

The Word of God

Lesson 1

Mark 4:13, The sower sows the seed, the seed falls on different types of ground, which type are you? You have a choice right now which type of soil you will be. The seed represents the Word of God. The Sower is God.

4 different types of ground:

The path, rocky place, among thorns, Good soil

MARK 4:13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed **along the path**, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on **rocky places**, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown **among thorns**, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on **good soil**, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

Today we begin a series about the Word of God, how you listen to the Word will determine what the Word will produce in your life, Jesus constantly said "he who has ears to hear, let him hear", decide now in your heart that I am going to be a hearer of the Word, I am going to be the one that will produce a harvest 30, 60 and even 100 fold.

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Man cannot live on bread alone but he can live on the Word of God alone.

Gen 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light

When God spoke that there was nothing there, how do we understand nothing? If we try to imagine nothing we sometimes imagine a big black space, but that is not nothing that is a big black space.

Then God said **let there belight and there was light**. Right from the moment He spoke it, light sprang into existence and the Word drove light out from God at a speed of about 300.000 km per second.

Now if the Word had caused that first light like a lightening bolt to travel out from God at that speed it would be miraculous but that is not what happened.

The word caused light to travel out from God in each direction at 300.000 km per second and light is still traveling, based on that word the universe is still expanding today at the speed of light. Wow what power there is in the word.

Hebrews 1:3 upholding all things by the Word of His power...

What is the most important thing we need to understand as we come to study this series on the word of God?

What is the purpose of the Word of God really?

The purpose of the Word and the most important thing is that we can know God and have a personal relationship with him and we do this through His Word. The Bible reveals to us who we are, who we ought to be, how to change and then gives us the power to change. The word of God teaches us how to walk in the plans and purposes of God for our lives.

So we study the Word because of relationship and not as a science. In some colleges you can study the Bible as a science; you can become a Doctor of Divinity and still not know the God of the Bible.

The Bible really is a revelation of God, we use words to communicate, we see that God is a speaking God. He is revealing Himself to us by His Word.

When we hear the phrase "the Word of God" what do we think about, do we think about a book or about a person?

Do we take the Word of God personally, as this is God speaking directly to me, this is a Word from God to me today. God is speaking to me right now through His Word, He is trying to communicate with me, He is trying to reveal more of Himself to me.

If we were far from home and we got a letter from a loved one, a husband or wife, boyfriend or girlfriend we would read it and reread it until we gained every last ounce of what they were trying to communicate to us, every time we get down or sad we would take out the letter and read it again to get comfort from the fact that someone loves us and cares for us.

No one loves us like God does and He has given us His Word not alone for comfort but as a vital resource to help us in our everyday lives. Matthew 4:4.

When we read the Word of God it should be as if God were present right there speaking His Word to us.

Our attitude towards the Word of God is really a good indication of our attitude toward God himself.

Genesis 1:1 Right in the beginning what is it that we see God doing? Genesis 1:1 we see that God is a Creator, He is expressing Himself in His creation. The rest of Chapter one is a commentary on the first verse. It tells us how God expressed Himself. It tells us how He created the universe and all that is in it.

Why did God even bother to tell us how all this was created? Because it was always God's will to express Himself (make Himself known) and it is through His Word that He does it.

Genesis 1:26-27 God created mankind in His own image and in verse 28 He expressed His will for mankind, His purpose for creating him.

The Word of God should take God's place in our lives, or be His representative in our lives, it is our constant contact and communion with Him. **We should read the Bible as if it was God speaking to me right now.**

It will reveal the will of God for your life in every circumstance, for salvation, for healing, for provision, etc.

As we continue these lessons we will be faced with choices that we will have to make:

1. What am I going to do with the Word?
2. Am I going to act on the Word, act like it is true?
3. Am I going to allow the Word to govern or dictate my actions?
4. Am I going to allow the Word to become a part of my life?
5. Am I going to begin to live the Word?

What I do with the Word will determine what the Word will do for me, what I mean to say is if I will work the Word the Word will always work for me and in me.

So let's look at the Word of God, the Bible. Now the Bible is not the only place we find the word of God. God speaks in many ways, He speaks in an audible voice, Exodus 3:4, 1 Samuel 3:1, Matthew 17:5, Exodus 20:19, He speaks through prophecy, Matthew 26:56, Hebrews 1:1, 1 Timothy 4:14. He speaks through creation, Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:19-20, He speaks to our hearts, Romans 8:14,16, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, etc but **the primary way He speaks is through His Word, the Bible.**

Why is that? We need a verifiable way to test and prove that what is being said is indeed the Word of God. 2 Peter 1:16-21. Not a cunningly devised fable, not an audible voice but the written word of God. Galations 1:8.

Genesis 3:1 the serpent got Eve off the Word of God and deceived her.

The Bible is our measuring stick, all knowledge of God is to be measured by the Word of God, if we are to listen to all the philosophies of the world's religions we will be confused, but God has left us His Word in written form so we can test these philosophies or measure them against what God has revealed about Himself.

So what is the Bible? Firstly let's look at what the Bible is not:

1. The Bible is not a book of rules or moral standards. (Although they are in there.)
2. The Bible is not a handbook for living. (Although it is a perfect guide to how we should live.)
3. It does not contain the Word of God.

It is the actual word of God, it is God speaking to me personally, it is God revealing Himself to me personally. It is a revelation of God himself.

We don't read the Bible to learn what to do and what not to do, but rather, **we read to get to know God**. It is our aim to become like God in our thinking, that is, to be His children, to be imitators of God, as the apostle Paul says in Ephesians 5:1.

So then how do we mere mortals know God? How do fellowship with Him? How do we become like God in our thinking? How do we become the imitators of God?

The only way we can truly know God is through His Word, many people and indeed many of the world's religions claim to know God and know about God but yet their knowledge doesn't line up with what God has revealed about Himself.
Revelation is not man finding God but God revealing Himself to man.

Matthew 16:16-17, "*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."*

Luke 10:22. "*All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knows who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."*

Ps 119:105 "*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

Without the Word we have no guidance, we have no way of knowing if the path we are on is the right one.