

10. God's Word Is Our Food

We want to think about the Word of God, which gives us power to be overcomers in our battle against Satan, and which gives us strength to face every situation in the future.

The Bible is the Word of God. It was written by men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is the food for the soul for a Christian who has come to faith in Christ and been born again. Just like a baby cries out for milk as soon as it is born, a true Christian, if he is to grow spiritually, he needs this food of the Word of God.

I want to show you to a verse where it speaks of what the Word of God does, initially. We read 1 Peter 1:23, "You have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

Many people feel, when they have made a mess of their life, they wish they could live their lives all over again. And that is exactly the opportunity God offers you when He says, 'You can be born again.' Think if you could start your life all over again, as a little baby, and with no record of your past failures; it is all wiped out. That is what it means to be born again. Your past is wiped out and you are born a second time. That wish that you had, 'oh, I wish I could start my life all over again' - God says, 'I can fulfil it for you.' That is what happens when we receive Christ into our life.

In the verse we just saw it says that this new birth takes place through a seed, just like your physical birth also began with the seed of your father. In the same way here, spiritually, the Word of God is like a seed which brings you to new birth. In what way?

10. 神的話語是我們的糧

我們現在想要思考的是,在與撒但的爭戰中,神的話語給予我們得勝的力量,也給了我們面對未來各種處境的勇氣。

《聖經》是神的話語。 是人在聖靈的感動之下所寫的。 對於一個帶著信心來到基督面前,獲得重生的基督徒來說,它是靈魂的食糧。 如同嬰兒下生後會馬上哭著要喝奶一樣,一個真正的基督徒,屬靈的生命若要成長,就需要神的話語作為食物。

我想給你看看一節經文,講的是神話語的首要作用。 讓我們看下彼得前書的 1 章 23 節,「你們蒙了重生,不是因為那能壞的種子,而是由於那不能壞的種子,那就是借著神的,鮮活永存的話語。」

很多人感覺,他們已經把生活搞得一團糟,很希望能重頭來過。 這就正是神賜給你的機會,他說:「你可以得到重生」。 想像一下,如果你可以把人生重頭來過,就像新生兒一樣沒有失敗記錄——因為那些失敗記錄全都被抹去了,你得到重生了。 你曾經的那個願望「哦,我多希望人生能夠重頭來過」,神說:「我可以實現你這個願望。」 當我們接受基督到生命裡的一刻,它就實現了。

從這節經文裡我們看到,這個重生是通過一個種子,就如同你肉體的誕生是從你父親的種子開始的。 同樣的,在屬靈上,神的話語就如同一顆種子,帶給你重生的生命。 這是怎樣的情形呢?當你相信神說的,基督為了你的罪而死,並作出回應;當你承認了神說的,你是個罪

You believed that Word, you responded to that Word of God which said that Christ died for your sins; you accepted the Word of God which said that you are a sinner; you believed that Christ rose again from the dead. And, you were born again. You received His Holy Spirit by faith, because that was God's promise given in His Word. And through that Word, you have come into a new relationship with God.

Then it goes on to say, now that you are a new born baby, the same Word of God - which is like a seed which fell into your heart and brought you to life - now becomes like milk for the new born baby. In 1 Peter 2:2, it says, "like new born babes, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that you may grow in respect to salvation." A new born baby needs to grow.

God has not forgiven us our sins in order that He might just take us to heaven. He wants us to grow, like it says in this verse, with respect to salvation, to be increasingly saved from all the corruption that is in our nature that we have inherited from Adam, our first father; selfishness, pride, arrogance, bitterness, jealousy, wickedness, and the like. We have to be saved from all these things. They don't disappear the moment we are born again. When we are born again it is like a new life that is come into us, and that life has the potential to overcome all these evil habits. But that potential must be used to grow.

You know, like a little baby, when it is born, it has the potential to become a muscular giant. But it is not going to grow into that if it doesn't eat its food or drink its milk. It has to be fed and it has to eat its food in order to grow. And this is the mistake that many Christians make. They think that once their sins are forgiven, and they have received the Holy Spirit, that is it. There is nothing more. Well, there is

人;當你相信基督從死裡復活。就是這一刻,你便重生了。你通過信心接受了神的聖靈,因為這是神所應許的。通過神的話語,我們開始了同祂的嶄新關係。

接下來的經文又說道,現在你是重生了的嬰兒,神的話,曾經像種子落入了你的心田,帶給你重生的生命,而今像奶水一樣養育這個新生兒。彼得前書 2 章 2 節說道:「你會像新生的嬰兒愛慕奶水一樣,這樣你得救的新生命就可以成長。」新生兒需要生長。

神寬恕了我們的罪,不是僅僅為了把我們帶進天堂。祂要我們成長,就像這節經文說的,神是為了救贖,為了更多地救我們脫離那腐化的天性,就是我們從亞當那遺傳來的墮落腐化的天性——自私、驕傲、傲慢、怨恨、嫉妒、卑鄙,諸如此類。我們需要被解救,脫離這一切。你重生的那一刻,這些不會一下子自動消失。我們重生就像是一個新的生命進入了我們,那個新的生命有戰勝這一切邪惡習性的可能性。但這個「可能」是必須要成長才會實現。

