

# LIVING OUT THE WORD!

EXPLORING GOD'S  
AMAZING WORD #4

## Jesus became God's words in the flesh!

In John 1:14 (MSG), we learn that *"The Word (Jesus) became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish."*

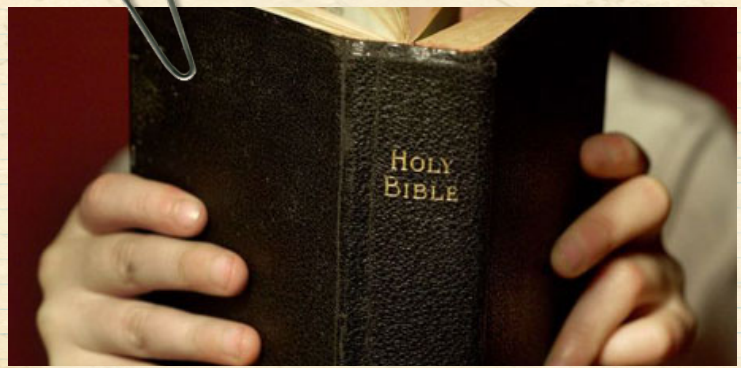
Jesus Christ was God's living Word. Throughout His life on earth, He lived out the will of the Father and fulfilled the Law of God. As we walk with Jesus and put God's Word into action, this will change our lives and make us become more like Christ in our heart attitudes and character.

Unfortunately many Christians have read the Bible and have some knowledge of it but their lives are not quite changed, as God desires.

This is the case when we read the Bible and do nothing about it! It's true that knowing the Word of God in our head isn't enough! Jesus desires for us, His followers to LIVE OUT His Word!

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)



*"My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God."*

**Proverbs 2:1-5 (NIV)**

Interpreting the Bible and applying it in our daily life is essential to an effective Bible Study. We can do this through learning the tools and skills to help us observe the text, dig out the meaning, and then apply it to our lives. Some people view the Bible as an un-climbable mountain, a dark cave into which we fear to trespass. Be encouraged, and be comforted; you can indeed do it.

Through today's lesson, I pray that you can climb that mountain and venture into the cave with confidence. In fact, you will be able to extract the truths and applying them just by posing some simple questions!

The Bible is as a diamond mine, filled with precious nuggets that can be applied to your life to transform and renew it! As with any mine, you do have to start digging; you will be showed how to do this. Remember the more you dig, the more you will find! And the more you apply God's truths in your life, the more Christlike you will become! Last week we talked about the Three Basic Essential Questions that help you learn how to interpret the Bible:

1. *What does the text say?*
2. *What does the text mean?*
3. *How does this text apply to me?*

The primary purpose of this method is to teach you how to study God's Word in a logical, clear, and concise way. Today we are going to expand on this similar idea but spend more time to focus on the third question, **"How Does this text Apply to me?"** We will do this by providing extra simple questions to assist you to more deeply dig out, learn God's truths and especially apply them into your life.

**Applying God's Word:***How does this apply to me?*

This is the key question that we ask to see how the truth of what we are reading applies to our lives.

We are called to be the person who gets in His Word, who sees, knows, and applies it, will be growing and useful for Christ. He or she will be showing good character and godliness as he or she moves into actually applying Christianity, to being **"Doers of the Word"** (Prov. 28:13-14; Mark 3:7-8; John 8:47; Rom. 12:15; Col. 3:12; James 1:2-27; 1 John 1:8-9).

This is the step where the rubber of the tires meets the road. All the previous two questions lead up to this. This is the main point of why we study the Bible, to do something with it. Of course we all do something with it, either we ignore it or we are transformed by it.

So as you are asking this question, keep the following in mind:

- ★ Pray and ask God how to implement His truth to you.
- ★ True application comes only from the result of a life transformed.
- ★ The Fruit of the Spirit are the result of a life transformed by Christ.
- ★ The Word of God's purpose is to transform us into His image and character (Rom. 12:1-3)! God uses His Word to transform us; it is what He does to give it and what we do after we receive it - He sends us His Spirit, we respond.

Application comes out of a Changed life. And leads to a life transformed! Jesus commands us to build our lives on His Word. (Matthew 7:24-27)

**LET'S LISTEN (12 mins):**

Under this question, "How does this text/passage apply to me?" - There are **FOUR Essential Questions** we can further ask ourselves as we are learning to apply God's truth in our lives.

