

## Message Four

### The Blessing Received by the Loving Seekers of God through His Law as His Living Word

- I. **The Word of God is rich, substantial, living, and enlightening, containing all that God is—John 1:1; Psa. 119:25.**
- II. **Whether or not we receive blessing from the Word depends on our condition and attitude:**
  - A. We need to deal with our heart, turning to the Lord absolutely with our whole heart and dealing with anything negative that causes separation between us and the Lord—2 Cor. 3:16-17; Matt. 6:22; 5:8; 13:1-23.
  - B. We must humble ourselves, putting aside our self-confidence and self-assurance and praying that the Lord would have mercy on us—James 4:6; Rom. 9:16.
  - C. We need to exercise our entire being—our body, soul, and spirit—to pray-read, sing-read, psalm-read, and muse upon the Word until we are utterly immersed in the Lord—Mark 12:30; Eph. 6:17-18; Col. 3:16; Psa. 119:15; 1 Thes. 5:16-19.
- III. **If we have a normal condition and proper attitude we will receive blessing whenever we come to the Word—Psa. 119:131-132:**
  - A. The blessing of being enlightened—v. 130:
    1. As the embodiment of God, the unique light, the Word of God is a shining light—1 John 1:5; Psa. 119:105.
    2. When we come to the Word we sense that we are in the light, under the light, and in a realm of light—v. 7.
  - B. The blessing of light becoming life—John 8:12:
    1. Light and life always go together; where light is, there is life—Psa. 36:9; John 1:4; 8:12.
    2. The Bible reveals that life comes from the shining of light; the amount of life is in direct proportion to the amount of light—Gen. 1:3-25; 2 Cor. 4:6.
    3. The Word of God gives us light, and then it enlivens us, giving us life—Psa. 119:50, 154.
  - C. The blessing of being watered and of absorbing God—1:1-3:
    1. As believers in Christ, we are living plants rooted in Christ, and now through our roots we are absorbing the riches of the processed and consummated Triune God into our being—1 Cor. 3:9; Col. 2:7a, 19.
    2. If we contact the Lord and spend time in the Word with much prayer, we will absorb God into us to be the element that causes us to grow—1 Cor. 3:7; Psa. 42:1-2.
    3. If we would absorb God, we need to have tender, new roots; therefore, we should not let ourselves get old but be fresh, revived, and renewed day by day—2 Cor. 4:16; Lam. 3:22-23.
  - D. The blessing of inhaling God—2 Tim. 3:16a:
    1. The Bible is not only the breathing out of God but is God Himself breathed into His word.
    2. God has breathed Himself out in the Scriptures, and thus our reading of the Scriptures should be the receiving of God's breath—John 20:22.
  - E. The blessing of enjoying God as our portion—Psa. 119:57; 73:26:
    1. The highest blessing is the enjoyment of God Himself as our portion—2 Cor. 13:14.
    2. God can be our portion because in the Word, by the Word, and through the Word He is real, present, practical, enjoyable, and available to us—Psa. 119:103; 34:8.

- F. The blessing of enjoying God's countenance and the shining of His face—119:135; 24:6:
1. As seekers of God, the psalmists lovingly sought God in a deeply personal and intimate way, seeking the help of His countenance and asking for the shining of His face—42:5; 80:3.
  2. If we are faithful in contacting the Lord through the Word, we will experience the shining of His face—2 Cor. 4:6; 3:16, 18.
  3. Our desire should be, through the Word, to remain under this pleasant, delightful shining, staying with God, being infused with God, and glowing with God—Exo. 34:29; 2 Cor. 3:18.

***Focus:* As God's loving seekers, we should come to the Lord Himself in His word, humbling ourselves before Him, dealing with our heart and exercising our spirit to contact the Lord so that we may receive the blessings from God's living word.**

## Message Four Verses

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

**John 5:39-40** You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that testify concerning Me. Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

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

### Psalm 119

**130** The opening of Your words gives light, imparting understanding to the simple.

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

**25** My soul clings to the dust; enliven me according to Your word.

**50** This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has enlivened me.

**41** May Your lovingkindness also come to me, O Jehovah, Your salvation according to Your word.

**28** My soul melts because of grief; strengthen me according to Your word.

**103** How sweet are Your words to my taste! Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**57-58** Jehovah is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words. I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; be gracious to me according to Your word.

