

WEEK 1

1. The Foundations He Builds

I passed a construction site where a sign said numerous apartments would be built. After some time passing the site, I could not see the apartments; it was just the same sign, with big fences surrounding the site, construction workers, and trucks. However, workers are working on the foundation of the building behind the fences. They are digging up every layer of the ground and clearing out the unwanted materials before starting to lay the foundation. The depth and strength of the foundation will determine how tall and strong the buildings are.

As believers of Christ, we need to lay a strong foundation in His words, not anything else, neither in ministry, experiences and achievements. His word is the ultimate source of our foundation in all aspects of life. Therefore we become unshakeable in our faith journey.

- The word of God is Himself

The scripture is written by chosen human beings, but they are merely inspired by the divine revelation of God. There is no human opinion or intervention of God's revelation. It came out of God who spoke with authority. Therefore, what scripture says is the same as what God says and God thinks. Hence, there is no distinction between the authority of God and the authority of Scripture. In other words, understanding the Scripture predominantly means understanding God's mind and will; disobeying the Scripture is disobeying Him.

- The word of God is the conclusion of His free communication with us

Our God is the speaking God who likes to communicate with His creatures. In the beginning of creation the aim was an intimate communication between God and Adam. But it was ruined by the intervention of evil. Jesus, as the second Adam, restored the fallen bridge of communication. Therefore, we are able to communicate with Him intimately.

14 But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. **15** You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. **16** *All Scripture is inspired by God* and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. **17** God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Tim 3: 14-17)

In His letter to Timothy, Paul clearly wrote who inspired the word of God and the purpose of His words. By reading this, we learn that His word is

- A. Breathed out God "Theopneustos"
- B. Carried by the spirit

With purposes for

*Teaching and correcting. His words become the light of our path

*Preparing and equipping. His words empower us to carry out good works.

In the last part of the sermon on the mount in Matthew 7, Jesus taught believers about two different foundations in building a house: rock and sand. A house on a rock foundation will stand firm when facing extreme conditions. But the house on the sand will experience the opposite. From this, we can clearly see that the foundation determines the result. The foundation is not simply about the number of words we read, know or listen to, but whether we are putting His words into practice. Notice that both parties are building houses, facing the same extreme weather, and receiving the same instructions from the same source, but only one has the right response when applying it.

24 “Everyone then who **hears** these words of mine and **does** them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. (Mat. 7: 24-25)

His words consist of divine weight and power that can impact our souls and stir our spirits. Since His words have a weight of authority that dissects layers of our understanding and transforms it towards His likeness. In the last verse of this chapter, Matthew wrote ‘for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.’ There are limitations in the teaching of scribes or scholar that only go as far as their references. But the words of God come with the weight of divine authority since the three in one work together in the words that lead us closer to Him.

Piper wrote in his book *When I don't Desire God*, ten reasons for us to have joy and desire in learning the word of God:

1. The word of God awakens and strengthens faith (Rom. 10:17)
2. Through hearing the word, God supplies the Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:5 & 1 Thess. 1: 6)
3. The word of God creates and sustains life (John 10:10, 1 Pet. 1: 23-25, John 6: 63)
4. The word of God gives hope (Rom. 15:4, 1 Thess. 1:3, Col.1:27, Eph. 1:12)
5. The word of God leads us to freedom (John 8:32, John 17:17)
6. The word of God is the key to answered prayer (John 15: 5 & 7)
7. The word of God is the source of wisdom (Col. 2:3, Col. 3:16)
8. The word of God gives us crucial warning (Psalm 19, notice verses 10-11)
9. The word of God enables us to defeat the devil (Her. 2:14, Rev. 12:11)
10. The word of God is, therefore, the source of great and lasting joy (Ps 1:1-3, Ps 119:103, Job 23:12, Jeremiah 15:16)

Piper, J. *When I don't desire God: How to fight for Joy*. Wheaton, Illinois. Crossway, (2013).

By Abiding in His words this week, let us understand the authority of His God and encounter it personally by applying 3 C (Comment, Commands and Consistent)

Day 1 - 6 May 2024

C1. Reading John 15: 1 - 8

What is the significant thing that you notice from this reading?

C2. Mediate the word by asking personal questions to yourself:

What do I notice personally in the words of God for the first time in this reading? What things am I reminded need to change or repent from these words?

What commands does God want me to do from this reading?

Write Down your reflection and be creative

C3. Consistent

Obeying what God instructs you personally by applying it daily

Discuss with others in your OIKOS what you experiences with God.

Day 2 - 7 May 2024

C1. Reading John 1: 1 - 18

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 3 - 8 May 2024

His word is our life. Our spiritual life begins when He breathes His words into us. Also, to continue living, we must be guided by His words as the light and the lamp of our path. Only His words can sustain us in any circumstances.

CI. Reading Rom. 10:17, Heb. 11: 3, John 17:17 & 1 John 2: 14

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 4 - 9 May 2024

C1. Reading John 8: 32 & Mathew 6: 33

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 5 - 10 May 2024

His word is powerful. He created the universe through His words

C1. Reading Genesis 1 & Psalm 33: 6 - 9

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 6 -11 May 2024

C1. Reading Psalm 147: 15 - 18 & Psalm 148: 7-8

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 7 - 12 May 2024

The authority of His words is upon us particularly to do His works (Spreading the Gospel)

C1. Reading Luke 7: 1- 10 (Notice verses 7 - 8), Roman 1: 16-17 & 1 Thessalonians 1: 5

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.