- 1) What is God \_\_\_\_\_ me?
- 2) How can I be \_\_\_\_\_, so I can learn and grow?
- 3) What will I \_\_\_\_\_ about it? When?
- 4) What does God want me to \_\_\_\_\_ with someone else?

**Q1. "What Is God Telling Me?"**

This is where you are seeking conviction, and allowing the work of the Spirit, through His Word, to show you principles and precepts to apply to your life (John 16:5-16). Be aware that sometimes you may not like what is shown, but it is what you need to hear. This is where we hear His voice, where we become transformed and renewed, and we grow in our faith and practice. This requires that our will be poured out and surrendered to His.

We must learn to study the Bible so we are challenged and convicted to gain more insights into God's character and call for us!

**Conviction** is very important to make us aware of our wrong ways and for us to align our path with His Way. God has His ways of refining and purifying us so that the waste products of pride and selfishness can be tossed aside while His real redemptive work and sanctification come to us in power and conviction. People of strife in the world, and Christians who are weak in their faith will hold on to their will and not allow conviction or change to enter their routine or life. Do not let this happen to you!

As a Christian, the reality of who you are in Christ must hit home in power and certainty at some time or another. Has this happen to you? If so, how? If not, what would it take?

God, the LORD over all, is LORD of our lives, too. Thus, He should have the primary place in our lives, where we recognise, trust, and serve Him with joy. God, our LORD, is to be trusted, loved, and enjoyed so we can be challenged to take His precepts into our will and actions.

Here are some further personal questions you can use to challenge yourself. Take a careful look at the passage you are studying; as you realise that it is indeed God's most precious Word, examine your life and compare it to the passage. Now ask yourself:

- ★ How do I \_\_\_\_\_ a life of fruit, character, love, faith, and maturity in my daily life now?
- ★ How can I develop the \_\_\_\_\_ to be a more disciplined, character, fruit and faith driven person who will realise I am called, empowered, and filled by Christ?
- ★ What \_\_\_\_\_ His work in me from working and being exhibited in me?

★ How can I accept and commence His work, and discipline myself to \_\_\_\_\_ it out?

★ What can I do to make His work in me \_\_\_\_\_ better, stronger, and faster, even in times of uncertainty and stress?

*So, what is our LORD telling you?*

**Q2. "How Can I be Changed, So I Can Learn and Grow?"**

This is the step that helps us internalise what we are learning. It is the process of interpretation, which means determining the meaning of the text—not just what it says, but what we do with it.

Thus, when we ask "What does it mean?" we then need to determine how the answer is going to "fit" into our lives so we are changed individuals.

Wise people are those who are willing to grow and improve themselves. It is not an IQ thing; intelligence has nothing to do with wisdom (Proverbs 1:5-7; 3:11-12). You must be willing to learn about your personality and what you need to improve and work on; God's Word is the key to opening our hearts and minds.

Remember the following:

- ★ How do you begin to be a person who learns? Be a person who \_\_\_\_\_!
  - ★ No matter what is happening in our lives, God is working and leading us in the \_\_\_\_\_ of learning and growing (Rom 8:28-29).
  - ★ Our hurt and pain, our rejection and loneliness may cloud us for a time, but we must not let it mislay our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ★ God knows our suffering and has a \_\_\_\_\_ to work it out—if not now, then in the life to come (Psalm 146).
  - ★ To grow in Christ, we need to know and do God's \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 7:24-29, Rom. 12:2, Col. 1:9)
- There are so many passages where God is directing us upward to learn rather than inward to be filled with guilt and condemnation!
- (Ex 33:13; Job 6:24; Job 34:32; Psalm 25:4-5; Psalm 27:11; Psalm 51:6; Psalm 86:11; Psalm 119:12; 26; 33; 64; 66; 68; 108; 24; 135; 171; Psalm 143:10—and there are many more!)

These are the principle verses for us as sincere, authentic Christians who are held responsible for doing something with our Christian lives. We are not called just to look good on the outside; rather, we are called to be right with God both outside in and inside out! This is implied in all that we do and believe (Prov. 19:17; James 1:26-27).

**Q3. "What Will I Do About It? When?"**

This is the question that we ask to see how the truth of what we are reading applies to our lives.

Remember the main point of why we study the Bible is to do something with it! Of course, we all do something with it; either we ignore it or we are transformed by it. We must ask ourselves, "How can the teaching about God's Word relate to my problems, feelings, values, attitudes, situations, ambitions, needs, desires, and relationships?"

