

As true believers in God and Christ, is a weekly sermon enough to allow us to grow daily in the faith, develop discernment and wisdom, and gain in-depth knowledge of the Word of God?

Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

The reason Jesus said in Luke 4:4: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.'"

In truth, unless we acquire the knowledge of the Word of God, we gradually weaken spiritually, giving the enemy a door to enter our lives. In John 8:31-32, Jesus said: "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Obviously, abiding in His Word is much more than taking one or two spiritual meals per week.

What's our solution?

1Peter 2:1-2: "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."

2Tim 3:16-17: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Introspection: Do I understand the need for the Word of God in my life?

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THE POWER IN THE WORD OF GOD

**“The grass withers, the flower
fades, but the Word of our God
stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8**

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Is there power in the Word of God?

John 1:1-4: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

John 6:63: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.”

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.”

2Peter 1:2-3: “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

Isaiah 55:11: “So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.”

Mat 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Introspection: Do I understand the importance and power of the Word of God for my life?

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Do we realize the importance of studying the Word of God, so we learn to live according to God's Word?

Here's why:

Rom 15:4: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

John 5:39: "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

Luke 24:44: "These *are* the Words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me."

How is that done?

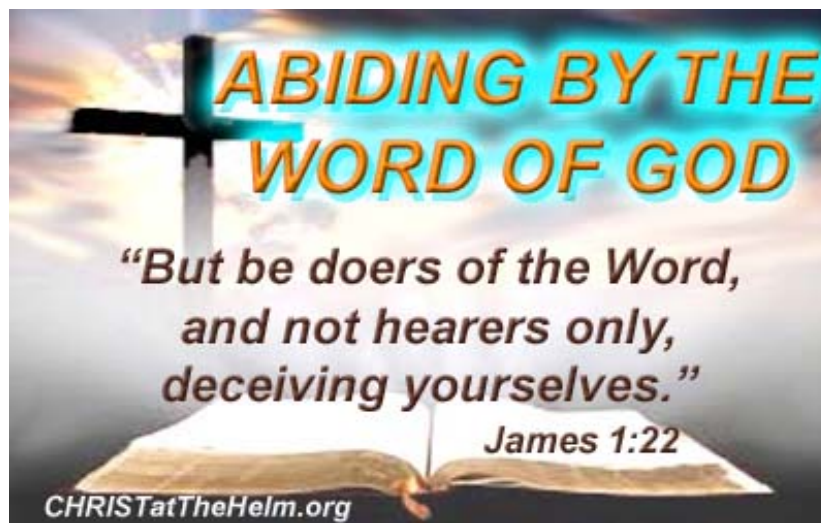
Joshua 1:8: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Rom 12:2: "And 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."

2Tim 3:14: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it."

Introspection: How dedicated am I to study the Word of God?

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What is the proper attitude to adopt so as to honor our commitment to follow Christ at His Word?

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."

Col 3:17: "And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

1Thess 2:13: "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."

Here's how Job stood by God's Word even through most intense trials: Job 23:12: "I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food."

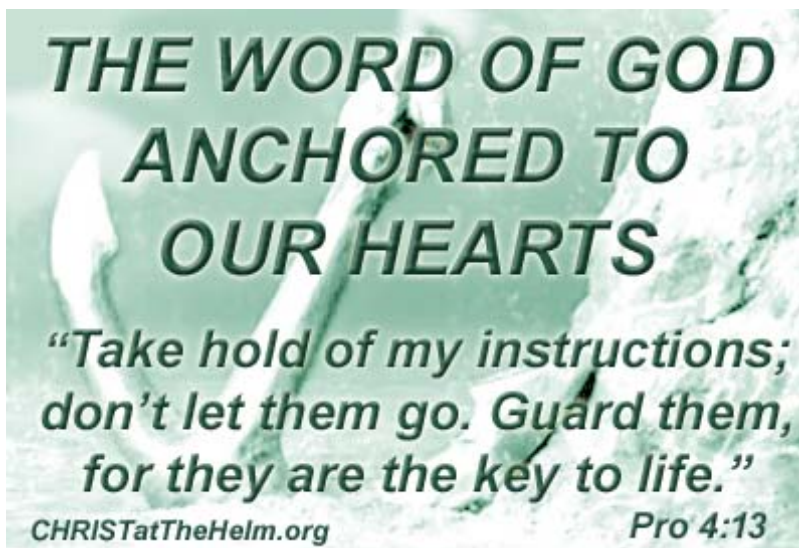
Why must we live and stand by God's Word?

