**Lesson #2 God’s Word Is A Seed… We Plant It In Our Hearts! Part One**

*The following 8 verses are some of God’s thoughts about His own Word, the Bible:*

**Mark 13:31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 6:63b** The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

*God formed the very universe by His words. Everything that we look out on, everything that we do, everything that we think, it all exists because of words. Think of what the world would look like right now if all words were suddenly pulled. There would be a sudden change and down regulating of our society, of buying and selling, of production, of relationships, of everything. Everything created is literally and constantly framed and formed by words. First God’s and now also ours.*

**1 Peter 1:23 …** having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,…

**Psalms 138:2b** You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

**Isaiah 55:11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

*The 8 verses above show us that God’s word does the following:*

* *Forms and frames everything*
* *Is Spirit and life*
* *Is magnified above His name*
* *Will never pass away*
* *Will always accomplish what He desires*
* *Is living, powerful, sharp, pierces, discerns*
* *Is incorruptible seed, lives and stays forever*
* *Became flesh (Jesus)!*

*God’s word is everything!*

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*God’s word is not simply dried ink on a page or language (communication) in a book. The word is not changed by reading it or not reading it. The word is not changed by burning it or ripping it*

*up. God’s word never changes. However, our experience of God Himself and life changes greatly according to what we do or don’t do with His word. His word is always the same… alive!*

*So how do we take His word which is alive and be changed by it? How do we experience the life, the power, the accomplishments, the prospering, the healing, all the things… we see in the word?*

*This is the topic of today’s lesson. First, we saw in the scriptures just mentioned, a small portion of the value, the profit, the everything-ness of God’s word; now we’ll look at how to get that value and profit into and operative in our own life.*

**Mark 4:14** The sower sows the word.

*The word is a seed. Let that sink in. The word of God is literally a seed. A seed. Word = seed.*

*As with any seed, to have it prosper at its task of being what it is, we must plant it and then tend to it. To have growth in any area of our life we must plant the seed of the word in our hearts and cultivate it there.*

**Mark 4:26-29** And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, **27**and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. **28**For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. **29**But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

**Luke 17:21b** For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

*The very kingdom of God is with us. The King’s Domain is inside of every believer! This kingdom is experienced according to what we believe. What we believe about God, about ourselves, about everything.*

*Everything that we have need of is found in God and we find God in His word. It’s the same with all relationships. We have conversations, we get to know one another, we grow in union with those we love… this is the same for our relationship with God. We talk to Him (pray), He talks to us (His word), and as we grow in the word, we also hear Him talking to us in our hearts.*

*The Bible calls the word of God a seed.*

*To be able to hear God talking to us in our hearts we must plant His word in our hearts. Remember His word is alive, active, sharp, discerning, eternal, incorruptible, etc… We plant His word in our hearts and He activates it, He relates to us through it, He breaths life into His word in our hearts and in this way we interact here with Him, and He with us.* **Matthew 4:27**…and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.

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*This is not a work. We don’t have to try to get anything from God. Don’t let this become a trying… keep it a trusting.* **Mark 4:27** *is likening the word to a farmer who plants his seed, then he sleeps by night, and rises by day and goes about his work and the seed that he planted is simply and steadily doing its job… growing. He doesn’t know how it all works… but he trusts the* *process. That is what we want to do with the word of God. Trust Him to grow His word in our hearts.*

*And it says in* **Mark 4:28** *this is a process. First there’s a little sprout, then it grows a little bigger each day as we spent time nurturing it. It also says the* “… the earth brings forth fruit of herself.” *Just as the earth was made to grow seeds our hearts are also fashioned to cultivate the word of God.*

*The word is likened to a mirror.*

**2 Corinthians 3:15-18**

 **15**But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. **16**Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17**Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. **18**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

*As we spend time gazing into the mirror, the word of God, it reflects back to us who God says we are. As we spend more time gazing into it… we are changed into who the word of God says we ALREADY are. All we have to do is keep gazing. The word does the work. We gaze and we trust.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

*So awesomely this is saying that the word is effectively working in us who believe! That’s you! The word of God is working in you and working effectively! We have faith in God for this!*

*Questions are a great way to learn. We can think of our brain like a computer. If you ask a computer a question it will go about the task of finding the answer. Our brain is the same. When we ask ourselves questions, our brain begins to think outside of its daily grind.*

*Some good questions for this lesson might be:*

1. What is my plan for how I will plant God’s word in my heart?

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1. What is reasonable and can be done without drudgery?

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1. As I plant the seed of the word, who is responsible for the growth? What is my part what is God’s?

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1. How will I be sure to not lay a heavy weight on myself for growth?

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1. Is listening to sermons and reading back through past bible study lessons also planting God’s word in my heart? If yes… why? If no… why not?

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