你知道嗎,就如同新生兒有成為壯漢的可能性。但如果它不吃不喝,就無法實現。它必須吃足夠的東西來生長。而這,就是很多基督徒犯的錯誤。他們以為一旦自己的罪被赦免了,收穫了聖靈,好,就這樣了。再沒有別的了。然而,其實那之後還有許多許多。你才剛剛出生而已。你能說一個嬰兒出生了,好,就這樣了,再沒有什麼可給這個嬰兒的了嗎?如果你就把它放那不管了,這個孩子會死的。實際上,嬰兒出生後做的第一

a lot more. You are just born. Can you say once a baby is born into the world, that is it? There is nothing more for the baby? Well, that baby will die, if you just leave it like that. In fact, one of the first things that a baby does, as soon as it is born, is it cries. From the very first day, it longs for milk. There is a tremendous cry. You have heard babies screaming for milk. That is how a true Christian cries out for the Word of God, for God to feed him through His Word. Now if a baby does not cry out like that, we could say the baby is sick, or it is about to die. Healthy babies will always cry out for milk, all the time. Healthy Christian is one who cries out for God's Word to feed him, as it says like new born babes. There must be a tremendous longing in us for the milk of the Word of God. The Word of God is milk that helps us grow in salvation.

In the beginning of the Bible, we see a beautiful picture of this. In Genesis 1 we read of the earth being in a chaotic state. The Bible says the earth was formless, empty, and dark. And that is the condition of humanity away from God also; formless, empty and dark. That is what we were before being born again. How did God change this chaotic, formless, empty, dark world and make it into such a beautiful world, that at the end of Genesis 1, God says, "This is very good?" How did God do it?

You see, two things are very important for us to see here. First of all, "The Spirit of God moved upon this earth." All of God's work begins with the Holy Spirit moving upon a chaotic situation and trying to redeem it, trying to solve the problem. But that was not all. We read a second thing: the Word of God went forth. The Spirit of God moved, and the Word of God went forth. These two always work together - the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

件事,就是哭。從一下生起,就要吃奶。它們會大哭特哭。你們都聽過嬰兒為了奶水哭嚎。一個真正的基督徒渴望神的話語,就會這樣,要神用祂的話語來餵養自己。如果一個嬰兒不這樣大哭,可能是病了,甚至快死了。健康的嬰兒總是迫切地要奶。健康的基督徒也會迫切地要得到神的話語,就真的像新生兒一樣。一定會真的發自內心渴望神的話語。神的話語像奶水一樣,使我們在救恩中成長。

《聖經》的一開頭,我們看見了一幅美妙的畫卷。創世紀第一章開頭我們讀到地球混亂的樣子。《聖經》說,「地是空虛混沌,淵面黑暗」。人遠離了神的狀態也是這樣的。我們重生之前就是這樣。神是如何改變這混亂、空虛、黑暗的世界,把它造成了一個美麗的世界,而到創世紀第一章末尾,神說「這一切都非常好」?神是怎樣做的?

請看,這裡有兩點我們要非常注意。首先,神的靈運行在這地球之上。神做的所有工作,都是從運行祂的靈在混亂的情形之上,並設法挽回,設法解決。但這還不是全部。我們接下來看到第二點:神說話。神的靈運行,爾後神的話語出來。這兩件總是在一起——神的靈,和神的話語。

What did the Word of God say? "Let there be light." That was the Word. And as soon as that Word went forth from God's mouth, light came. Again, we read the Word of God saying, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters," and the heavens were created. And then God said, "Let the waters be gathered together and let the dry land appear" and the earth was made. And so we find that every time the Word of God went forth on the first day, on the second day, on the third day, something happened. Something of the chaos was changed.

The whole earth was not changed in one day. It took six days, not because God takes time. God could have changed it in a moment. He could have made the whole earth beautiful in one moment, with one Word. But He is trying to teach us something in the first page of the Bible and that is, that God works in our lives slowly, day by day by day. Each day, He wants to do something in us to remove the chaos, to remove the darkness, to remove the shapelessness, the un-Christ likeness in our life. In The New Testament, in 2 Corinthians 4:16 we read, "Our inner man is being renewed day by day." On the first day, there should be a change, on the second day, there should be a change, on the third day... and, throughout our lifetime, God wants to change us little by little by little, till a day comes, at the end of our life, when God can say, 'Very good, I have been able to complete My work in this man.'