Mat 7:24: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."

John 13:17: "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Introspection: How determined am I to trust and follow Christ, and to stand by His Word through all circumstances of life?

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What does the study of the Word of God produce in our 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.”

How is it done?

Deut 11:18: “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.”

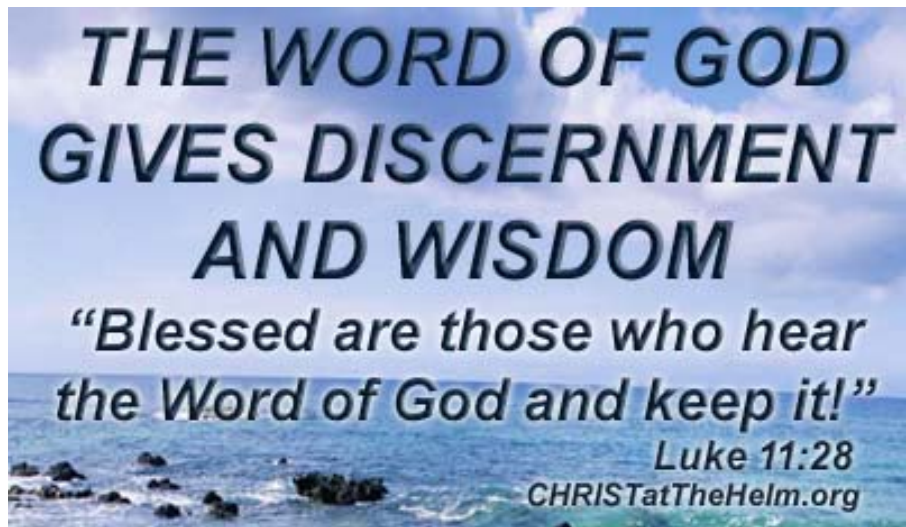
Col 3:16: “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

1Peter 3:15: “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

Ps 119:15-16: “I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word.”

Introspection: How rooted and cherished is the Word of God in my heart?

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What can we expect from being steadfast in studying the Word of God?

Discernment:

Heb 5:14: “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.”

Rom 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Wisdom:

Psalms 19:7: “The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.”

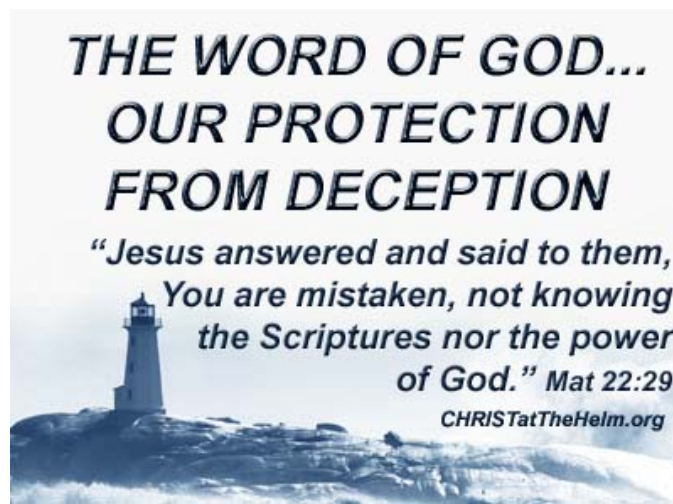
Blessings:

Psalms 1:1-3: “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither, whatever they do prospers.”

Psalms 18:30: “As for God, His way *is* perfect; the Word of the LORD is proven; He *is* a shield to all who trust in Him.”

Introspection: How much fruit is produced in my life from faithfully studying and living by God’s Word?

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As true believing Christians, what must we guard ourselves against in this world?

1John 4:1: "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

2Peter 3:17-18: "You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

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."

Why?

Psalms 1:6: "For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

How must we protect ourselves against deception so as to not be deceived by the world?

Eph 6: 10-11: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Eph 6:17: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

Introspection: How sharp and ready is our sword of the Spirit to protect ourselves from deception?

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