

The Word of God has for purpose to minister to the world what God has designed for His creation to embrace and live by, so as to abide by His will, live to obey and worship Him, and find the way to eternal life in His presence.

The ministry of the Word consists of:

To provide knowledge through the study of scripture to teach us the truth about God (John 17:16-17);

To lead us to salvation in Christ, (John 5:39);

To impart us with discernment, understanding and wisdom, (Philippians 1:9);

To build and increase our faith, (Hebrews 11:6);

To give us guidance into the path to follow for our life, (Psalm 119:105);

To encourage us to be steadfast in our commitment to follow Christ, (Proverbs 30:5);

To compel us into obedience to His Word, (John 14:15);

To teach us self-discipline, (1Cor 9:27);

To lead us into God's blessings for our life, (Psalm 37:4);

To give us warnings against ignoring His Word, (Matthew 7:21).

The Word of God has for purpose to lead, guide, exhort and warn anyone who desires to know the way, the truth and the life, as Jesus declared in John 14:6.

Introspection: Am I serious about my faith in Christ to study His Word and follow its teachings, or do I just dabble here and there into scriptures that satisfies my flesh?

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THE WORD OF GOD LEADS US TO THE TRUTH

*“They are not of the world,
just as I am not of the world.
Sanctify them by Your truth.
Your Word is truth.” John 17:16-17*

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The prophet in Hosea 4:6 stated, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

Indeed, it is the favorite deception of the enemy of our faith to draw us away from God through negligence of seeking knowledge from the Word of God.

Why is the knowledge of the Word of God so important to us?

John 8:32: “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

1Tim 2:3-4: “For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Rom 11:33: “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!”

How is this accomplished?

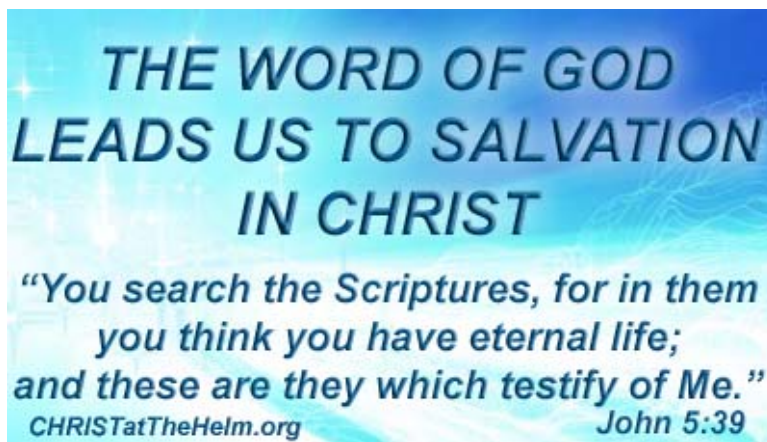
Col 3:16: “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Why?

John 16:13: “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.”

Introspection: Am I steadfast to daily study God’s Word to seek knowledge of the truth?

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Why does the world need salvation, and how does the Word of God lead us in that direction?

Rom 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Salvation is our only way to God and is found in true belief in Christ Jesus, in His mission as Savior, so He becomes Lord over our life by following Him at His Word.

Here's what Jesus said on this:

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Then the apostles confirmed:

Acts 4:12: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

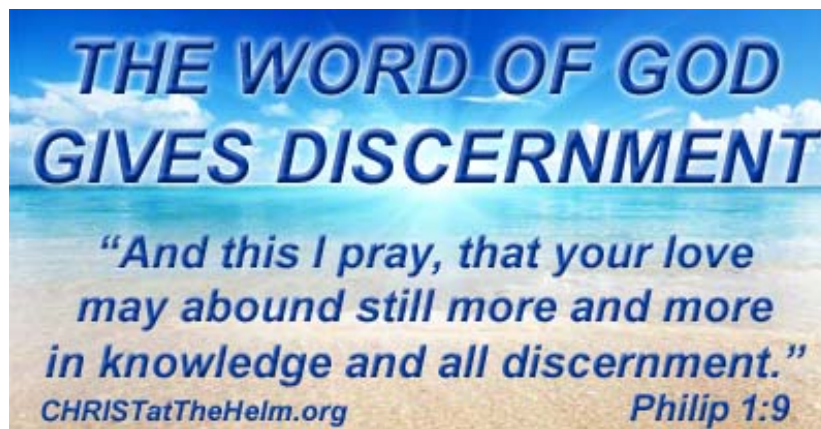
Rom 6:23: "For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

What happens at salvation?

John 1:12: "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

Introspection: Is Jesus my Savior and Lord of my life?

