

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Encountering God through His Word - Ps Louis Els

*'(Jesus) who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power ...**'* Hebrews 1:3a

*'**In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.'* John 1:1-2

*'**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.'* Colossians 3:16

We learn in Genesis 1 already that the God we serve is a speaking God. When God speaks it is not just for conversation, but also creation. He speaks things into existence. **His Word shapes and brings order** to creation and also to our lives - even the smallest details!

There are situations in our lives that are *'without form'* - when something is there but it is out of order. God speaks into these situations to reorder what is there. It might be priorities or time or management of your gifts that need to be 'reordered' so that you can effectively fulfill your calling. **His Word gives form to any area of our lives we let Him speak into**, turning chaos into God-glorifying order.

Secondly, God speaks into the void: something without purpose and destiny. **He brings clarity where there is a lack of purpose** and destiny. Our lives without God's Word to guide us will produce no meaningful fruit.

God speaks into the darkness, which represents ignorance. His Word is light, dispelling the darkness by bringing direction and truth. Often the lies we believe keep us from pursuing our calling or cause us to go through life on autopilot. **The truth God speaks into our lives** sets us free and **enables us to fulfill our calling** and destiny.

Jesus teaches us the significance of God's Word in our lives in the parable of the sower (Mark 4). The seed represents His Word and as soon as it is sown, Satan comes to steal it. Many people receive the Word and see no fruit because the worries of life choke it, or the hardness of their hearts don't allow it to take root.

The parable encourages us to be like the good soil - people who hear the Word and hold onto it. Reading and meditating on the Word again and again brings life. It allows God to speak into areas that are dark and without form - bringing destiny, order, and truth. **His Word shapes every area of our lives when we faithfully take the time to plant it in our hearts.**

Reflection

1. How often do you hear, read or in any way interact with the Word of God? Do you feel it's enough, too much, or too little?
2. Is there an area of your life that is 'without form' or void or dark? Take a moment of silent reflection and ask the Holy Spirit to speak into that space. What do you hear Him saying? Do any scriptures come to mind that bring truth and light into the situation?
3. What are practical things we can do every week to be 'good soil' so that the Word of God can take root deep in our hearts?