Jesus calls us to be doers with His Word. When we really hear God's Word, without any barriers, it will impact us existentially (change us internally) down to the depths of who we are in personality, thinking, and attitudes, then it will lead us to godly actions. It will model and show both a loving concern for others and His precepts in concert. We have to be willing to hear it before we can practice it. If we do not practice, it becomes useless. This does not mean doing something without the knowledge to do it right, or going off without purpose or direction. (James 1:21-27)

You may ask yourself these questions:

- ★ What must I do to \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word real in me?
- ★ How does this \_\_\_\_\_ apply to me?
- ★ What is my \_\_\_\_\_?
- ★ What has been my response in the \_\_\_\_\_?
- ★ In what scenario in my life can I \_\_\_\_\_ this principle?
- ★ What illustration or analogy can I develop to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth it contains?
- ★ How does the \_\_\_\_\_ apply to my life?
- ★ What is my personal \_\_\_\_\_ regarding these truths?

- ★ What changes/improvements could I \_\_\_\_\_ in light of the truth?
- ★ How should I carry out these \_\_\_\_\_?
- ★ How can I live out this \_\_\_\_\_ facing a critical and unkind world?

**Q4. "What Does God Want Me to Share With Someone Else?"**

The Word of God's purpose is to transform us into the image of God—to model His character! And then, we can tell and show others. God uses His Word to transform us; it is what He does, and then what we do. He sends us His Spirit; we respond.

This incorporates a prime key to the success of finding our purpose in life, which is found by growing in Christ and applying His precepts.

What we have learned will positively impact others just as what we refuse to learn will negatively affect others. The simple application of love, character, and fruit, and the willingness to be disciplined and to use them will be our signature, as a contagious Christian of the faith, in our witness and impact to others around us. Our trust and obedience will help us cross any barriers.

In obedience, we become willing to serve God rather than our needs, even before we know what the call may be, and take this mindset into life and to others! To grow even further, we can be more contemplative in His Word and in prayer.

You may also ask yourself these questions:

- ★ Now that I know more and what to do, did I \_\_\_\_\_ it?
- ★ How can I \_\_\_\_\_ my faith and what I have learned to others in the character of His Spirit and Fruit? To grow in Christ, we need to willing and able to share with others what we have learned; this is mentoring, and we do it as a lifestyle and example as well as by being a counsellor and guide to others.
- ★ What can I do to get more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to keep going? To be accountable, let someone else you know and trust hold you to your promises, especially as they relate to the study of God's Word.

In the Book of James, God is warning us not to just know, but also to do something with what we have learned. His Word must impact us; for this to happen, we must listen to Him so His precepts will affect us. We do not want to be as James says, "hearers only." This is a statement that characterises self-delusion and hypocrisy. (Ezek. 33:30-32; James 1:21-27).

Hearing His Word is also the standard skill we need in order to be "doers of His Word," and to apply His precepts into our lives; it also helps mature the lives of others.

Is your faith weak? Are you listening to God? The first job of a Christian who wants to grow in his or her faith formation is to listen. Effective listening is essential to growing in faith or building a friendship!

This must transpire so we can be "doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22). How we choose to listen and lead our lives will be the proof that we belong to God and are not living just for ourselves (Luke 8:21).

To grow in Christ, we need to be equipped by His precepts and ready for His service. (2 Tim. 3:15-16) Growing in the Spirit is a day-by-day progression, just like learning to read, the study of mathematics or science, or learning to play a musical instrument. It takes time and effort! So, do not be discouraged if your goals do not come about as quickly as you would like. If no application comes to your mind, pray, and pray again. Let God show you His way, not our way.

**LAST WORDS...**

Why not start studying God's Word seriously today!? You can stand in an ice-cream shop all day long and stare at all of the flavours, but no enjoyment or satisfaction will come until you bite into a scoop for yourself!

The Word of God's purpose is to transform us into the image of God, to model His character! This can happen when you take the time to *hear, read, study, meditate and practice* it! Then you will be able to appreciate the Bible for all that it is worth!

