

Five Things About The Word

#0307

Study by W D. Frazee—April 11, 1977

Turn please to Isaiah, the 40th chapter. I always like to hear those leaves rustle as we turn the pages of this blessed Book. The message is in the Book:

“Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” Isaiah 40:1–8.

This is the word by which the gospel is preached unto you—the good news of the power of God in this Book! The Word of our God shall stand forever. It was by His Word that our Savior made this world.

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast” Psalms 33:6, 9.

It was by the Word that He performed His miracles when He tabernacle among us here as a member of our family. He spoke to the sea, and it obeyed Him. He spoke to the leper, and he was cleansed. He spoke to the dead, and the dead lived. Thank God, that Word has spoken to millions of hearts down through the ages and brought life to the soul that was dead in trespasses and sins.

I want to study with you tonight five things about this Word.

First, I *need* His Word. I need His Word. Do you need it?

Job the 23rd chapter and the 12th verse. Job was in a hard place when he made this statement. He was on the ash heap surrounded by critical friends. But

out of the depth of his sorrow, he testified of his great need for the Word of God more than his necessary food.

“Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” Job 23:12. [read by Steve Cook]

The words of His mouth more than my what? My necessary food. Do I need the Word? Yes. Do I need food? Yes. Which do I need most? Job said he needed the Word more. What do you say? Thank the Lord. Now, turn to Matthew four, four. Here we have another statement concerning the life-giving necessity of the Word of God. These are the words of Jesus. He gave them first to and through Moses there in the wilderness. But He Whose lips had spoken these words at Sinai repeated in the flesh as He met the tempter in the wilderness:

“But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4. [read by Steve Cook]

What do we live by? Well, we live by bread. Does Jesus recognize that we live by bread? Sure, we all do. But not by bread alone but by what? Every word that proceedeth out the mouth of God. So, this agrees with what Job said: “More than my necessary food,” I need the Word of God.

Number two, I read His Word. Revelation the first chapter and the third verse. I read the Word of God. Why do I read it? Because I need it. It can’t do much good for me unless I do read it, can it? No. As I take food into my mouth because my body needs nourishment, I read the Word of God that it may nourish my soul.

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” Revelation 1:3. [read by Steve Cook]

What is that first word? Blessed. Do you want to be blessed? Blessed is he that... *readeth*. Are you getting the blessing in reading this Book? It is here for you my dear friend—the blessing of God. And the wise man says that “the blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22). Oh, I testify that there is a blessing in the reading of this Book, my friend!

Yea were the sun one crystal light,
The earth a golden ball;
And diamonds all the stars of night,
This Book were worth them all.
[Unknown author]

Blessed is he that readeth. Now, turn over to Luke the 10th chapter and the 26th verse. I want you to catch the import of a question that Jesus asked a lawyer.

He asked Christ a question, and Jesus, in turn, asked him a question. He is asking us this question tonight:

“He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?” Luke 10:26. [read by Steve Cook]

Yes, *how* readest thou? Everyone doesn’t read the same. Some read to argue. Like this Lawyer (poor fellow) had been doing. Some read it to find evidence for their own cherished opinions. Some read it merely as a ritual. It could just as well be in Latin or Greek today for all the good they get out of it.

I heard of a man in a penitentiary in one of the northern states who had committed the entire Bible to memory, but it hadn’t touched his heart at all. He was still an unconverted man. What a pity! What is written? *How* readest thou?

Oh, it’s a wonderful thing to come to this Book with a humble heart and say as did little Samuel, “Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth.” God is ready to give us His message through this Book. But our attitude determines what we get from it. It doesn’t give the same blessing to everyone. *How* readest thou? We are told that we should always come in an attitude of prayer to the reading of this Book.

Here we have an audience with the King of kings. With what reverence we should approach this Word. This is no ordinary writing. History? Yes, but more. Doctrine? Yes, but more. This is the message of God, and they get the most from it who recognize it as a personal letter from Jesus to them. And with reverence and love, with anticipation and hope, and with faith, they open these pages, and God speaks to them.

What is written? *How* readest thou. Here is a word of exhortation from the Master concerning *how* to read:

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me” John 5:39. [read by Steve Cook]

What is that first word? Search: hunt, dig, look, observe, meditate. What are you searching for? Searching for treasure like that man in the field. Searching for gold like the prospector out in the mountains. Searching like that woman who lost a piece of silver in her house—looking. What are you hunting for in this Book? The Word that will save your soul.

The answer to the question, “What must I do to be saved?”

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me” John 5:39.

The first point I gave you? I *need* His the Word. And the second? I *read* His Word.

The third is, I *plead* His Word. For this I bring a most beautiful statement in the book *Christ's Object Lessons*:

"Plead for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made. With your Bible in your hands say, I have done as Thou has said. I present Thy promise, 'Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you'" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 147.

