

GOD'S WORD GIVES LIFE FOR ALL

***SEVEN DEVOTIONAL STUDIES BASED ON THE
BIBLE WEEK THEME***

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GOD'S WORD GIVES LIFE FOR ALL!

Purpose of this Study

This series of Bible studies will help you better understand the value of the Word of God for your life. The Word of God is God Himself (*John 1:1*). This means that God is inseparable from His Word. He is bound by the Word He speaks and His Word contains the VERY LIFE of God Himself!

The Bible declares in (*Numbers 23:19*), “God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil?” (NIV) What this entails is that God’s Word is absolutely trustworthy because God is not a human being. He is God the divine! He never fails. Everything in life can fail us but God’s word is our sure foundation because God is bound by His word and his word will always come to pass. Nothing can change it nor stop it from being fulfilled in your life!

The Word of God is the very life of God. When God made Adam from the dust of the earth in (*Genesis 2:7*), Adam only became a living being after God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” There is an unshakeable truth that needs to be established here. There is no spoken word without breath. Every time one speaks, breath is involved. It is an important component of the spoken word. That is exactly what happened to Adam when he was lying in his earth suit (body). There was no life in him. Life only came to him through the breath of God; which is the very life of God!

It is the sincere desire of the writer of this Bible Week Study that by the end of this study, you will be absolutely changed from the inside out and treat the Word of God like you would host God himself if he comes in person into your home.

You are invited to join the Bible Society in this seven-day journey to explore the vital relationship between the Word of God and the life you now live. Enjoy the journey!

How to Use this study

You can use this study as an individual for your own devotional time with God, or during your family devotion or even during your home Bible Study groups.

The study is in seven series and for your own benefit and for the benefit of those you will use this study with, it is recommended that you do one study for each day. Read through the recommended texts for each day, read the commentaries on each text and then discuss the questions given to give you more insights on each day's topic.

You will learn more as you use the discussion questions as a guide. It is hoped that this study series on the topic of "God's Word Gives Life for All" will be inspirational, insightful and spiritually refreshing.

STUDY 1 GOD'S WORD AND YOU

Bible Text - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NIV)

The Bible is God's written word. Sometimes this is referred to as the 'logos.' This Greek word, which is most often translated 'word,' means "the entire communication process." The best example of 'logos' for us is the Bible which is God's "entire communication process" to us in written form.

It is important for every believer, therefore, to prayerfully meditate on the Bible, which allows God to speak to us through scriptures, which in turn gives life to our hearts (Luke 24:32). The Bible also tells us to hide the word in our hearts so we do not sin against God (Ps. 119:11).

In 2Timothy 3:16-17 above, we see the phrase "God breathed" with reference to the Scripture and it's not only some scriptures but ALL Scripture. This means that the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation contains the very breath of God which is the LIFE of God himself.

It is absolutely imperative for every believer to understand this. Our attitude to the Bible, the written word of God, is a reflection of our attitude to God himself. We cannot say that we love God and not love the Bible, which is the Word of God.

If God's Word (the Bible) is God's "entire communication process," then to neglect it is to neglect God himself and what He intends to communicate to us. Secondly his "entire communication process" is "God breathed," meaning it contains the very life of God. So, to ignore the Bible is to ignore the very life we need in order to live. It is possible to exist but not live. Unfortunately, many Christians fall into this category; they merely exist but not living. The Word of God is the only thing that can give you the reason for being alive!

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the relationship between the ‘breath of God’ and the Word of God?

2. Is the Bible like an ordinary book? What makes it different from all other books?

3. How much does your Bible mean to you?

4. Imagine being a Christian without a Bible! Do you think you can live a Christian life without it? Discuss.

5. The Bible is also in electronic format. You can access it through different Bible apps. What are some major differences between Bible apps and the Bible as a book?

STUDY 2

GOD'S WORD AND YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Bible Text - Romans 8: 26-27

“²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

Every Christian should believe in the power of prayer to transform their lives and the lives of others. In fact, many of us can probably testify that we came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour because someone, somewhere was praying for us.

The power of prayer is unparalleled and cannot be quantified by human standard because it is a spiritual discipline that needs to be believed, exercised and acted upon in order to produce results. Your prayer can go anywhere in the world, impact everyone and produce heavenly results. God invites us to this place of intimacy with him in prayer.

Prayer is having fellowship with God and there is no other better way to do that than to use his own words in the Bible. Scriptural praying is the most powerful tool ever at our disposal because the word of God we pray is the exact will of God. And when we pray according to his will, God promises that our prayers will be answered (*1 John 5:14-15*). If the Holy Spirit is interceding for us in accordance with the will of God (*Romans 8:27*), how much more do you think we should be praying in accordance to his will. And what else reveals to us the will of God but the word of God.

