

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 138:2, Romans 12:2, Isaiah 55:10-11, Deuteronomy 11:18, Colossians 3:16, Proverbs 27:17

Dear Church Family,

We have been learning about the importance of reading your Bible, getting into God's Word. I told you about how it brings you into proximity to Christ and shows you who He is, the Savior of the world! And last week I talked about how reading God's words to us opens our spiritual eyes. It provides light, and that light enlightens us and gives us discernment and direction.

Today I'm going to address two more reasons to regularly delve into God's Word: It gives you authority and it transforms you.

Many Christians don't realize that power from the Holy Spirit is carried through authorized speech.

Psalm 138:2

² I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

This does not mean God's Word is greater than His name, rather that the Word and the name are inseparable. What this means is that His word represents His integrity. God's Word is His written authority, and when you speak His Word it becomes His vocal authority operating through your mouth.

Something supernatural happens when a son or daughter speaks Scripture. The first thing that happens is your voice changes. I want you to think about professional impersonators. The greatest ones don't simply sound like the celebrity, they capture their expressions, their posture, their little nuances in their movements. Their goal is to make you feel like they become that person. But as believers, we are not merely impersonating God, we are His offspring. We are His DNA in the earthly realm. When you speak His language, His creation recognizes its Creator. Hell recognizes heaven's government, darkness is brought to light and divine opportunity is exercised.

But here's the key: your body language must match your vocabulary in the Spirit. What is spiritual body language? It's your lifestyle, your obedience, your humility, your character. If your lifestyle doesn't agree with your confession, then you're only performing another personation or impression of God. Authority isn't just sounding like God; authority is living like Christ. When your walk agrees with His Word, your voice carries His weight in the Spirit.

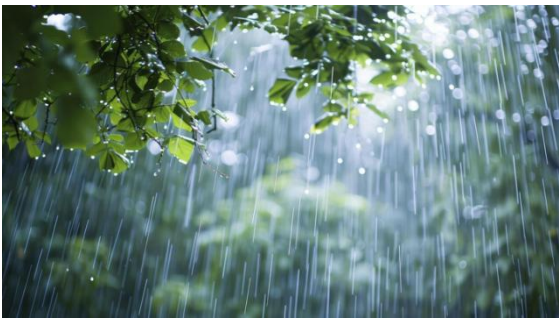
The fourth purpose of reading your Bible is to renew your mind and transform your life. Listen, the greatest battles you have ever fought did not begin *around* you. They began *within* you. Many believers are trying to change their circumstances while still thinking with an old nature. But our Father doesn't necessarily change your surroundings; He changes your thinking about your surroundings. Your attitude, and your focus. Your trust.

Romans 12:2

²*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

I want you to know that transformation follows renewal. Your life rarely rises above your thinking. If you constantly feed your mind fear, you will accept defeat. If you constantly feed your mind offenses, you'll see enemies everywhere and live in victimhood. But if you constantly feed your mind Scripture, you will be thinking like heaven. The Bible doesn't just give information, meditating on it rewrites mental stronghold. It tears down lies from satan that you've believed for years. It replaces anxiety with peace, confusion with wisdom, bitterness with forgiveness, weakness with faith. Every time you open the Word, you are allowing heaven to renovate the architecture of your mind. You don't become transformed because life changes, life changes because you have been transformed.

Friends, Scripture has power! It has authority, and it changes people!



Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My Word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

God's Word doesn't return void. It accomplishes His purposes. It has authority, and your mind will be continually renewed when you are in saturated in it. And through that renewal, God will constantly change you and grow you to be more and more like Christ. As Christians, glorifying God in this way is our goal! Amen?

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Call to Action: Look up Deuteronomy 11:18, Colossians 3:16 and Proverbs 27:17. Pray for a desire to be seeped in God's Word! Ask God to lead you to a group to study with, whether it be just one person or the Sunday morning Bible study. Go with expectation to be changed.