I wonder, my dear friends, have you done this? I am sure that many have. But I address this question to many who have missed this blessing. *Do* exactly what this says and get the blessing. Not that there is a blessing in a mere ritual or form. But inspiration has invited us to do this. What is it? *Plead* for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made.

With your Bible in your hands say, I have done as Thou has said. I present Thy promise, 'Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find..." *Ibid*.

I notice that most people who go to a bank expecting to get money, present a check in order to get it. Does it make any difference? Seems to. In fact, it makes *all* the difference, Doesn't it? Yes. So think of this Book, among other things, as a number of checks on the bank of Heaven written to *you*. But each of those checks must be presented and endorsed by the one who is cashing the check. Right?

So you *need* this Book. You *read* this Book and find its promises. And You *plead* those promises—you present them to the One who gave them as His own pledged word, and He cannot lie, my friend. He cannot default on the note. He will honor every word He has promised. But He is waiting for you and me to plead His promises.

One of the best ways, therefore, to study this Book—I wouldn't say that it is the only way, it isn't—is to study it on our knees. And then as we come to a promise, we are in the attitude of prayer, and we can say, "Lord, here is a promise. It is what I need. I am reading it, and now I am *pleading* it. I plead this promise." For Jesus' sake, fulfill Thy Word to me.

Will He do it? Oh, yes. Thank the Lord.

Now, number four—I *heed* His Word.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word" Psalms 119:9. [read by Steve Cook]

The Word is to be *heeded*. It's needed—certainly friends! But it must be *heeded* in order for our need to be met.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word" Psalms 119:9.

In one of our earlier text, we read:

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy...” Revelation 1:3.

In one translation that is read, not merely hear but *heed*: give ear to it, pay attention, do what it says. That is taking heed, isn't it? Yes.

Turn please now to Hebrews the second chapter and the first verse. This is one of the most graphic statements on the importance of *heeding* the Word that I have ever read:

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him” Hebrews 2:1–3. [Read by Steve Cook]

This is one of Paul's long sentences. He is good at building long structures, but let's follow him. *We* ought to give, what? The more earnest *heed* to the things we have heard lest at any time we should let them slip. Look at the margin of your Bible. What does it say there instead of “slip”? “Run out as leaking vessels.” Tell me something, if you had a bucket and you were going to water a plant, and you had a leaky bucket, what would you do when you got the bucket filled? You would run with it, wouldn't you? Why? Obviously, if you didn't pretty soon, you wouldn't what?

[A man from the congregation] Anything left.

Unless you and I give *heed* to what we *read*, we'll lose it, we'll lose it.

One of the saddest things about the scribes and Pharisees was this: Jesus knew they read the Bible, they searched it and memorized it, they talked about it day after day, but He said they say and do not, they say and do not.

One of the worse things about TV is that people are constantly looking at situations, either imaginary or real, regarding which they do nothing. They just sit there and watch something. Sometimes the situations, again either imaginary or real, are quite *tense*. They call for action. But what can the TV viewer do about it? Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, he can do nothing. This is doing something for the character that is not good. God intends, my friends, that when you and I are confronted with needs, that we should do something about them.

When you and I are confronted with opportunities, we should *do* something about them. So he says that ought to give the more earnest *heed* to the things we have heard lest at any time we let them run out as leaking vessels.

Tell me, did you ever hear a sermon, or read in your own study something, and your soul was roused to do something, and you didn't do it? And pretty soon, you cooled off, you forgot and you lost the blessing. Has it ever happened? Ah friends, this very study we're having tonight unless you and I *do* something about it, the good impressions made will fade. The water of life will run out as from a leaking vessel. We ought to give earnest, what? *Heed* to the things which we have heard.

He speaks of the fact that in ancient times the word spoken by angels was steadfast. Every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward. And if that was so, how shall we escape if we—is the next word, reject? What is it? "Neglect." The end result of *neglect* is the same as *reject*. Just put off by procrastination or lackadaisical inactivity—to put off obedience is in the ultimate the same as if we defiantly rebelled. Therefore we ought to give more earnest *heed* to the things which we have heard.

Very well, let's review now. Number one is I *need* His Word. Number two is I *read* His Word. Number three is I *plead* His Word—present His promises. Number four is I *heed* His Word. Shall we do all that?

Now I promised you how many? Five, just like your five fingers, you can string one on each finger. We are going back now to the 40th chapter of Isaiah, where we started this evening. We read the first eight verses, now watch the ninth verse:

"O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young" Isaiah 40:9–11.

What business is Jesus in? He is a shepherd. What is He going to do with His flock? *Feed* it. Thank God, Jesus is in the feeding business. Now come over to John 21. See somebody else that joined that firm that was invited to be a partner with Christ in this location. What word do you find that was in Isaiah 40:11 that is repeated in each of the following verses? *Feed*. Who's talking? Jesus. Who's He talking to? Simon Peter. You remember that Peter had denied the Lord three times not many days before this. But he had repented sincerely, and he'd been forgiven. Now Jesus is reinstating him in his apostolic office, giving him his commission.

