

THE WORD OF THE LORD

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Throughout the Bible, “The Word of the Lord” and it’s many derivatives: “My Word”, “Thy Word”, “The Word,” “Your Word,” and “The Word of God,” appear time and time again. The word “word,” in the English language dates back to pre-900 AD. Its origin has been traced through Dutch-German-Old Norse-Gothic-Latin to *verbum* - ‘word’ meaning a statement, pronouncement, vow, pledge, oath, message, declaration, report, decree, command, instruction or an utterance.

As we review some of the scriptures where the “**Word of the Lord**” and it’s many derivatives are used, we will see that it encompasses all of the above meanings. Let it be clear that in all of the derivatives mentioned above, its origin is from the One and only God of heaven and earth. “My Word,” “Thy Word,” “The Word,” “Your Word,” “The Word of God,” means God’s Word, not the words of men! Throughout this writing, all scriptural references are taken from the New King James Version except where noted.

*“After these things **the word of the Lord came to Abram in***

a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward’” (Genesis 15:1). In this first example of the use of the ‘word’ in the Bible, God spoke to Abram in a dream. We might say that God bypassed Abram’s brain and went directly to his heart helping him to know that he should not be afraid. Glory to God; what a wonderful, comforting statement. In this one single verse, God declared that He was Abram’s shield, protector and, rewarder.

*“**And the Lord said to Aaron, ‘Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.’ So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him. So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel” (Exodus 4:27-29).** As with Abram, God spoke directly to Moses and Aaron. Moses did not need to confer with Zipporah, his wife, or Jethro, his father-in-law, (even though Jethro was a priest of Midian) about sharing what God had told him to do. God had talked to Moses out of the burning bush giving him explicit instructions to set the Israelites free*

from the bondage of Egypt and that Aaron was to be his spokesman. Moses heard the **“Word of the Lord”**.

When Moses received the ten commandments, the Bible says that: **“God spoke all these words, saying: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me’** (Exodus 20:1-3). Without a doubt, the ten commandments are **God’s words** not a set of conditions of expected behavior created by man. Clearly, God distinctly spoke to Moses and gave him **“His Word.”**

*“Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. **And the word of the Lord** was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, **that the Lord called Samuel.** And he answered, ‘Here I am!’ So he ran to Eli and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ And he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ And he went and lay down”* (1 Samuel 3:1-3). In this example, God calls Samuel the young servant of Eli, the High Priest. It happened that Samuel thought that Eli had beckoned him, and he went to Eli, but Eli said he had not called. After the third time that Samuel heard the voice calling him, Eli realized that God was calling Samuel, so he told Samuel to answer and say: *“Speak, for Your servant hears”* (verse 10). Then God spoke to Samuel and told him what was going to transpire in the future life of Eli. In the morning Eli asked Samuel **“What is the word that the Lord spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me”** (verse 17).

King David in his psalms often wrote about the **“Word of the Lord.”** *“The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times”* (Psalms 12:6). *“As for God, His way is perfect; **The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him”** (Psalms 18:3). **“For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in truth”** (Psalms 33:4). **“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth”** (Psalms 33:6). **“He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions”** (Psalms 107:20). **“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You”** (Psalms 119:11).*

Jeremiah wrote: *“Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: ‘Behold, I have put **My words** in your mouth’”* (Jeremiah 1:9). Isaiah speaking about the end times wrote: *“Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, **And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem”**”* (Isaiah 2:3). This tells us that the **Word of the Lord** was not just for the time of the old patriarchs. It is for us to hear in

this day as well as in the future when God’s kingdom will be established here on this earth.

