



## Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: The Word Works

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print it to study on your own or use it in a group to experience transformation together.

### Message Theme

The Word Works

### Prayer Focus

*“Lord, thank You for planting Your Word in our hearts. Help us to guard the gates of our soul and to fix our minds on what is good, pure, and true. Strengthen our faith so that we may walk in the reality of Your promises, casting off unbelief and truly living in Jesus. May Your Word take root in us and bear fruit that glorifies You. In Jesus Name, Amen.”*

### Key Truths

Meditating on the Word is more than simply reading Scripture. It's allowing the Word to shape and transform our lives. Scripture was given for our correction, to align us with God's will. A true disciple is not just someone who opens their Bible; a disciple is one who abides in the Word, in Christ, letting that guide their actions and character. In every way possible, they are being transformed and becoming more like Jesus.

The Word of God is like a seed planted in our hearts. That seed must be nurtured and watered to grow. Its growth depends on the soil—the condition of our hearts. When our hearts are receptive, the Word produces life and transformation. God is inviting us into an intimate relationship with Him, and part of that relationship is guarding the quality of our hearts. What we allow to enter our hearts will determine the fruit that grows.

What are the gates into our souls? They are our eyes, our ears, and our thoughts. What we choose to focus on shapes what takes root in our hearts—we become what we behold. Whatever is planted there will eventually produce fruit.

We must remember that we are engaged in a spiritual battle, but our weapons are not physical; they are spiritual. Victory comes when we take every thought captive and align it with God's truth. We do this by fixing our minds on what is good and filling ourselves with God's Word, strengthening our hearts to remain unchanged by the enemy's attacks—standing firm in the faith.

Faith is not about compelling God to act; it is our response to what He has already accomplished. Faith is the posture of trust that enables us to walk in the reality of His promises. The key is learning to cast off unbelief. As we meditate on the promises recorded in Scripture, we're reminded of what is true, opening the door for them to be manifested in our lives just as they showed up in Scripture.

## Practical Application

**Guard Your Gates:** Be intentional about what you watch, listen to, and dwell on. Spend more time today in the light of God's Word than in the light of a device and its screen. Replace negative or worldly input with worship, Scripture, and uplifting conversations.

**Take Thoughts Captive:** When a thought of fear, doubt, or temptation arises, immediately counter it with God's truth. For example, replace "*I can't*" with "*I can do all things through Christ*" (*Philippians 4:13*).

**Water the Seed:** Speak God's promises over your life. Pray Scripture back to Him, and let your words nurture the seed that has already been planted in your heart.

## Reference Verses

- Joshua 1:8
- John 8:31-32
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 1 Peter 1:23
- Mark 4
- Proverbs 4:20-23
- Psalms 119:109, 119:24, 119:111
- Romans 1:32, 4:17-21
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- Ecclesiastes 8:8
- Philippians 4:8
- Revelations 19:10
- 1 Corinthians 10:20

## Declarations:

- "The Word of God is alive in me. What He has spoken will take root, grow, and bear fruit."
- "Testimonies carry the spirit of prophecy—they declare that if God has done it before, He can and will do it again."
- "What God has accomplished is not just history; it is my inheritance, available for me to walk in today."

## What's Next?

Here are three ways you can move from being a "hearer" to a "doer" of the Word:

### 1. Identify Your "Soul Gates"

Your soul is the gateway to your heart and is "continually in your hand." To apply this, do a media and environment audit:

- **The Eye Gate:** Evaluate what you are watching for entertainment. Are you sowing seeds of fear, strife, or lust?
- **The Ear Gate:** Consider the news and conversations you consume. If you feel anxious, you may be spending too much time on the "Negative News Network."
- **The Action:** Replace one negative "input" this week with something that aligns with the "good report" mentioned in Philippians 4:8.

Verses to meditate on: Proverbs 4:23, Psalm 101:3, Matthew 6:22, Philippians 4:8

### 2. Practice "Non-Consideration"

Abraham was a model for faith because he "did not consider" the natural impossibility of his situation (his age and Sarah's barrenness).

- **The Practice:** When you face a challenge this week (a health report, a financial bill, or a relationship conflict), acknowledge the facts, but refuse to meditate on them.
- **The Action:** Instead of Googling the "deadness" of your situation, find a specific promise in the Bible that addresses it and focus your thoughts entirely on God's ability to perform what He promised.

Verses to meditate on: Romans 4:19-21, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Numbers 23:19

### 3. Use Testimonies as Counselors

The "testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy," meaning what God has done before is a preview of what He wants to do again.

- **The Practice:** Treat the Bible as a menu, not a history book.
- **The Action:** Write down one past "miracle" or "delivery" (either from the Bible or your own life). When you feel stuck, "remember" that testimony intentionally. Use it as your "counselor" to remind yourself that you are not allowed to limit God based on your current memory or feelings.

Verses to meditate on: Psalm 77:11-12, Revelation 19:10, Psalm 103:2