And He begins as you notice there in that 15th verse, by asking him what question?

“Lovest thou me—do you love me, Peter?”

“Yes,” Peter said, “I do. You know everything, Lord, you know that I do.”

And what did Jesus say? “Feed My lambs.”

That’s the way that He started out in the 15th verse. Do you see those last three words? “Feed My lambs.” And in the 16th verse, He asks him again,

“Do you love Me?” And he says, “Yes.” And He said, what? “Feed My sheep.”

And He asked him the third time, “Do you love me?”

It said that he was grieved, but he answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love you.”

And then Jesus said what? “Feed My sheep.” He told him three times. That ought to be enough to make it certain that he meant it, don’t you think so?

Now, I want you to see how well Peter learned it. And I want you to see that Peter clearly understood that it wasn’t to stop with him. Turn over to 1 Peter 5:1–2. This is the same Peter that Christ was speaking to there by the lake of Galilee: feed My lambs, feed My sheep. Peter never forgot it. He never quit it. He was in the feeding business all his life.

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind” 1 Peter 5:1–2. [Read by Steve Cook]

Yes, what did Peter exhort others who had been appointed by the church and by the Lord? To *feed* the flock. Is that what Jesus told Peter to do? Now he was telling others to do it. Ah my friend, it’s a wonderful thing to *feed* others. What shall we feed? Look please at 1 Peter, the second chapter and the second verse.

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” 1 Peter 2:2. [Read by Steve Cook]

Now babies start on what? On milk, that’s what there are supposed to start on, isn’t it? What’s the purpose of it? Growth of course. And Peter, who was in the feeding business, said that the way to grow is to feed on what? Milk. Yes, but the milk of what? Milk of the Word. Does he say it there? Did you read it? Is that what it says? The sincere milk of the Word—simple. Now, he doesn’t intend, friends, that we shall just stay with the simple things, but babies need simple things. There are a number of subjects that I could mention here tonight that I wouldn’t recommend for babies in the word, but there is plenty of good milk. And if you are feeding the flock,

if you are feeding the sheep, if you are feeding the lambs; feed the Word—the sincere milk, the simple milk, of the Word.

But now, there are other things in the Word besides that. 1 Corinthians 3:2, here's Paul, he's in the feeding business too. He's feeding the Word. He's a good shepherd and a good undershepherd, along with Peter.

“I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able”
1 Corinthians 3:2. [Read by Steve Cook]

Dear friends, as you feed the words God wants you to be wise in serving each person you study with an appropriate menu. Some people can't stand veggie-roast—it won't agree with them, they can't digest it. Thank God, there is milk. There are simple, easy to be understood things in this Book that administer life. There are also some things mentioned here that Paul would have liked to gotten. Notice what he says to the Hebrews:

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” Hebrews 5:12–14. [Read by Steve Cook]

Alright, start with what? Milk. But remember, Paul says, there are some things beyond. And so in the sixth chapter and the first verse, he says:

“Therefore leaving the principles...”

The margin says, “the word at the beginning”

“...of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection”
Hebrews 6:1.

Is there enough in this Word to make us perfect?

“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 *perfect*, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”
2 Timothy 3:16–17. [Emphasis from Elder Frazee]

Oh, I am thankful for this blessed Book! There is something for everybody. There is something for the lambs and something for the sheep. There is something for the little child and something for the wisest philosopher. There is something for the illiterate as somebody selects some proper portion from this Book and reads it to

him. Something for the man who has mastered a dozen languages—in everyone, he can read this inspired message speaking to his heart.

How is it with you, my friend? Has this Word spoken to your heart? Has the Christ Who spoke at creation, who spoke in the flesh 2,000 years ago, reached your soul with this Word—His Word? Thank God!

In every page from Genesis to Revelation, it is Jesus who is speaking. We read it there in John 5:39 concerning the Old Testament scriptures, and how much more is it true of the New Testament: “They are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39) Christ is uplifted in Genesis, in Deuteronomy, in Psalms, in Isaiah, and in Daniel. He is uplifted in Matthew, in Mark, in Luke, in John, in Acts and Romans, and especially in that crowning book—the Revelation. What’s the name of it? The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament points forward to the Lamb of God who would come and give His life a sacrifice. The New Testament tells the wonderful story of Christ who *has* come, lived as our example, died as our atonement, and has ascended to the temple above; there to hold up His wounded hands and plead for us, ever living to make intercession for us. Christ is in all the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Friend, this is more than a book—it is a person. It is the revelation of a person. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Have you found Him here?

Let’s spend a little time. We could have 20, 30, 40 people here if each one is brief. Just come right up here on this platform and tell us in your words—quickly, briefly—what Christ *in* His Word has meant to you, has done for you, and thank Him for it.

[Testimony service follows]

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