

Power of Words: Part 9

The Necessity of Building on God's Word

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Job 1:1–3 NLT

1 There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. 2 He had seven sons and three daughters. 3 He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He also had many servants. He was, in fact, the richest person in that entire area.

Job 1:6–12 NLT

6 One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. 7 “Where have you come from?” the LORD asked Satan. Satan answered the LORD, “I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that’s going on.” 8 Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.” 9 Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. 10 You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! 11 But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!” 12 “All right, you may test him,” the LORD said to Satan. “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don’t harm him physically.” So Satan left the LORD’s presence.

For those of us who have read about the life of Job, know how hard his life was. God’s word declares that he was a man that was blameless and upright, and that he feared God and turned away from evil. God’s hand was upon Job’s life and the evidence was in the evidence of his blessings. Then God allowed Satan to take away every blessing that he had. But there was one thing that Satan could not take.

Job 23:10–12 NKJV

10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. 11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. 12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.

Jobs life did not revolve around the materialistic or physical things that he possessed. His life was established upon the word of God. But if we could be a little more specific, he treasured the words from God's mouth. Scholars believe that Jobs life took place around 1900 BC. This means that there was no torah (Mosaic books) to read from. This means that Job had direct revelation and divine communication with God. His encounter with God was not limited to bound leather and paper. He encountered God just as Abraham, Moses, and many others.

If we could look at the word treasure for just a moment we will find that the Hebrew word means to regard as highly valuable. Now I want you to think about the things or possessions of your life that you regard as highly valuable. This would be anything that is priceless or something that could not be easily replaced. In Jobs case he had nothing else of value but his daily bread. And if we consider this same logic then we know that food is a necessity of life.

We have all heard of fish tales. Each time the story is told the fish seem to get bigger. But we should know by now that God's word cannot be exaggerated. His truths are timeless and profound. Job was a blameless man and walked upright before God. He feared God and fled from evil. His life was built upon his fellowship with God. And he esteemed the words from God's mouth over the necessity to eat. His perception of God's heart far exceeded building his own life. His time spent with God could not replace the things that people perceive as a must.

I want us to look at several different servants of God and define God's word.

Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Job, and Moses. None of these men had a book to read. So how did they have God's word in their heart? Why was God's word their lifeline? How was their life so defined and orchestrated upon the call and commandments of God? There are two words in the greek that define this.

Rhema - Spoken Word of God

Logos - Written Word of God

The Rhema is what these men had. This is how much they valued what they had. They did not take for granted the fellowship that the Creator wanted to have with them. However, the logos did not become necessary until the Israelites denied themselves the opportunity to encounter God in the same manner that Moses did. Their timidity of hearing the rhema now had to be substituted with the logos. The logos would now become the standard because man failed to come near God.

I am not downgrading the logos of God. The written word of God is like a well of water while the spoken word of God is a bucket from the well. We have the written word of God so the voice of God can have something to draw from. A body can survive without members but the member cannot survive without the body. Fellowship with God requires both the foundation of Scripture and the intimacy of His present voice. Without the rhema—God’s word actively speaking into your current circumstance—the logos becomes merely information rather than transformation. We must get back to the very thing that Job treasured over his necessity to eat food. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21:

Matthew 6:21 NLT

21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Here is another hard truth that Jesus spoke but Jesus said you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.

What you treasure is what you pursue.

If the pleasures or comforts of this life sustains your necessities then that is what you will continue to pursue. These things have defined your priorities.

Look at what the Psalmist wrote: Psalms 119:72

Psalm 119:72 NLT

72 Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.

God’s word is far more valuable than any amount of gold and silver. His words cannot be bought as this type of intimacy is earned by spending time at his feet and walking in obedience to what He says. The Psalmist gives us this insight in verse 11.

Psalm 119:11 NLT

11 I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

The treasure of His word in our heart keeps us from sinning. It is when His word is always at the forefront of our thoughts, motives, intentions, and actions that proves the necessity to build God’s word in our lives.

Matthew 7:24–27 NLT

24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Was Jesus speaking to Pastors only? Was Jesus addressing the prophets alone? Who is the anyone? This includes ALL people. Now that we have established the “Anyone” we move on to the word listen and follow. This terminology was very familiar to the Jewish people that was in attendance for the longest sermon ever recorded that Jesus just preach on the mount. As Jesus was concluding His sermon He called to their attention how many of them started their day out. The call to “Listen”. It was a prayer that the Jews called the Shema and it is based out of Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 NLT

4 “Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. 5 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The call to hear what God’s heart is saying to the people. The call to treasure His voice and words with all that is within them. The call to keep His word at the forefront and to repeat it everyday. The call to teach others to listen for His voice throughout the day no matter where they are. The word Shema is the call to action. So when God says Shema, it is an invitation for us to listen to His word and respond with obedience.

Deuteronomy 8:1–3 NLT

1 “Be careful to obey all the commands I am giving you today. Then you will live and multiply, and you will enter and occupy the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors. 2 Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. 3 Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Bread sustains our physical body but our spirits are built upon the word that continues to come from God's mouth. When we learn to feed our spirit the words that God speaks over our necessity to feed the physical man then the lack of the physical no longer takes priority in our lives. If we build our lives with and on the wrong material we are subject to a lackluster fellowship with God.

In closing:

2 Timothy 3:16–17 NLT

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

The word of God, whether written or spoken will never contradict itself. And its purpose is to for three primary things.

1. Corrects our wrong
2. Teaches us what is right
3. To do the will of God

I employ each of us to treasure God's voice and to listen when He speaks. And in my final word to each of you today is from Psalms 119:105:

Psalms 119:105 NLT

105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

His word will guide us in every area of our lives! Let me pray with you today!