personal experience as a minister, I can truly identify with what Paul wrote to the saints at Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14 NKJV

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

a. When you receive the Word of God, whether written or preached, as the Word of God, it will effectively work in you who believe!

b. Or turn it around: If you do *not* receive the Word of God, written or preached, as the Word of God, it will *not* effectively work in you because you *do not* believe!

c. So what is your response to what I have taught you tonight? Your response will release the power of the Word...or not.

2. The 2nd and 3rd conditions are found together in the Epistle of James: We must put away our sin and come to the Lord in humility.

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

James 1:21 NIV

B. Set Aside Your Sin

1. We cannot expect to experience the power of God's Word if we are going to continue to persist in our sinful behavior!

James 1:21 NKJV

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

2. God's Word is like a spiritual "seed" planted in our hearts; but the power in that seed can never be released if the soil is bad.

3. We must prepare to receive the "engrafted" or "implanted" word by preparing our hearts as we lay aside our moral filth and change our attitude about our sinful living.

4. This is connected with the 3rd condition:

James 1:21 God's Word

So get rid of all immoral behavior and all the wicked things you do. Humbly accept the word that God has placed in you. This word can save you.

C. Come to God's Word in Humility

1. The first condition was to receive God's word as God's word; the second condition is that we are willing to put away our sin; the 3rd condition is humility. "to humbly accept the word God has placed in you." That word can save you.

a. The picture here is of living seed going into the ground; there is life in the seed; but the ground must open itself and humbly "receive" the seed, without argument or resistance!

2. Testimony: in my experience, many professing Christians fail in all 3 points, then wonder why the Word seems to have no power in their lives:

a. They do not receive the Word for what it is: the word of God
b. They think they can continue in their sin and still see God's power
c. And finally this one; a lack of humility and meekness, which can be called "teachability".

3. One of the most poisonous postures of our modern culture is this idea of relative truth; the idea that every person has the right to define what is true and what is not.

4. In the church setting, this comes off as:

- "I know what the Bible says, but I see it this way..."
- "You can't take the Bible literally..."
- "No one knows what it really means"

5. All these are prideful statements from those who refuse to humble themselves before the Word of God and receive it with meekness unto the salvation of their souls.

Psalm 25:8-9; 12-14 NKJV

8 Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

12 Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. 13 He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall

inherit the earth. 14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

D. Review and Close: What Have We Said?

1. The power of God's word created the universe.
2. That same power is available to us: to save us, heal us, make us holy, give us victory over sin and over Satan, and even supernaturally transform us into the image of Christ.
3. But all this is conditional as to how we receive the Word!

Title Slide

NEXT TIME:
How the power of God's Word brings faith into our hearts.