

God's Word is like medicine to our lives.

*Proverbs 4:20-22 (niv) My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to **my words**. ²¹ Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; ²² for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body.*

God's Word has the potential to change our lives if we apply it!

Proverbs 4:20-22 provides God's instructions for taking His medicine.

"My Son."

If we belong to God, His medicine is for us.

"Pay attention to what I say."

How diligent are we when it comes to applying God's Word into our lives?

"Listen closely to my words."

(nkjv) "incline Your ear to the Word."

***Incline:** to lean out. To lean out, to make a concentrated effort to hear.*

Be attentive to the Holy Spirit's voice as we read the Bible.

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17 (nkjv)

We are to incline our ears to hear the Holy Spirit reveal the Word of God into our heart.

Speak the promise out loud (confess) so we can hear it.

*Joshua 1:8 (niv) Keep this Book of the Law always **on your lips**; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

The Hebrew word for *meditate* not only means to reflect upon and to go over in the mind, but it carries with it the thought of speaking.

We are encouraged to confess God's Word into our situation or circumstance over and over.

“Do not let them (God's promises) out of your sight.”

Continue to see and believe the promises of God will become a reality.

Abraham is a great example for us.

Romans 4:18-21 (niv) Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead - since he was about a hundred years old - and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Through the eyes of faith see ourselves healed, delivered and provided for.

Someone said: *“Take the brush of prayer, dip it into the ink of God's Word, and then paint a picture on the canvas of your imagination.”*

“Keep them (God's promises) within your heart”

The word *keep* means to guard or to protect.

What are we to guard and protect the Word of God in our heart from?

Jesus tells the parable of the sower in *Mark 4*.

Mark 4:3-4 (niv) “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

This parable is also recorded by Luke.

Luke 8:12 Jesus gives the meaning of *Mark 4:4*;

Luke 8:12 (tlb) *The hard path where some seed fell represents the hard hearts of those who hear the Words of God, but then the devil comes and steals the words away and prevents people from believing and being saved.*

The hard path represents a closed mind and a hard heart towards God and His Word.

The birds in our story represent Satan, our adversary, and his schemes.

“...when they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Mark 4:15b (nkjv)

If there is no seed, then there is no harvest!

Then Jesus encourages us in what we are to do with the seed - the Word of God.

Mark 4:20 (nkjv) *“But these are the ones sown on good ground, good soil a responsive heart those who hear the word, **accept it**, and bear fruit: some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”*

Luke 8:15 (nkjv) *“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, **keep it** and bear fruit with patience.”*

Luke differs slightly to Mark's account.

- Mark records Jesus saying, *those who hear the Word, **ACCEPT** it.*
- Luke records Jesus saying, *having heard the Word with a noble and good heart, **KEEP** it.*

Literally, to keep it is to guard and to protect it.

Those who guard and protect God's promises in their heart will *bear fruit with patience.*

We have to protect the Word of God in our hearts from the schemes of the enemy.

Don't underestimate the power of God's Word.

It is full of potential and pregnant with life when nurtured and grown from a soft heart and a faith response to that Word in our hearts.

God's Word has the potential to change our lives if we apply it!