

CHURCH OF HOPE EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE BY EMAIL AND WEBSITE: **STUDY GUIDE: WEEK TWO**

TOPIC TWO: THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING OUR LIFE ON THE WORD OF GOD

INTRODUCTION TO WEEK TWO: This is the study guide for week two of our Evangelism and Ministry Training Course that is also on our website: www.coh.org.au. Our main teaching to accompany this study guide is again from our Pastors Workshop Guidelines and Teachings Manual (which can be downloaded from our website) and is called, "Building your life on the Word of God".

As I prayed and prepared for this study guide, the Lord put on my heart to emphasise the importance of all Christians feeding themselves spiritually with the Word of God on a regular basis. For pastors and leaders who have been entrusted with the wonderful responsibility of nurturing and equipping other believers, **(Acts 20:28) (Ephesians 4:11-16)** being diligent in the study of the Word of God is crucial if we are to be faithful in feeding those who have been entrusted to our care with the Word of God. The Lord said to Peter when commissioning him, "Feed My lambs", **(John 21:15)** "Tend My Sheep", **(John 21:16)** and "Feed My sheep." **(John 21:17)** Spending much time with the Lord and in His Word empowers a pastor to be more effective in the preaching of the Word.

Every Believer has an important ministry from God and we all need one another. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." **(Ephesians 2:10)** For many years my own ministry was in the workforce as a salesman where I flowed in my gift of evangelism. For believers ministering in the secular world, (which has many ungodly influences), continually feeding on the Word of God, both at church and at home, is vital if they are to be truly a light in this world. **(Matthew 5:16)** As pastors we need to be encouraging those in our meetings to build their lives on the firm foundation of the Word of God, **(Matthew 7:24-27)** so that they remain strong in their walk with the Lord and are prosperous and have good success. **(Joshua 1:8)**

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)**

As pastors and leaders have responsibility (and accountability – **James 3:1**) for overseeing the spiritual walk of many other believers, they are often under greater attack than other Christians as the enemy, (the Devil) knows that if he can smite the Shepherd he can scatter the sheep. The Lord really impressed upon me at the beginning of this year when I looked at Colossians 3:16 the importance of feeding much on the Word of God this year. The Apostle Paul wrote, "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." **(Colossians 3:16)** **Psalm 119 contains meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God**

As Pastors and leaders we need to allow the Word of God to change us, so that we can model what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. **(1 Peter 5:1-4)** Jesus Himself said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master." **(Matthew 10:24)** For some people we may be the only bible that they read.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." **(1 Timothy 4:12-16)**

So my encouragement to all in this teaching is to build our life on the Word of God so that we:

- i) Will be effective in the ministry that God has called us to, whether in the five fold ministry or secular world,
- ii) That we will shine out as believers in this world and be salt and light in this world **(Matthew 5:13-16)**, and
- iii) That we will remain strong in our walk with the Lord. **(Matthew 24:12-13)** Like the Apostle Paul we want to finish our walk with the Lord strongly **(2 Timothy 4:7)**

Building our life on the Word of God is a key to being productive and fruitful in our walk with the Lord. The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)

Studying the word of God will be a big part of each topic in this course. We will also be doing a thorough reading of the bible when we go through the foundations of our faith a little later in this course. I will now look at a number of things to consider and discuss in relation to building our life on the Word of God

- 1) The importance of making time to spend in the Word of God. (Joshua 1:8) There is life in the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12) Revelation from God’s Word comes in isolation. The enemy will try and keep us too busy to spend time in the Word. The bible is God’s love letter to us
- 2) The importance of being consistent in our reading of the Word of God Daily reading something from the Word of God is better than reading for two hours one day and then nothing for a week. *Daily God will give us direction and encouragement through His Word. (Psalm 119:105)* Just as one meal a week is not sufficient to keep us physically strong, (each day we need something to eat), so too daily we need to be built up in our spirit by MEDITATING on the Word of God, even if on some busy days it is only one or two key Scriptures (Psalm 1:1-3)
- 3) Praying for God to direct your reading of the Word (We need to have an expectation that God will speak to us every time we open the Word of God) God will often give us a word of encouragement through His Word. A Rhema word in season (Proverbs 15:23)
- 4) The importance of being both a hearer and DOER of the Word The Bible is full of Wisdom. We can build our life on God’s unchanging word. (Psalm 119:89) Being a doer of the Word gives us great stability during our trials and helps us to make right choices in life. Obedience to God’s Word is a key to being blessed by God (Luke 11:28)
- 5) There is power in the spoken Word The Apostle Paul wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17) We need to speak God’s promises over our life and future to create a faith filled atmosphere in our churches, homes and workplaces. Attaching Scriptural promises to our prayers helps us to believe as we pray (Mark 11:24) for the answers to our prayers. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- 6) The importance of *not* reading and interpreting individual scriptures in isolation, but rather in the context of the entire bible teachings and the passage of Scripture from which they come. For example in the book of James we read, “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead.” (James 2:20) This Scripture must however be read in light of what other Scriptures in the bible also say. i.e. (Ephesians 2:8-10) (John 3:16) (Philippians 3:9) and (James 2:14-22). When reading all these Scriptures together we see clearly that it is not our works that save us, for by Grace are we saved through faith and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, but our good works show the **genuineness** of the faith that we profess - that our faith is alive and real.
- 7) The importance of preaching the Word of God in our sermons and messages (2 Timothy 4:2) (Isaiah 55:11)
- 8) Nothing that we believe the Holy Spirit is speaking to us will ever contradict God’s Word The Bible is a good check and balance for us when we are praying and seeking the Lord for wisdom and guidance in life (James 1:5)
- 9) We must always minister the Word of God in truth and love and in the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:15)
- 10) Spending time in parts of the Word of God that relate to areas in our life in which we have need of growth Renewing our mind with the Word of God helps us to develop Kingdom attitudes (Romans 12:2) and to grow in Christlike Character. There are Scriptures in the Word of God that help us to gain victory in every area of our life
- 11) WE NEED TO BUILD OUR LIFE BASED ON WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT OUR FUTURE IN HIS WORD (Ephesians 3:20) Studying and meditating on the Word of God helps us to realise our full potential in life. When we look at God’s faithfulness in the past (The Red Sea parting for the Children of Israel to make a way of escape, Joseph’s promotion from the prison to the palace in one day, God protecting Daniel in the lion’s den, and so on and when we look at all of God’s many promises to all believers in His Word, we can confidently step out by faith into the future that God has planned for our life based on what we read in the Word of God. (Hebrews 13:8)
- 12) Having a good study bible such as the “New Spirit Filled Life Bible” helps in the reading of the Word of God A good Bible reading plan or daily devotional can also help us to be more disciplined in reading the Word of God

Questions: Please refer to email for Week Two questions