

The Bible as the Authority in Your Life

- All authority comes from God
- He created ALL things

Heb 3:4

"The builder of all things is God"

- By His Word – **John 1:3**

Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing! - came into being without him.

Heb 1:1-4

He upholds ALL things by the word of His power

- All authority comes from the Word of God – the Word of His power
- not from men, not from institutions, not from the church, rather from God through His wonderful, righteous Word.
- God's Word is absolutely authoritative because God is the ultimate Authority.
- He is the Almighty – El Shad-ddai – omnipotent – all powerful – supreme

Gen 17:1

I am God Almighty, walk before me, and be blameless

- El Shaddai – also means – The overpowered – the God who will do what he purposes to do
- The God who Overpowers all opposing voices

THAT IS WHY AS CHRISTIANS TO SUBMIT TO THE WORD AND HIS WORD

- We must be willing to submit ourselves to the **authority** of the Word of God in order to ultimately live victorious lives.
- Why because here is none like Him

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus, says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

- His Word – Scripture is authoritative – it's the doctrine that MUST govern our lives day by day.
- For this to be so in your life, you need to intentionally, purposefully, deliberately **COMMIT** yourself to submit to the life-changing power of the bible and follow wherever it leads you

Why David said:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path - Ps. 119:105

FOUR BASIC STEPS OF COMMITMENT THAT WILL HELP TO LIVE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD SO YOU CAN BE VICTORIOUS IN YOUR DAILY WALK AS A CHRISTIAN

1. COMMIT TO RECEIVE THE WORD

- First, we are to *receive* the Bible as read it, as it is preached
- Receiving it as the absolute, unswerving, inerrant, infallible Word of God.

PAUL IN HIS LETTER TO THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH, SAYS THUS: 1

Thes. 2:13

And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe

- The Thessalonians received the Word of God through Paul and his team
- They did not pass it off as just human opinion
- They took it to heart as God's true word
- That word performs its work in them – who believe

He is watchful over His Word to perform it – Jer. 1:12

Isaiah 55:11 – it works its purpose

*For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return without watering the earth, making it bud and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, **11**so My word that proceeds from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and it will prosper where I send it.*

- You need to believe in it though.
- God's word will remain ineffective unless you believe in it

PAUL'S PREACHING:

- Paul did not preach the philosophy of the day, not the uncertainties of human religious thinkers,
- but rather he preached the Word of God, God's eternal message.
- It shouted to be accepted as absolute and everlasting.
- So, the Thessalonians accepted it and received it for what it was.
- They believed it and it performed it's work in them.

Your choice:

- You can debate about it, argue about it, or question it.
- The choice is yours
- But a prudent Christian will - receive it.
- Whether you reject God's Word - it will not change its reality.
- It stands forever

Psalmist said:

Revive me according to Your loving kindness, so that I may obey the testimony of Your mouth. Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven – **Ps.119:88-89**

As Paul so eloquently put it in **2 Timothy 3:16–17:**

'All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.'

- That is, all Scripture has been literally breathed out by God so that the book that we revere so dearly and hold so highly is a unique book.
- It contains the mind and the word and the will of God.
- God's Word is our navigation system
- His word defines the right path – that we must follow – right doctrine
- And when we veer off the path – after we've shifted focus
- It reproves us - bringing us back on track
- It corrects us whenever we get things wrong
- Trains us for righteousness - so we can mature in our FAITH

That is why you MUST receive God's Word just like the Thessalonians received it from Paul.

2. COMMIT TO FEED ON THE WORD

- receiving the Word is not enough.
- Yes, many people indeed receive the Word for what it is
- Yes, they believe the Bible is God's Word,
- but they do not live their lives as Christians.

WHY?

- Because they have failed to commit to feed on the WORD
- Their bodies are healthy, but their souls are malnourished.
- Their spirits are lean – and therefore when confronted by trials and temptations – they cannot stand

2 Cor.10: 3-6

Bible says – though we live/walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh

- they are spiritual
- our weaponry therefore must be spiritual – not of the flesh

- If you have only been feeding the flesh – it will not help you at all on this battle front
- The Spiritual battle can only be won – those who have been feeding the spirit.

We feed the spirit – by feeding on the Word of God.

- The Scripture says: *man does not live by bread alone but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord* (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4).

JOB

- No one has gone through what Job experienced
- Losing his children and wealth in one day
- Then his body is afflicted with boils
- His life went from being on top of the world to sinking in the pits

He became so desperate to see the Lord in his life

- Prayed and longed for the hand of God – to turn things around for him but in vain

He says in Job 23:8–9:

“Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him.

- What do you do in those times when you so desperately need God but cannot see Him?
- Job was a man who desperately needed to see God but could not find Him.
- Like Job – sometimes we have many lights shining in our lives, but suddenly the enemy comes and puts them out.
- All that is left is sheer darkness
- We cannot see anything around us

- We cannot see God – all we are doing is groping in the dark for the reality of God
- We even question God's reality

But Job ministers to himself – reassures himself:

- Though he cannot see God – he believes that God is still around somewhere
- He remains confident – in the knowledge that God is not idle but doing something – yes even in Job's darkness
- He believes to see the light again, to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
- He is confident that he will not die

Job 23:10-11

He says there:

'He [the Lord God] knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside.'

- Here decided not to give up on God even when the worst came crashing down.
- He held on fast to his steps – not swerving from his way

QUESTION IS 'WHY IS THIS MAN STILL BELIEVING IN GOD? WHAT WAS JOB'S SECRET?'

- Job, it seems, had made the commitment in his life not only to *receive* the Word of God but also to *feed* on it.

Job 23:12 – where the answer is

'I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.'

- That's the diet Job was on.

- When life crashed in, Job could say, 'Even though I look and don't see, I grope and can't grab hold of, yet I have great confidence in God because I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.'
- That is where he derived his strength – feeding his spirit
- Though his body was wasting away – his spirit was strong enough to fight

Paul in 2 Cor 4:8-10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

Vs 16-18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self^[a] is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- There is no way you can have such an outlook on life if you have been feeding on other stuff – the necessary food
- There is something more than the necessary – you need to go deeper
- Everyone eats the necessary – ordinary
- You need to go for something different – the WORD of God
- If you are not feeding on the Word of God you'll be without power and will lose every battle

Peter encouraged the early church with these words: 1 Pet 2:1-3

'Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for/earnestly, desire/thirst for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may be nurtured and grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord'

In Amos 8:11 the prophet expresses a fear

He says: '... when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD.'

- one day there may be a famine in our lives
- a lack of daily feeding on the Word of God, that supreme Word,
- which has been given to nourish our souls,
- make us healthy,
- and cause us to grow into what God wants us to be.
- Eat up now and store it up in you

Psa 19:10 Psalmist said about the Word of God.

'They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb'

- May your soul be satisfied because they have fed on that which is spiritually healthy
- That which spiritually beneficial – spiritually nourishing
- That which is worth more than gold and silver.
- The Word of God which is sweeter than honey and gives us hope for things that are future

May we commit to receive and feed on the Word of God because – it is the authority over our lives.

- Without it our lives are empty.