**65-66** You have dealt well with Your servant, O Jehovah, according to Your word. Teach me proper discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments.

**98-100** Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are always with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my musing. I understand more than the aged, for I have kept Your precepts.

**11** In my heart I have treasured up Your word that I might not sin against You.

**165** There is great peace for those who love Your law, and there is no occasion of stumbling for them.

**133** Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

**Psalm 19:7-8** The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of Jehovah is faithful, making the simple wise; the precepts of Jehovah are right, making the heart joyous; the commandment of Jehovah is clear, enlightening the eyes.

## Message Four Reading

### THE FUNCTION OF GOD'S LAW AS HIS LIVING WORD TO HIS LOVING SEEKERS

In this message...we shall consider the function of God's law as His living word to His loving seekers. If we would know how God's law functions in this way, we must consider the law not only as regulations and commandments given by God, but even more as the word out of God's mouth. Psalm 119:13 speaks of "the judgments of thy mouth," verse 72 of "the law of thy mouth," and verse 88 of "the testimony of thy mouth." These verses indicate that the law came out of the mouth of God. As God's living word, the law is the divine breath, the very breath of God.

Furthermore, if we would enjoy the function of God's law as His living word, we need to be God's loving seekers, those who seek Him out of love. If we do not regard God's law as His breath and if we do not lovingly seek Him, we shall not experience the positive function of the law. We may read the words of the law, but we shall not be supplied with what God is by the law, and the law will not operate in us in a positive way. In other words, we shall not experience the function of God's law as His living word.

Suppose you want to use a certain electrically powered machine. If the machine is to function, it must be plugged into an electrical outlet. It would be foolish to expect a machine to run if it has not been plugged in. When electricity flows into the machine, the machine will operate. Moreover, you need to be alert and pay attention to the machine. You should not turn it on and then go to sleep, expecting it to run on its own. In like manner, if we want the Word of God to function properly in our experience, we need to be "plugged in" to the divine current whenever we read it. We do this by taking the Word into us as the very breath of God. Also, we should not be sleepy or indifferent. We must be God's genuine seekers. Then in our experience we shall have the functions of the Word of God.

When we speak of the function of the law as the living word of God, we are actually speaking of the function or operation of God Himself. The function of the Word of God is the operation of God. Because the Word of God is the breath of God, it is one with God. Just as it is not possible to separate the breath of a living person from the person himself, so we should not separate the Word of God from God Himself. In John 5:39 and 40 the Lord Jesus

said to the Pharisees, "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is these that testify concerning Me; and you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." Although the ancient religionists researched the Scriptures, they separated them from the Lord Himself and would not come to Him to receive eternal life. Eternal life is in Christ. If we read the Bible without contacting Him, we shall not receive life. Then in our experience the Bible will be a book of dead letters. Life is a living Person, Christ Himself. We should not separate the Scriptures from this living Person. The functions of the law as God's living word are actually the moving and working of God Himself.

There is no doubt that in reading the Bible we need to exercise our mind to understand the words and terms of Scripture. On the one hand, we need to be exercised to study the Scriptures. On the other hand, there is a time to forget studying and exercise our spirit to pray with the Word and over the Word, seeking to contact the Lord in and through the Word. If we contact the Lord by praying with the Word, we shall receive life from the Word. Then the Word will not be dead letters, for through the exercise of our spirit we shall touch the living One in the Word.

If we come to the Bible in the spirit expressed in [*Hymns*, 811], we shall be nourished and refreshed. However, many times we do not come to the Word in this way. We neither pray nor aspire to contact the Lord. Instead, we just read the words of the Bible with our eyes and try to understand them with our mind. We have no heart or spirit to contact the Lord. In such a case, the more we read the Word, the more exhausted we become. We need to exercise our spirit in reading the Word, and we need to aspire to contact the Lord. Psalm 119 is filled with such an aspiration. This was the reason that to the psalmist the law was God's living word. His way to contact the Word of God and God Himself was to exercise his whole being as an expression of his intimate sentiment and deep aspiration. As he read the Word, he cried out to God, earnestly seeking Him.

As we read the Word of God, we should not only pray, but also sing to the Lord. This is to read the Word by psalming. (In ancient times the Psalms were sung and not merely read or spoken.) Praying requires more exercise of the spirit than speaking,

and singing requires even more exercise than praying. By singing we can truly get into our spirit. We need more singing both in the meetings and in our daily life.

