

Getting a Grip on God's Word

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 27th

Last week we discussed how that any intentional desire to pursue the purposes of God will be met with resistance by: Our selfish/sinful nature (Rom. 7; Gal 5:17); This seductive world (1 Jn 2:15,16); and a myriad of fallen angels who "Make war" against the saints. (Rev. 12; Eph 6:10-18)

To combat these powerful enemies, God gives us mighty resources to enable us to accomplish His Will.

(2 Pt 2:3,4) *"His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue:"*

Our God given allies in this Holy War include:

- His Holy Spirit (Ro 8:15; Gal. 4:6; 5:16; Ro 8:9; 1 Cor 2:12; 1 Jn 4:4)
- His Holy Word (Ps. 19:7-11; 2 Tim 3:16,17) Is part of our spiritual armor! Eph. 6:10-18



Followers of Jesus are called "Disciples" (comes from mathano which means *"To learn by use and practice, to be in the habit of."*)

God's word repeatedly challenges us to "hold fast" (Firm) to our faith.

(2 Tim. 1:13; Heb 4:12-14; Rev. 3:11; Pr. 4:13)

Getting a firm grip on *"The Sword of the Spirit"* requires all 5 "fingers" or spiritual disciplines. Eph 6:17

"take... the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Last week we discussed three of the spiritual disciplines required for a good grip:

1. Hearing (listen to) God's Word. (Ro 10:17; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:3)
2. Reading God's Word. (Rev 1:3; 1 Tim 4:13)
3. Studying God's Word. (2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:11)

Today we're look at the 4th Spiritual disciple Commanded by God.

We need to Memorize God's Word.

Pr 7:1-3 *"My son, keep my words, and lay up (ṣāpān: store) my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart."*

Col 3:16 *"Let the word of Christ dwell in (Enoike'ō: inhabit/influence) you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another ..., (Heb 3:13; 10:24)*

1. This was part of the Great Commandment Dt 6:4-7 *"Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is one Lord, thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee..., shall be in thine heart:"*

2. Benefits of Memorizing Gods' Word

A. Protects us from evil & snares Ps 119:9-11 *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

Ps 19:11 *"by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."*

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

B. It plants (grafts) God's word in our soul. James 1:21 *"lay apart all filthiness and ... of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted (emphytos: implanted, grafted) word, which is able to save (sōzō: rescue, heal, restore) your souls."*

1) This produces / enables the fruits of God's Spirit to grow in our lives. Gal. 5:22-23

C. It helps renew / transform our minds. Ro. 12:2 *"be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*

1) This helps us understand God's Will. Ro 12:2b *"that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

D. Reveals God's Heart. John 14:21 *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

E. Helps our prayer life. Jn 15:7-8 *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."*

1) This is a conditional promise. Ps 37:3-5 *"Trust in the LORD, and do good...; Delight thyself in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust in him; and He shall bring it to pass."*

Conclusion: To get a grip on God's Word we must commit to:

1. Listening to it. (Ro 10:17)
2. Reading it. (1 Tim 4:13)
3. Studying it. (2 Tim. 2:15)
4. Memorizing it. (Deut. 6:6)

*But we'll still be missing the most important practice!
Each of these simply enable us to "Meditate" on God's word.*

Application:

Which disciplines do you need to strengthen in your life in order to become:
"doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" Jms 1:22



1. Listening to it. (Ro 10:17)
2. Reading it. (1 Tim 4:13)
3. Studying it. (2 Tim. 2:15)
4. Memorizing it. (Deut. 6:6)

And prepare yourself to meditate on God's Word so that you can Prosper and have good success? (Joshua 1:8)

How Great is your Grip on God's Word?