

Studying, Understanding and Applying God's Words



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The Word of God



Joshua 1:7-8 (NLT)

(7) Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. (8) Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do

Take away points from these verses:

1. Obey all instructions (not just hearing it, not just reading it, but follow, adhere, do, obey what God says in His word).
2. Study continually (not only when it is convenient, but daily).
3. Meditate on it day and night (not just read it, but go over it, reflect on it, study in detail, think on it, look at its relevance to your life and the life of others).

The Word of God



John 6:66-69 (NLT)

(66) At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. (67) Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" (68) Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. (69) We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

Simon Peter's conclusion from the above encounter:

1. Jesus has the words that give eternal life.
2. They believe those words.
3. Based on the words that give eternal life and their belief in those words they conclude that Jesus is the Holy One of God, the Anointed One, the Son of God.

The Word of God



Matthew 13:52 (NLT)

Then he added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

What does this mean for us?

1. New gems of truth represent the New Testament.
2. While old gems represent the Old Testament.
3. Jesus wanted those who would undergo the discipline of knowing the Kingdom to be able to expound both on the revelations of the OT (old gems) as well as the revelations of the NT (new gems). *This highlights how important it is to engage in a comprehensive Bible Study plan.*

The Word of God



Luke 24:31-32 (NLT)

(31) Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! (32) They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

What are the spiritual gems here for us?

1. Note that firstly, their spiritual eyes were opened.
2. It was after the opening of their eyes, that they recognized Jesus. One encounter with Jesus however is not sufficient to maintain a healthy relationship with Jesus.
3. Their hearts burned when the scriptures were explained.
4. The life that God's words impart to us increases, as our relationship with Jesus grows. "Pulpit food" alone cannot nourish us, it is inadequate. We cannot go through the week fasting from God's words. Remember that Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favour with both God and man. A daily diet of God's words will cause our hearts to burn and yearn for more of Him.

The Word of God



Luke 24:44-46 (NLT)

(44) Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled (we need to invest in a good study bible)." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day.

What is this saying to us?

1. Before His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus taught them everything written about him in the law of Moses, the prophet and in the Psalms, but they did not understand everything.
2. After His resurrection, He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.
3. Today Jesus still needs to open our minds to understand the scriptures. However now He does so through the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

The Word of God



John 6:63 (NLT)

63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Take away points from these verses:

- God's words are spirit.
- They are therefore only properly understood with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God



Ephesians 1:16-18 (NLT)

(16) I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, (17) asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. (18) I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in all of this?

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom whose attribute is infinite wisdom and works wisdom in believers (Is. 11:2).
2. The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of revelation whose function is to reveal spiritual mysteries to believers.
3. Consequently, as a result of the foregoing (points 1 & 2), we grow in the knowledge of God. The Bible gives us knowledge of God. Leaving up our knowledge of God to just our imaginations is to invite erroneous revelations of God placed in our minds by Satan himself. That's how some cults are formed.
4. When reading God's words we must pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him to reveal God's truth to us. Practice this until it becomes a habit.