Ephesians 6:17 and 18 say, “And receive the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God, by means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit.” Here Paul is not telling us to do two things—to receive the word of God and also to pray. Rather, as the grammatical construction clearly indicates, he is charging us to receive the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, by means of all prayer and petition. These verses refer to pray-reading, to the practice of taking the Word of God by means of prayer. How could we receive the Word by means of prayer if we did not pray with the Word and over it? To receive the Word by prayer obviously requires that we pray the Word.

In Ephesians 5:18 and 19 Paul charges us to “be filled in spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord.” We should not only pray, but also sing and psalm. The Christians at the time of Paul probably sang the Old Testament psalms, perhaps using certain Jewish melodies. We today should pray-read, sing-read, and even psalm-read. We should psalm the verses of the Bible. Singing the Word is more inspiring than merely reading it. Psalming is a type of singing that includes musing. Singing itself does not include much musing, but in psalming we muse upon the Word. At such times we may worship the Lord, have fellowship with Him, or even converse with ourselves in the Lord’s presence. This is the way to receive nourishment from the Word. By taking the Bible in this way we receive the riches of God through the Word. The written Word then becomes the channel through which God’s riches are conveyed to us. But if we would receive these riches, we must have a living, organic, dynamic contact with God whenever we touch the Word of God.

If we are filled in spirit, we shall give thanks to the Lord and do everything in His name. For years, I could not understand what it meant to do everything in the name of the Lord. Of course, I was taught that this meant to do all things in oneness with Him. This, however, was mainly a doctrine, not an actual practice. Now I see that when we contact the Word in a living way, praying, singing, psalming, and thanking, we shall be

saturated with the Lord and become one with Him. Then whatever we do in our daily living will be in the Lord’s name.

Ephesians 5:20 speaks of giving thanks at all times, and 6:18, of praying at every time. We should pray not only at certain set times, but at every time. Furthermore, we should give thanks to God at all times and for all things. This is the way to receive the Word of God.

But where is Christ that we may breathe Him in? He is in the Spirit, and the Spirit is embodied in the Word. Whenever we come to the Word in a living way, in the way of breathing the Lord and not just of studying the Bible in letters, we become organically connected to Him. Then all that He is. His life and His riches, will be channeled into us. As a result, in our daily living we are saturated with Him, and He and we become one. Because we are one with Him in such a way, whatever we do, we shall do in Him.

My burden in this message is related to the crucial matter that in handling the law of God the psalmists opened themselves to the Lord, considered the law as the living word of God, and contacted God Himself. The psalms are full of the spirit of prayer, full of aspiration and cries to God. In their praying and psalming, the psalmists mused upon the Word of God. Automatically God’s element was transfused into them, and they were saturated and permeated with it. To them, the law was not just a number of requirements, commandments, and regulations, but a means by which they could receive the divine life supply. Because the psalmists were loving seekers of the Lord, they were saturated with the divine Person. Then everything they did was done in the name of God. Through their dealing with the Word of God, they became one with God and experienced the functions of His Word.

All the various functions of the Word are the actions of a living Person. For example, the Word comforts us, strengthens us, and upholds us. These are the actions of God Himself as He upholds, comforts, strengthens, and fills us. All the functions of the law as God’s living word as revealed in Psalm 119 are the acts and activities of a living Person. But if we fail to contact the Lord as we read the Word, the Word will not function this way in our experience. Actually, it is not the Word that has these functions; it is God Himself who operates in certain ways. We contact this living One through the Word and are infused with Him and saturated

with Him so that He becomes our life and our very being. In our experience He functions to give us life and light and to uphold us, strengthen us, and comfort us.

We...need to be those who join ourselves to the Triune God through the Word. The Word is a means through which we can contact the Lord and receive His supply. Without using the Word, you may find it difficult to compose a prayer or praise. But it is easy to pray and praise when we use the Bible. Use the verses of Scripture as material for your praying, praising, singing, and psalming. By means of such an exercise with the Word, you will be saturated with the Triune God. Then you will do everything in the Lord's name. As we sing and psalm the Word, the Triune God is brought into us, and we are ushered into Him. This is the way to allow the Word to function in our experience. (*Life-study of Exodus* pp. 677-685)