A scripture that is particularly relevant in the context of this article is: *“For this commandment which I command you today is **not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. - - - But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it”** (Deuteronomy 30:11-14).* The apostle Paul quoted this verse when he wrote to the Romans, and we’ll refer to it again later. Isn’t it wonderful that when God speaks, it is not too mysterious for us to understand? Even a child can understand the **“Word of the Lord.”**

Once when Jesus was teaching a large crowd, He told a story of a farmer who sowed seed on various types of ground - a hard path, rocky, thorn-infested and fertile soil. Later his disciples asked Jesus the meaning of the parable and He answered: *“Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God”** (Luke 8:11).* Jesus explains in this scripture that some hear the **“word”** and believe it and walk in it. Others hear the **“word,”** but it doesn’t register as something from the Eternal One. Sadly in this day, many despise the **“Word of God.”**

When the centurion soldier went to Jesus asking that He heal his dying son the centurion did not think he was worthy to receive Jesus into his home, so he said to Jesus: *“But say **the word, and my servant will be healed”** (Luke 7:7).* Such amazing faith!

Another significant scripture that brings new light to the meaning of **the Word** is found in John 1:1, *“In the beginning was **the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** Then in verse 14: **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”** This is apostle John’s introduction to Jesus, the Messiah. In Revelation 19:13, John again wrote about Jesus being **the Word:** *“He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God.**”* Considering the scriptures that have been included in this writing, it is evident that Jesus is the personification of God, His Father. Yes, Christ the Messiah, the Deliverer, embodies the very nature of God Himself; and the truths uttered from Christ’s mouth while He walked on the earth were His Father’s words, because Jesus is the **“Word!”***

Jesus boldly stated of Himself that: *“I am **the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst”* (John 6:35). *“I am **the light of the world”** (John 8:12), and **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”** (John 14:6).* If Jesus is the way, the truth, the bread of life, the light of the world and the embodiment or the tangible, visible form of God the Father, then every word that Jesus uttered was the truth. It is light that points the way to everlasting life, happiness and the fulfillment of life itself. Glory to God, Hallelujah!

How do we find the “**Word of the Lord?**” How do we know the “**Word of the God?**” The apostle Paul quoted from Deuteronomy 30:14 where he expressed his desire that all Israel needs the gospel; they need Jesus. “*Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? to bring Christ down to us, or who will descend into the abyss to bring him up from the dead? **The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart***” (Romans 10:7, PHILLIPS).

When we call upon the Lord our God with all our heart and sincerely express our belief that Jesus is the Son of God then the **Word of the Lord** is near us in our heart and in our mouth. Astonishingly as it may seem, when we testify that Jesus is our Saviour we are speaking the **Word of the Lord**. As well, it is the beginning of a new experience for: “*The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*” (Revelations 19:10). What is prophecy? It is speaking the **Word of the Lord** which we are to share with others. Jeremiah said: “*The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; **And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully***” (Jeremiah 23:28).

When Jesus was praying for His disciples the night before His crucifixion, He said: “*I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, **and they have kept Your word***” (John 17:6) and: “*I have given them **Your word***” (verse 15). After Christ’s resurrection and ascension, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak the **Word of the Lord**. “*Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness **they may speak your word**, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.*’ *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and **they spoke the word of God with boldness***” (Acts 4:29-31).

A truth that was made very real at the beginning of this present move of the Holy Spirit is that spiritual revelation (something that is not known before) and the **Word of God** do not come from an exhaustive study of the scriptures, attending Bible school or listening to highly intelligent individuals expounding their doctrinal views. True revelation or the **Word of God** is an anointed utterance, proclamation, writing or teaching that comes from God Himself through individuals inspired by the indwelling Holy Spirit which is Christ in us the hope of glory. The apostle Paul who wrote twelve of the epistles of the Bible stated: “*But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Galatians 1:11-12).

We as humans are composed of body, soul, and **spirit**. “*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I*

*pray God your **whole spirit, soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Also see John 3:5-6. In order to speak the **Word of God**, we have to be open and receptive to the Holy Spirit. When we set aside our human reasoning and the doctrines of men and yield to the anointing of Christ; our spirit is capable of communicating with the Spirit of God, because God is Spirit. Spirit to Spirit! “*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*” (John 4:24). If we are “in the spirit,” or as the Apostle Paul wrote over and over again, “in Christ,” God can communicate with our spirit and impart the **Word of the Lord**. Hallelujah!

