

# ACTIVATING THE WORD OF GOD

## a) The Bible should be read like any other book.

Basic Bible study begins with simply reading, believing what is written, and acting upon it.

## b) The Bible demands a deeper level of comprehension.

*Colossians 1:9-10 (nlt)* So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. **We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.** <sup>10</sup> Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

## c) Paul encourages us to enter into a deeper relationship with the Scriptures.

*Romans 10:8-17 (niv)* But what does it say? “**The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,**” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> If you **declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is **with your heart that you believe** and are justified, and it is with **your mouth that you profess** your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is

*no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him,<sup>13</sup> for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they **have not heard**? And how can they **hear without someone preaching to them**?<sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”<sup>16</sup> But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?”<sup>17</sup> Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.***

## **1. THE WORD IN OUR HEADS**

*(Romans 10:8; 14; 17)*

### **a) Committing ourselves to a programme of absorbing Scripture.**

This was one of the keys to Jesus' great authority. Jesus was **'learned'** in the Word.

***John 7:14-15** (niv) Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach.<sup>15</sup> The Jews there were amazed and asked, “**How did this man get such learning** without having been taught?”*

There's no substitute for the constant reading and memorising Scripture.

*2 Timothy 3:14-15 (niv) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how **from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

*Psalms 1:1-3 (gnt) Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. <sup>2</sup> Instead, they **find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night**. <sup>3</sup> They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.*

## **2. THE WORD IN OUR HEARTS**

*(Romans 10:8-10)*

**a) We must gain an inner revelation of the Word into our hearts.**

This transference can only take place when what we have read is made alive in us and revealed in us by the Spirit of God. This is why Paul says...

*Ephesians 1:16-19 (niv) I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better**. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the*

*hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, <sup>19</sup> and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength.*

### **3. THE WORD IN OUR MOUTH**

*(Romans 10:8-10)*

**a) The Word of God responds to the sound of the voice of faith.**

There is no substitute for speaking out aloud the Word or the promise of God.

**b) Utterance is the catalyst that triggers action.**

Bold confession brings great blessing.

***Psalms 31:19** (tlb) Oh, how great is your goodness to those who **publicly declare** that you will rescue them. For you have stored up great blessings for those who trust and reverence you.*

God's promises must first be personalised, then spoken.

***Hebrews 13:5b-6** (ceb) "...after all, He has said, I will never leave you or abandon you." <sup>6</sup> This is why **we can confidently say**, The Lord is my helper, and I won't be afraid. What can people do to me?*

We cannot just *'think'* the Word, because *"out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!"* *Matthew 12:34*

## **4. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE**

### **a) Jesus' ministry was built upon a revelation of Scripture.**

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.' Luke 4:4*

*"...it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"* *Luke 4:8*

*"...it is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"* *Luke 4:12*

The supreme example is found in Jesus, who so boldly declared the Word of God concerning Himself and His mission.

When Jesus united the Spirit and the Word, power was released into His life.

**We too can experience this type of power and change if we follow the example of Jesus in how He had an active relationship with the Word of God.**