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Discernment is defined as the ability to judge between good and evil, between right and wrong. Then, what does discernment generate in a person's life?

Pro 2:1-5: "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, *and* apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, *and* lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as *for* hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."

What is our source of discernment?

Heb 4:12: "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Why?

1Cor 2:14: "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

The solution...Rom 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Introspection: Do I seek discernment for my life so as to live according to God's Word?

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FEEDING ON THE WORD OF GOD BUILDS OUR FAITH

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb 11:6

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In the same way that we need food for our body to live, we also need to feed our spirit with the Word of God so as to live by faith in Christ.

Why?

Rom 10:17: “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Rom 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

1John 5:4: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith.”

Gal 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

How does the Word of God build our faith?

Heb 11:3: “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

Heb 12:2: “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith.”

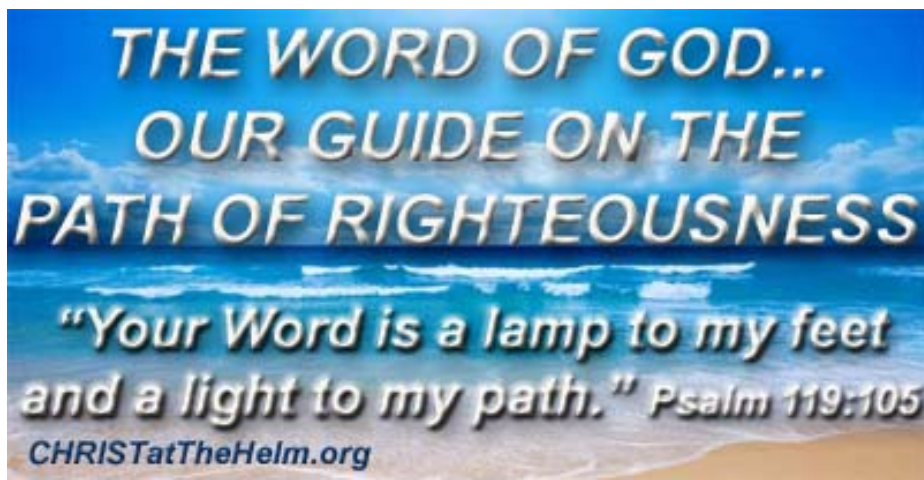
And the benefit:

John 3:36: “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life.”

Eph 3:17: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love.”

Introspection: How strong and grounded is my faith in Christ right now?

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What better source than the Word of God to guide us through every single aspect of life?

Here's what scripture says on this:

Pro 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Pro 16:9: "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."

Psalm 32:8: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."

Psalm 25:9-10: "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies."

How is that accomplished?

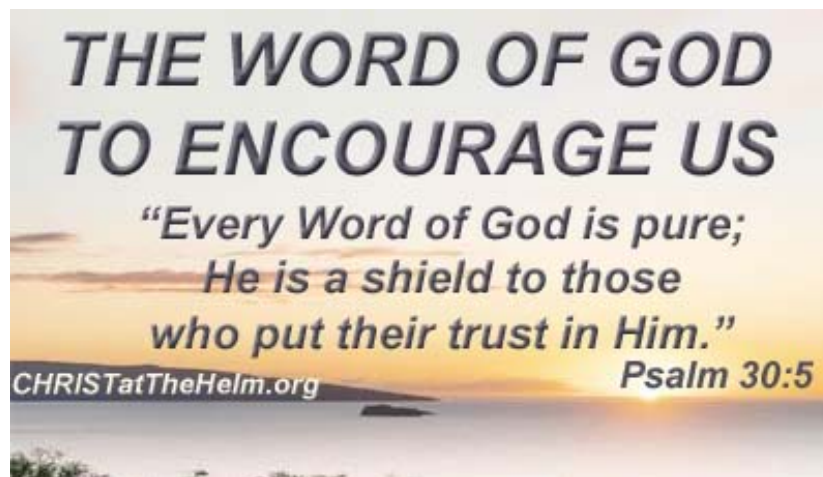
Mat 7:7-8: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

John 14:26: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

And the attitude of heart we must have... Psalm 25:5: "Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day."

Introspection: Is the Word of God my fail proof source for guidance?

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What can we expect from steadfastly seeking God in His Word and living day by day to follow Christ?

Psalm 37:4: “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalm 28:7: “The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.”

Psalm 55:22: “Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”

Isaiah 41:10: “Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God.”