Scriptural praying energises our inner man (spirit). In *John 6:63*, Jesus says, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (ESV). The word of God is spirit and life! Our spirit is the part of our being that communicates directly with God. It is important therefore that our spirit is given its right nourishment in order to grow and mature. It is the word of God that gives our spirit life and when we pray using scripture, not only is our spirit man being refreshed, renewed and energised, we are also putting God into remembrance of his word, upon which he is obligated to act.

Remember God is Spirit (*John 4:24*) and he only responds to prayers

that are infused with the life of the Spirit. Spirit-infused prayer is none other than scriptural praying. The word of God is “spirit and life” (John 6:63) .If you find your prayer life becoming boring, add life to it by using the word of God because it is full of the Spirit of God himself and the life of God.

Discussion Questions

1. How important is the Word of God in your prayer life?
Discuss.

2. According to Romans 8:27, *“the spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”* How important is this verse in light of your life?

3. What will you do differently with your prayer life in order to draw closer to God?

STUDY 3 GOD'S WORD AND TODAY'S YOUNGER GENERATION Bible Text - Psalm 119:9

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.” (ESV)

David the Psalmist shares an important insight regarding young people and their relationship to the Word of God. For them to keep themselves pure, they can only do so by living according to the Word of God.

We have already seen in the last study that the Word of God is “spirit and life” (*John 6:63*). This means that it is already pure. You cannot add anything else to it nor take anything away from it to make it pure. You just have to yield yourself to it.

The younger generation of today need more exposure to the word of God than ever, in order to counter the ravaging effects of a very secular society and through its liberal media outlets. There's no other time in history when the younger minds have been bombarded left, right and centre with a worldview that tries to pull them into its mould and poison their innocent minds. The effects of social media on the young generation is frightening. Many young people spend more time on their smartphones than anything else. What you focus on more is what will shape your life and worldview.

The younger generation need to know that the world has a standard and they too must know who they are and the standard they should aspire to uphold. Paul is writing to the Romans in chapter 12, verse 2 where he says, “Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect” (*GNT*).

A young Christian's standard must be based on the word of God. Every young person must make that choice and the only way they can live up to God's standard is to read, study, meditate and act upon the Word of God. When you know who you are in God—that you are a child of God, adopted into His family and possess all the spiritual blessings that are in Christ, you can live an uncompromising life that pleases God and bring glory to His name.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for the younger generation today to spend more time in the Word of God?

2. Discuss the effects of social media and how it relates to one's relationship with God.

3. Why is it important to know the standard required of you as a young person?

STUDY 4 GODS WORD GIVES LIFE FOR THE FAMILY

Bible Text - Genesis 2:24-25

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”

The family is a sacred institution ordained by God to be the very fabric and foundation of all human relationships. It was the first social institution established by God even before he established the government and the church. This means that the strength and longevity of the church and a nation will depend on the strength of its family unit.

This is the institution that is going through the greatest attack by the devil today. In fact, the attack started right there in the garden of Eden. The devil did not waste any time the moment Adam and Eve were together. He knew that if he could destroy that marriage union, he could destroy the family and everything else.

This is why there must be an intentional emphasis in the church to strengthen marriage and the family. The family is a community on earth that reflects the community of the Godhead; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. There is no other relationship on earth that best reflects the relationship between God and man like the relationship between a man and woman in marriage. Let us look at a few insights on this:

1. The marriage relationship must be a PRIMARY relationship, just as the relationship between God and man is primary. God did not create a father, mother or mother in law for a man but a WIFE. Only a wife can establish a ‘one flesh’ relationship with a man.
2. The marriage relationship must be a PERMANENT relationship just as the relationship between God and man must be permanent. Children will be with the parents for only a few years but a husband and wife relationship is for life.
3. The marriage relationship must be EXCLUSIVE. The text says that a man must be married “to his wife,” not ‘wives.’ Monogamy is God’s design just as man must serve ONLY ONE GOD!
4. The marriage relationship must be INTIMATE. The man and a woman in marriage become a “one flesh” union. No longer are they two but one! The relationship between God and man is only meaningful when it is intimate.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss why a marriage established on the foundation of the Word of God is important in the church and society in general today.

2. Give examples of how the family has been attacked today and what can we do to counter these attacks.

3. Discuss why the marriage union is the best reflection of the relationship between God and man.

STUDY 5 GOD'S WORD GIVES LIFE FOR THE CHURCH

Bible Text - Matthew 16:15-19

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Jesus and Peter had an interesting encounter in these passages of scripture. When Jesus asked his disciples who they think he is, Peter replied under divine revelation that “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus commended Peter for that revelation and went on to say, “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hades will not overcome it.”