Now the sad thing is, with many Christians, that doesn't happen, because they don't respond to God. You see, in Genesis 1, when the Word of God went forth, the earth responded, and something happened. So, if you respond to the Word of God, as it comes to your heart, something will definitely happen in your life. If you accept that Word, if you believe that Word, if you obey that Word, something

神說了什麼?「要有光。」就是這一句。神說出的一刻,立刻有了光。爾後,我們讀到,神說:「諸水之間要有空氣,」立刻,天堂就造出來了。然後神說:「天下的水要聚在一處,使旱地露出來。」立刻,地就造出來了。我們看到從第一天開始,接下來第二天,第三天,每當神說話,立刻有事情發生,使混亂的狀態被改變。

整個世界的改變不是發生在一個瞬間,而是六天的時間,這並不是因為神需要時間來做這些事。神完全可以一瞬間改變全部。祂可以一瞬間,就一句話,讓整個世界變得美麗。但是,神在《聖經》的第一頁就教導我們,祂要在我們的生命裡慢慢地、有序地作工,一天接著一天。每一天,祂要在我們的生命裡做一些事情,來改變其中的混亂,去除其中的黑暗,去除裡面不成樣子、不像基督的那部分。在新約的哥林多後書 4 章 16 節我們看到,「我們內心的那個人,一天新似一天」。第一天,要有一些變化;第二天,又有一些變化;第三天,又有一些變化..... 整個生命的旅程,神要我們一點點地改變,直到有一天,在我們世上生命的盡頭,神說「非常好,我在這個人身上完成了我的全部工作。」

可悲的是,在很多基督徒的生命裡,這種變化並沒有發生,其原因是他們對神沒有回應。在創世紀的第 1 章,當神說出話的時候,地球回應了,爾後才有一些事情發生。所以,當神的話語到你的心裡,如果你能夠去回應,你的生命也一定會有事情發生。如果你接受了這些話,相信這些話,順服這些話,一定有事情發生。就如同你看到在創世紀的第 1 章,每天都有一些事情發生,爾後神說,這是好的。神對你的期許,是每一天你的心裡

will definitely happen. Just like you read in Genesis 1, every day something happened, and God said it was good. God's will for you is that every day, you should receive some Word of God into your heart that is going to produce some change in your life. That is why the most important thing for you to receive every day is the Word of God, more than your food.

You remember in the first temptation that Jesus faced in the wilderness. He had fasted for forty days, and the devil came to Jesus and said, 'Why don't you turn these stones to bread. You are hungry; you will die if you don't eat.' It is true. If you have not eaten food forty days and you continue like that, there is a possibility that you will die. But Jesus replied to Satan, it is more important to receive the Word of God than to eat food. I have paraphrased Matthew 4:4 here. Have you read that Word? 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God's mouth.' What He was saying is: it is more important to receive the Word of God than it is to even eat food.

Now how many Christians are there who believe that it is more important every day to receive the Word of God for their soul, for their spirit, than it is to receive food for their body? We all know the value of food for the body; we know that we will not grow without food. And we enjoy food, we enjoy good food. Why is it that many Christians don't enjoy the Word of God like that? It is because they have not understood its value, just like little children, sometimes. Little children don't understand the value of food. You tell them to eat, they don't eat. You tell them to drink milk, they don't drink milk. And sometimes father and mother have to force them. It is like that with many Christians. But once you understand that the Word of God can make you

接受到一些神的話語,爾後使你的生命發生改變。這也就是為什麼,每天都接受到神的話語是如此重要,比食物更重要。

你還記得耶穌在曠野裡面對的第一個誘惑吧。祂禁食了四十天,爾後魔鬼來試探祂說:為什麼不把石頭變成麵包,你這麼餓,再不吃東西就會餓死了。這話其實沒錯,要是你四十天沒吃東西,再繼續下去,可能真的會死了。但是耶穌回答撒但說:神的話比食物更重要。我把馬太福音 4 章 4 節在這陳述了一下。你看到這話了嗎?「人活著不是單靠食物,乃是靠神口裡所出的一切話。」耶穌在這說的就是,接受神的話語比吃飯更重要。

現在有多少基督徒相信,每天為自己的靈魂接受神的話語,比每天為自己的身體接受食物更重要?我們都知道食物對身體的重要性,知道沒有食物我們就無法生長。我們也喜歡食物,喜歡美食。可為什麼很多基督徒不像熱愛美食那般的熱愛神的話語?那是因為我們還沒有理解它的價值,就如同小孩子不懂得食物的價值一樣。你告訴他們吃,他們偏不吃。告訴他們喝奶,他們偏不喝。有時候父母甚至需要強迫他們。對於很多基督徒來說也是如此。然而一旦你明白,神的話語能夠使你成長,使你變強壯,可以使你勝過撒但,如果你順服這些話語,你的生命會從混亂不堪變得美麗。

grow; can make you strong; can make you overcome Satan, if you submit to it, your life will be transformed from chaos to beauty.

It can change your whole life if you begin that habit from today. Make a decision today, to read the Word of God, to believe it, and to obey it every day.

如果從今天起養成這個習慣,你的整個生命都會產生變化。 現在就請做這個決定,每天,讀神的話語,相信並服從。