So next time when it comes to the Word of God, make sure you do these three things:

- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ **it!**
- ★ \_\_\_\_\_ **it!**
- ★ **Just** \_\_\_\_\_ **it!**

**LET'S DISCUSS:**

**Read Psalm 1:1-6**

*"Which Way Will We Go?"*

**(1) What does the passage say?**

This first Psalm suggests us two ways to lead life: the way of the sinner, and the way of the righteous. A good Way that gives us hope, happiness, and purpose is contrasted to a bad way that leads to self-destruction, sadness, and hopelessness; so which do we choose to pursue? God calls us to pursue godly piety, a response we make from God's revealed precepts. Because His Word contains the directives for a life of real meaning and purpose, we can make good decisions and lead a godly life. This enables us to honour God and lead a healthy and well-balanced life because we are making those good decisions from His precepts. Then we will receive His blessedness. God bluntly tells us the godly will prosper in Him and in life and the wicked will be scorned in life and judged in death. This is all about what we choose to do and be in life that affects our future here and in eternity and those around us too. It may seem that only the most dim-witted person would choose the ungodly life, but the reality is that most will choose this way, even those who claim Christ as Lord. God desires us to love the significant life—a life that is pleasing, fruitful, faithful, purposeful, a life of distinction, value, and righteousness! He is hurt and disappointed when we choose to sin or hang with bad people and allow them to influence us. Yet, He does not force us to the righteous life. We have the choice to go our way or His Way, to live with honour and renounce sin or to indulge in sin and be dishonourable to self, others, and God. But beware! We will be held to account for our actions and decisions!

**(2) What does the passage mean?**

Verse 1-2: God is joyful when we follow Him! When we choose to base our significance and attitude on who we are in Him and not on the ways of the world, God blesses and judges us in the manner in which we put our faith, trust, and obedience in Him. Yes, we have grace now—Praise God! But what good is faith if nothing is done with it (James 1)? So why miss out; God actually desires to and enjoys blessing us, but there is a catch: we must be worthy of the blessings He has for us, or they would just be wasted and empty. He gives us the call; we must respond in faith and obedience and not fall to apathy or indifference or conform to bad cultural or peer pressure! We need to make every decision based on "how can I please God?" not "how I can please myself or others?" Life is about Christ, what

He did and what He can do in you. If we do neither, we become lukewarm and become callused and indifferent in life (Rev.3:14-22).

Verse 3: Christians who stand in truth will develop the maturity and character that will build them up and influence others for Him! Joseph prospered in Egypt even though he was enslaved, then imprisoned. God blessed and restored him because he held on to character above all the enticements around him. God wants us to be concerned with His concerns, to be productive and good. We do this as we seek Him, as we place Him first and foremost in pursuing His will and Fruit. This is how a great tree grows and prospers and bestows blessings to others. We can do the same (Matt. 6:33).

Verse 4-6: Whatever causes the righteous to prosper, the wicked will hate it! They will hate God and truth; they seek to distort His Truth and get as may people as possible in line with their evil thinking and ways. Evil is habitual; it starts small and builds until it is out of control; it becomes a way of life. There is no reward for the wicked—only the eternal judgment that they seek for themselves. Those who are sinful do not make good decisions. They live for temporary pleasures or are anchored to apathy or indifference or are imprisoned in past hurts, disappointments, and anger and thus can't stand up to the storms of life or be at peace with God. They must let sin and hurt go and embrace God in order to excel in life and eternity.

**(3) How does this passage apply to me?**

*3.1) What is God telling me?*

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*3.2) How can I be changed, so I can learn and grow?*

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*3.3) What will I do about it? When?*

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*3.4) What does God want me to share with someone else?*

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**Additional questions:**

1. What are some things that make you happy? From the examples in this Psalm, which do you choose to pursue?
2. Have you considered that you can make God happy? How does this make you feel; how does it motivate you?
3. What does it mean to prosper in God's economy? How have you seen righteous people prosper?
4. Do you realise that when you honour God, you can also live a life of joy? How and why is this so? How has this been true for you and others around you?
5. How can this Psalm help you make wise choices? What gets in your way of making good decisions? What do you need to work on?
6. Do you think you have what you need to make good decisions and lead a godly life? What more do you need to help you be a good decision maker? What can you do?
7. How does honouring God help you lead a healthy and well-balanced life? What can you do to honour God? What can you do to equip and spur others to do the same?
8. How does this Psalm inspire you to now live? What do you think God's desire for you is? What can you do to prevent yourself from running off course from His good plan and purpose for you?
9. How have you experienced joy and contentment in Christ? How can you do more? What do you need to do?
10. What have you done to respond to God's desire that you come before Him in your worship and daily life? What could be the cost when you refuse? What could be the rewards when you do? What is stopping you? What will you do now?