Jer 29:11: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

John 16:33: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

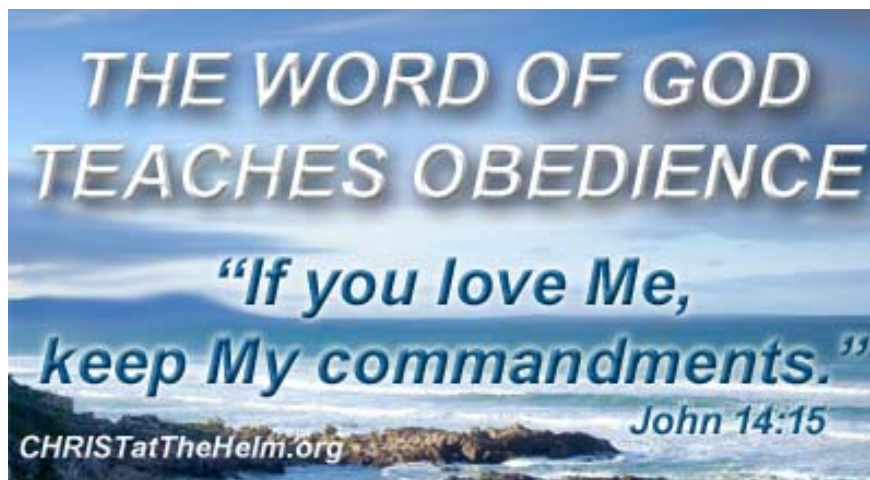
Why?

Joshua 1:9: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

2Tim 1:7: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Introspection: How encouraged am I each day as I dwell in the Word of God and trust Christ for my life?

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Jesus always made Himself clear and concise in His commands to follow Him. The reason He said in John 14:21. "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Then in John 15:14 He added, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

Obviously, the Word of God teaches us that we owe obedience to His Word.

How is that achieved?

1Peter 1:13-15: "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct."

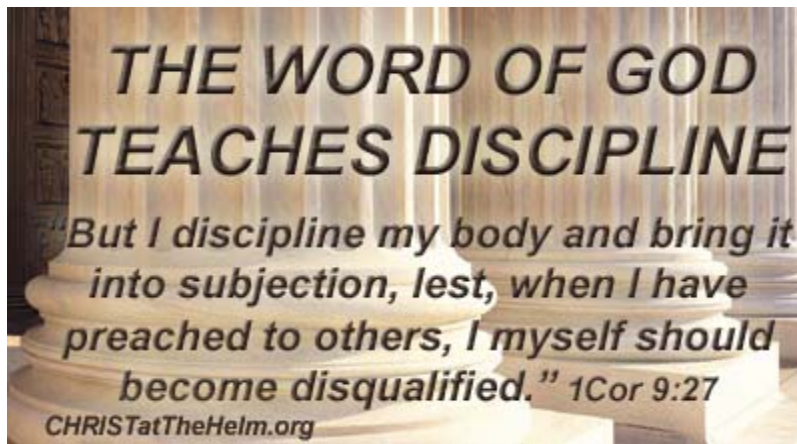
Jer 7:23: "Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you."

For what purpose?

1John 3:24: "Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."

Introspection: Does my heart attitude, actions, thoughts and life testify to my obedience to Christ?

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Discipline is a lifetime foundation necessary for a happy life, and to live to obey God and follow Christ.

Discipline starts with childhood, as Pro 22:6 enjoins us: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Obviously, discipline has for purpose to follow the rules, whether it refers to God’s Word or civil law.

Why should we discipline ourselves to follow the Word of God?

Pro 10:17: “People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore correction will go astray.”

How should we apply discipline to our lives?

Heb 12:1-2: “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith.”

2Tim 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Why?

Just as a father disciplines his son, Rev 3:19 tells us: “I correct and discipline everyone I love.” In other words, if we don’t control our life, the Lord will apply discipline to bring us to a righteous path.

Introspection: How disciplined am I to live to obey God at His Word?

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What can we expect from studying and abiding by the Word of God?

Pro 30:5: "Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

Psalms 34:8: "Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!"

Jer 17:7-8: "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes."

Psalms 84:11: "For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

What did Jesus say on that?

Luke 11:28: "Blessed *are* those who hear the Word of God and keep it!"

John 7:38: "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Finally, Philippians 4:6-7 tells us what we can expect if we trust God and His Word: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Introspection: Do I steadfastly cherish the Word of God to guard my heart and mind through Christ Jesus?

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Jesus did not mince His words when He clearly stated that we must do the will of the father to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

What other warnings does the Word of God give us?

Col 2:8: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

1John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Deut 11:16: "Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them."

Why?

Mat 24:24: "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

Mat 16:26: "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

What's more?

Rev 21:8: "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Introspection: Do I navigate my life on God's green light, or the world's red light?

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