

TOPIC 2 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Introduction*)

Building your life on the Word of God

As Christians we live in a world which is full of ungodly influences and at times even hostility to the things of God. The Bible has much to say on the importance of all believers being overcomers in this life. (**Revelation 21:7**) (**Revelation 2:11, 17, 26**) (**Revelation 3:5, 10-12, 21**)

Jesus in His life here on earth said many things to His disciples to encourage them. Jesus said to His disciples, “*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.”* (**John 16:33**)

Jesus said as He began talking about the end of this age,

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (**Matthew 24:12-13**)

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (**2 Timothy 3:12**)

In this world there are both people who are under the sway of the Kingdom of Darkness (the sons of this world) (**Ephesians 2:1-3**) and people who belong to the Kingdom of God (those born again believers who belong to God’s family). (**1 Peter 2:9**) (**Ephesians 2:4-6**) As Christians we need to live in this world but not be of this world. (**1 John 2:15-17**) We need to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**) and not allow the spirit of this world to draw us away from our love for the things of God.

Jesus shared in his parable of the Wheat and the Tares that in this life here on earth we will be living both with those who love God (believers) and those who reject the things of God. (**Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43**) God has given us His Word to help us in this life to remain strong in our faith.

Building our life on the Word of God is the key to remaining strong in our Christian walk and in fulfilling our God given destiny. God has a unique plan and purpose for every Believer’s life (**Ephesians 2:10**) (**John 15:16**)

Meditating on the Word of God helps Believers to fulfill their God given destiny.

Before leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, the Lord said to Joshua, “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.” (*Joshua 1:8*)

Psalm one also emphasises the importance of meditating on God’s Word.

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (**Psalm 1:1-3**)

Building our lives on the Word of God will also help us to remain strong during those times when we experience great trials or challenges in life.

Jesus Himself emphasised the importance of building our life on the rock.

“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**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (**Matthew 7:24-27**)

The words “whoever” and “everyone” emphasise the absolute importance of building our life on the Word of God. The entire Bible is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16) and contains all that we need to live a life of fruitfulness here on earth. Jesus made it clear that all those who build their life on His teachings and wisdom will not fall when they go through times of trials and challenges.

What can also be seen in this passage of Scripture is that we will all at some time experience challenges and trials in our life. Both the wise man and the foolish man experienced storms (challenges) in their life.

This passage of Scripture also makes it clear that for those who disregard the teachings of Jesus and who do not build their life on the Word of God, when the trials and disappointments of life come upon them, they will be inadequately prepared and equipped to handle them.

The Word of God also helps us to be prepared and thoroughly equipped for all that God has planned for our life.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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.” (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)

When we become Christians we need to replace our wrong mindsets with the truth that is contained in God’s Word.

Jesus Himself 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.” (**John 8:31-32**)

THE APOSTLE PAUL EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING OUR MINDS RENEWED WHEN WE BECOME A BELIEVER.

“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.” (**Romans 12:2**)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**)

WHEN WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN WE BECOME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:17), **A CHILD OF GOD** (John 1:12) **AND WE ARE ADOPTED INTO GOD’S FAMILY.** (Romans 8:15-17)

AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN WE NEED TO GAIN A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INHERITANCE THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST AND HOW WE CAN FULFIL OUR DESTINY IN CHRIST AS WE LEARN HOW TO WALK AS A CHILD OF GOD. (Romans 12:9-21) THE APOSTLE PAUL PRAYED FOR THE CHRISTIANS IN EPHESIS, THAT THEY WOULD GAIN GREATER REVELATION IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. (Ephesians 1:15-23)

When we begin to meditate on the Word of God we start to embrace God’s Kingdom values and attitudes in our life. For those who have come from abusive backgrounds or who have been raised up in other religious traditions, meditating on the Word of God will greatly empower them to have a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ and healthier relationships with others.

MANY BENEFITS ARE EXPERIENCED BY A BELIEVER WHEN THEY MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD. SOME OF THESE BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **Receiving clear direction for our lives**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (**Psalm 119:105**)

- **Gaining Revelation from God’s Word**

“Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.” (**Psalm 119:129-130**)

- **Maintaining peace during the storms of life**

“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.” (**Psalm 119:165**)

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (**Isaiah 26:3**)

- **We are assured of God’s great love for us**

The Bible says much about God’s great love for us. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

- **Gaining wisdom for everyday life**

“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.” (Psalm 119:97-98)

- **Being purified and cleansed from our old habits**

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:9-11)

- **Having our faith encouraged and uplifted**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

“This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.” (Psalm 119:50)

THE WORD OF GOD IS FULL OF MANY PROMISES WHICH NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED BY FAITH (Hebrews 11:1)

- **Receiving encouragement as God speaks through His Word a word in season (Rhema Word)**

“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!” (Proverbs 15:23)

God can speak a Rhema word to us as we read the Word of God. When we are praying for help or His direction in life, the Holy Spirit will often make a Scripture or passage of Scripture stand out (*a word in season*) to encourage us or to give us direction in life.

- **Being equipped and prepared for ministry**

“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.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- **Receiving correction to help us avoid unwanted pitfalls**

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6)

- **Being blessed and prosperous in life,**
 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD!
 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole
 heart.” (Psalm 119:1)
- **Gaining Prophetic insight into what is to come as we draw near to
 the end of this age.** *The gospels, some of the epistles and the books of the
 minor and major prophets such as Daniel and Ezekiel and the book of
 Revelation contain much content in relation to what is still to come as we
 approach the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Millennial reign
 here on earth.*
- **Preventing us from drifting off into wrong doctrine**
 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to
 be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) **and**
- **Bringing revival into our lives as the Word fills our heart**
 “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.
 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with
 my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight
 in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away
 my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish
 your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You...Revive me in Your
 righteousness.” (Psalm 119:33-38, 40)