There are a few interesting insights from these passages we can reflect on in light of the Word of God and the church:

- a) Jesus Christ is the Word Incarnate! He is the Word who became flesh and dwelled among us (*John 1:1 – 14*). Without Jesus Christ, there is no church.
- b) In Jesus was life and that life was the light of mankind (*John 3:4*). The life of the church is in the Word, which is Jesus Christ himself.
- c) Jesus Christ is building his church. It is His church; not ours! He is building it; not us! This has to be made clear. So, we must let the church be the church that Jesus Christ wants it to be.
- d) There is no power on earth that can destroy his church. The reason is because, He, Jesus Christ, the Word, the Life of the church is building it and he will guard it.
- e) Jesus Christ is building His church on the Rock! He himself is the ROCK and anything built on the foundation of solid rock can never be moved nor shaken (*Matthew 7:24-27*)

- f) His church is not a building or an institution; it is an organism that is alive and well and dynamic in its power and reach.
- g) His church is not a particular denomination but a body of believers worldwide that must have a visible local expression called the local church.
- h) Every Christian, regardless of denominational affiliation, must belong to a local church. Why is this important? Just as a child is born into a family; every born again believer must be born into a spiritual family, which is the local church. Just as a child needs milk to grow, every believer needs the nourishment of the word of God for spiritual growth.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the important relationship between the Word of God and the church of the living God.

2. The church is “not a building or an institution” but an “organism.” Reflect on this and discuss.

STUDY 6 GOD'S WORD GIVES LIFE FOR THE NATION

Bible Text - Psalm 33:12

"Blessed is the nation, whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance."

God is sovereign and he alone determines the destiny of all nations on earth. God doesn't need a committee to decide what needs to be done now and for the future. He alone is the sole judge. And by nature, God is a JUST God.

This makes it imperative that every nation on earth must first of all acknowledge that there is a God who created all things and has to be worshipped without compromise. In fact, the Psalmist declares in *Psalm 24:1*, "The earth is the Lord's and everything therein." The earth is God's by ownership, it is ours by stewardship. Stewardship means that we will one day be accountable to God, the owner, for the way we have looked after what belongs to him. When we understand this as Christians, it becomes clear to us that only through the worship of the one true God, can we be blessed as a nation and bear true allegiance to his course.

God spoke to the Israelites in *Exodus 20* where he laid down before them the ten commandments, the first of which captures the essence of who He is and why He needs to be the number one focus and priority of every person and peoples on earth. This is what he said then and still very much relevant for every nation on earth today. "And God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

God reminds Israel that he alone is God and he alone deserves their worship. Secondly, he told them that they were an enslaved people who could not redeem themselves. They needed a deliverer and God came to their rescue through Moses.

As Christians, we are obligated not only to pray for our nations and leaders, but also to do everything we can to remind those in leadership that a nation without God is a nation without purpose, meaning and direction. God's word provides the sure foundation upon which a godly nation is built. A nation is blessed when God is enthroned in his rightful place as God.

Discussion Questions

1. What can you do as a Christian in your nation to draw people to God?

2. What are the major challenges you are facing as a Christian in your nation as you passionately want to draw people to God? How do you counter these challenges?

3. What role does the Bible play in solving the challenges you have identified in 2 above?

4. Does your nation guarantee religious freedom? If so, how are you taking advantage of this to promote the Bible in all spheres of influence?

STUDY 7 GOD'S WORD GIVES LIFE FOR LEADERS

Bible Text - Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

David was one of the finest and most illustrious leaders of Israel. Despite his imperfections, God used him in a mighty way to defeat a giant, deliver a nation from imminent shame and defeat and propelled him to a position of leadership in Israel.

If one has to dissect David's secret to success as a leader, the primacy of the Word of God in his life must be at the top. It is obvious from the text above (*Psalm 119:105*) and the entire book of Psalm. David was not only a worshipper. He was also a warrior at heart.

He developed into a leader of courage with wisdom and strength beyond his years. He took responsibility seriously and was always at the forefront in everything. He led from the front; not the rear. He developed into maturity very quickly because he was responsible. He demonstrated his godly spirit through his willingness to take on Goliath while the great warriors of Israel hid in their tents (*1 Sam 17:40-50*). He enjoyed a clear sense of dependence on God and made sure God would get the glory for any success in his life.

Despite being the youngest in a family of eight boys, God chose him anyway. He was a leader after God's own heart (*1 Sam 13:14*). What qualified him as a leader by God's standard? He was a man of character. He does not major on his outward impressiveness but on his inward character (*1 Sam 16:7*).

True godly character is nurtured in privacy in one's secret and sacred place in God. The book of Psalms (longest in the Bible) is a testament to David's heart for worship and intentional focus and raw dependence on God. Any leader who does the same as David will also be successful.

God is looking for godly leaders in the family, church, business and the nation. John Maxwell said, “Everything rises and falls on leadership.” This was true with Israel then and also true for us today. When Israel had a good leader, God blessed the nation but when Israel had a bad leader, the nation is punished. Godly leadership is all about putting God first in everything and complete obedience and adherence to His word.

Discussion Questions

1. What can you do as a Christian to influence your leader to become the leaders God wants them to be?

2. Why is godly leadership so important in every sphere of influence today?

3. “Everything rises and falls on leadership” (John Maxwell). Discuss this again in relation to the commentary and your own experience.