There is one problem that we encounter when God tries to communicate with our spirit. Though we have given our lives to Jesus, because of the human nature that remains in us, we are not always a good judge as to what is the true and infallible “**Word of God**” when we speak. Though Jesus called the apostle Paul directly and commissioned him to preach the gospel, he felt impelled to go with Barnabas and Titus to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and to check that they were not preaching in vain. “*And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain*” (Galatians 2:2).

When Paul was dealing with the issue of false prophets he wrote: “*For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves **with those who commend themselves**. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise*” (2 Corinthians 10:12). After Christ ascended to be with His Father, His apostles began building God’s church according to His pattern. Sadly, the church eventually came to ruin in the third century, AD. False prophets crept into the church declaring they had the “**Word of God,**” but they were not willing to submit to those God set in authority over them. These men who commended themselves eventually led many believers astray and the church slowly regressed into what is known as the “dark ages.”

Fortunately, God’s Word provides a solution to this dilemma. During the early part of this present move of the Holy Spirit, those who were instrumental in the revival that sprung forth in 1948 realized that they were fallible. Looking to the scriptures the Holy Spirit revealed that: “*By the mouth of two or three witnesses **every word shall be established***” (2 Corinthians 13:1) and “*Let two or three prophets speak, and **let the others judge***” (1 Corinthians 14:29). This has been the practice since the beginning of this present move of the Holy Spirit. It is as apostolic brethren submit to the admonition of each other that the “**Word of God**” is established. It is how revelation is examined and vetted to ensure that what is said and written is the true “**Word of God.**” This process is applicable in the local church as well where the responsibility of elders is to judge what is said

during the church service to ensure that it is the true “**Word of God**”.

Does this mean that only what is spoken or written and judged to be the true “**Word of God**” that originates from this present move of the Holy Spirit is the true “**Word of God**”? **No**. How can man limit God’s desire to expound “**His Word**” anywhere He desires? It is impossible. However, in this present move of the Holy Spirit, we follow the pattern that God has revealed to us because it is our safeguard protecting us against false teachers and false prophets attempting to veer us off the foundation set by the apostles, prophets and Jesus Christ.

Do you have to be an elder or deacon to speak the “**Word of God**”? **No**. Many times we have often been encouraged to wait on the Lord daily so that we are ready to minister according to the gifts that have been prophesied over us by the laying on of the hands of a presbytery. Waiting on the Lord, reading His Holy Word and speaking in the unknown tongue develops a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. It opens our hearts to recognize the moving of the Holy Spirit. This, in turn, enables the Holy Spirit to use us for His service by ministering through us to speak the “**Word of the Lord.**” Jesus quoting from Isaiah 61:1 said: “*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound.*” This is a remarkable statement considering that Jesus is part of the triune Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. For our own admonition, Jesus said that the Spirit of the Lord God was upon Him, because the Lord God Almighty had anointed Him. Astonishingly as it may seem, that same anointing that rested on Jesus can rest on us when we give ourselves wholly to the Spirit of Christ. Under His anointing, we can speak with boldness of the grace of God. We can pray, exhort, say a word of comfort, encourage, sing in the Spirit and prophesy.

Earlier prophecy was referred to; it is frequently said that this present move of the Holy Spirit was born on the wings of prophecy: “*for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (1 Peter 1:21). Prophecy is speaking the “**Word of the Lord.**” Furthermore the apostle Paul encouraged us to especially desire to prophesy. “*Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy*” (1 Corinthians 14:1). He then explains that: “*he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men*” (verse 3), “**For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged**” (verse 24), and “*Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy*” (verse 39). Let us adhere to Paul’s admonishment not to let prophecy diminish during our church gatherings.

With sincere hearts let us daily seek God, read His Word and speak in the unknown language so that we can be in tune with the leading of the Holy Spirit. If we do, we will be ready to respond to God’s touch if and when He gives us a “**Word of the Lord**” to share with the body of Christ, the church of the living God. **Amen.**

“*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen*” (1 Peter 4:10-11).†

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