

# Word Worksheet #1

## Monday: God's Word has authority.

God's Word is critically important for the formation of a people who will live for God's glory. In our faith tradition we affirm the Word of God not as one authority among many but as the **preeminent** authority. As Westminster attests, the Bible is the authoritative rule of faith and practice. Scripture is the first of the five 'solas': "*Sola Scriptura*": Scripture alone. The Bible alone is our highest authority. Scripture interprets itself. All other authorities are understood through God's Word. Church traditions, creeds and interpretations are all governed by Scripture. All worldly authorities are subservient to God's Word. This is why it is so critical that we take God's Word to heart.

The prophet Jeremiah got it right. <sup>16</sup> "*Your words were found and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.*" (Jeremiah 15:16). Jeremiah calls us to take in and digest God's Word in such a way that we not only know it in our heads (memory), and experience it in our hearts (feelings & character), but we live it in the world (habit & practice).

Is there a particular truth about God that you need to "eat" today? **How will you do this? (through prayer, study, worship, practice)**

## Tuesday: God's Word is powerful!

God's Word is so powerful that God speaks and the world is created. The Hebrew text reads literally, God said, "*light, and there was light.*" Why wouldn't we believe that the Word of God has the power to do now what it did then: create a new world in us and establish us in new life? Consider what Scripture says about itself: Psalm 18:30, "*This God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.*" "*Every Word of God proves true (is flawless).*" Proverbs 30:5. "*And the Words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground,*

*purified seven times.*" (Psalms 12:6) No wonder Jesus prays, "*Sanctify them in the truth, your Word is truth.*" (John 17:17)

Have you treated God's Word as powerful? **If you regarded God's Word in this way what might you do differently? Begin today!**

## Wednesday: Food that gives lasting life!

Jesus told us that, "*man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" (Matthew 4:4) As if this weren't enough the prophet Ezekiel said, God's Word "*entered his mouth and was very sweet.*" (Ezekiel 3:3) Psalm 19:10 likens God's word to "*honey*". Honey was one of the ancient world's sweeteners. Hebrews 5:12-14 compares God's Word to meat and to solid food. I Peter 2:2 describes it as pure milk for the spiritual child. Spiritual nourishment is every bit as critical as physical nourishment.

**If spiritual nourishment is this necessary, what is your plan for gaining it today? How about tomorrow?**

## Thursday: God's Word speaks truth into our lives.

Jesus said, "*It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*" (John 6:33) He also told the twelve: "*My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work.*" (John 4:34) This is why Paul says, (in Colossians 3:16) "*Let the Word of God dwell in you richly.*" The writer of Hebrews 4:12 captures the potency of God's Word: "*Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than a two edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thought and intentions of the heart.*"

Do you regard God's Word as this powerful and dangerous? This gets to the deep inner truth about us and that can be painful! God's truth is so potent it divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and thoughts and intentions. How important is the Word? It is all important if we desire to truly live. What do you need to confess to your Heavenly

Father about your attitude toward His Word and your investment in it?

**Friday: God's Word helps us live into the form of faith.**

Psalm 119 maps the pattern for the life of a believer:

- We seek God with our whole heart (verse 10);
- We observe (practice) God's Word with our whole heart (verse 34);
- We long for God's truth with our whole heart (verse 40);
- We entreat God's favor with our whole heart (verse 58);
- We keep God's precepts with our whole heart (verse 69);
- The hope we have in God's word is an encouragement to others (verse 74);
- We cry out to God with our whole heart (verse 145).

A life of following Jesus Christ is an 'all in' kind of life. It is a wholly committed life. Have you allowed God's Word to guide you into an everything offered to God way of life? After all, the Psalmist reminds us: *"Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path"*.

Where have you been all in? What would your faith walk look like if you were all in with God?

**Saturday: God's Word is fuel for your life of faith!**

When Israel set up the Tabernacle as God had prescribed, on the day of consecration, fire fell from the presence of God and set the wood on the altar ablaze. Leviticus 6:12 & 9:24 tell us that it was the priests' responsibility to maintain that fire never allowing it to burn out. After the Temple in Jerusalem was built, that altar resided in the inmost court of the Temple until its destruction. In the New Testament, through the power and work of the Holy Spirit the dwelling place of God is now in our hearts. God's tabernacle stands there. So, what is the critical fuel we place upon the altar of our

hearts it to fire the Spirit's work? The prophet Isaiah names it: *"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:11)

If God's Word is that powerful, that irresistible, and that focused, how will you make it a central part of your day? After all God has work to accomplish in and through you! **What fuel are you giving to the Holy Spirit to work in you that which is pleasing in God's sight?** (Hebrews 13:20-21) The Word of God will be at home in us to the degree we are at home with the Word. That is, to the extent that God's Word is part and parcel of your life.

Have you read the Bible through cover-to-cover? Is God calling you to do that this year?

**Sunday: How do I read God's Word?**

**So, what are some guidelines for how we read, so that we might truly understand what we read?**

- Read a verse in the context of the passage within which it is placed.
- Read the passage in the context of the chapter and book in which it is located.
- Is your understanding of this verse consistent with the rest of Scripture?
- What words recur in this passage? What nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs repeat?
- What other verses or stories are brought to mind by it or referenced in it?
- Are there odd phrases? What do they mean?
- How does this passage speak to you right now?
- How has your understanding of this verse, passage or story grown over time?

It all begins with the Word, God's Word.