

THE LIVING WORD

“I AM THE LIVING BREAD which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”
(JOHN 6:51)

The world today is perishing because of famine, “*not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.*” (AMOS 8:11) It is a rare thing to find a professing Christian who will diligently study, love and meditate on the Word of God.

The words of Jesus in our text brought offence to His hearers, and many, because of lack of understanding, failed to appreciate these tremendous truths. He spoke of Himself as the “Living Bread” that He would give for the life of the world. He said, “*Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life.*” (JOHN 6:54) What was He referring to? Was it the communion table, the Mass? I think not.

In John 1:1 we read, “*In the beginning was the Word [logos], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory.*” (JOHN 1:1,14) The Logos, meaning ‘that which proceeds from the bosom of the Father,’ took the form of humanity for the suffering of death to redeem mankind by the offering of Himself. His body was broken and His blood was shed for thee remission of our sins when He became our substitute.

Jesus Christ was and is the Word of God. He became the incarnate Word at His birth, or the Word made flesh. He is now the Living Word. He will come as the conquering Word, His vesture dipped in blood, and riding upon a white horse. “*And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called THE WORD OF GOD.*” (Rev 19:13)

The “*bread of heaven*” and the “*flesh*” He spoke of refers to the living words He spoke by the prophets through His lips, in the Epistles, and in Revelation. The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets and Apostles of old, inspiring them to speak and write the Holy Scriptures. Jesus said, “*The words that I speak unto you, they are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE.*” (JOHN 6:63) The worlds were made by the Word of God and are sustained by the word of His power. The Word of God is creative, it brings life, it transforms and it edifies. God is what His Word is, and the Word reveals God. If the Church could grasp the significance of these truths, it would be changed into a living, powerful, sanctified body, “*unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” (EPH 4:13)

First we see that the eating [receiving] of this word brings the new birth into being. “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth for ever.*” (1 PET 1:23) Jesus also spoke of this fact when He declared, “*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.*” (JOHN 3:5) “*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.*” (JOHN 1:12) Christ is received and made part of us by His Word. He said, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My WORD, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation.*” (JOHN 5:24) The word “*heareth*” means to hear and obey from the heart. “*If a man love Me, he will keep My WORDS.*” (JOHN 14:23) We show our love and faith in God by the way we treat His Word. The Word is clothed in a vesture dipped in blood, the blood of the Lamb of God that was slain.

Secondly, we see that we are sanctified and cleansed by faith in the Word. “*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth [WORD] through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren.*” (1 PET 1:22) “*That He [Christ] might sanctify and cleanse it [the Church] with the washing of water by the WORD.*” (EPH 5:26) “*Now ye are clean through the WORD which I have spoken unto you.*” (JOHN 15:3)

The Word of God spoken in faith and love is the most powerful force on earth. Jesus said it will heal the sick: “*He sent His Word and healed them.*” (PSALM 107:20); cast out demons, bind the powers of darkness and “*loose the oppressed*” (ISA 58:6). “*If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*” (JOHN 15:7) “*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH.*” (MARK 11:23) When God spoke, He believed His Word, and Holy Spirit brought the creation into existence. When the disciples preached the word, they believed it, and the Lord worked with them “*confirming the Word with signs following.*” (MARK 16:20)

Thirdly, we see that the Word will renew our minds and bring our thoughts into harmony with our recreated spirits. The Christian battle is to bring every thought into obedience to the Word of God. We must bring the evidence of our senses under the dominion and power of the Word. The Word of God must gain the ascendancy and supersede our carnal [sense] knowledge and the wisdom of man. The

Apostle Paul admonished us in Romans 12:2, *“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Here we plainly see that the progressive will of God (good, acceptable and perfect) is to be realized only as we present ourselves *“a living sacrifice”* (v 1) and become renewed in our minds by the Word. This will be your greatest battle, *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit,”* (GAL 5:17) and *“the carnal mind is enmity against God.”* (ROM 8:7) The victory can be ours as we daily feed on the Word, and allow it to nourish our spirits and renew our minds.

Now let us see more clearly how we can eat the Word, abide in the Word, and have the Word abide in us.

In the story of the virgin birth, we see there were three steps to the incarnation. These three steps must be followed to have Christ formed in our hearts, and to allow his Words to gain the ascendancy in our lives.

First, we see that Mary believed the word of the angel Gabriel concerning the birth of Jesus. She believed it with all her heart, even though she could not understand how it would come to pass. Unwavering faith in the Word, is therefore, the first requisite to obtaining the promise of God. We may not understand how God will do it, but suffice us to obey in faith as did Abraham. Believe God's Word above your sense knowledge; believe it in spite of your feelings or symptoms. Only God's Word is eternal, our feelings will change and cannot be relied upon.

Secondly, she submitted herself to the Word. *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord.”* (LUKE 1:38) This is the next step. There must be a resignation and more than that, an active submission to the Word at any cost. Do not struggle with God but allow His will to envelope yours. Sink lovingly into the arms of God's will. His will is best for you.

The cost of submission was great for Mary and harsh criticism was rained upon her head being found with child. This will also be the case with ever born again believer who bears the image of Christ in their heart and life. The world does not understand the change that is wrought when Christ comes in to abide. Many times you may have to obey God's Word in spite of what even Christians may counsel. God does not have to tell your neighbours or friends what He wants you to do. Let His commands be the last word in all matters, never seek to get counsel from others at the expense of God's Word. To claim your healing may also cause you to be misunderstood and be subjected to reproof from unbelievers and carnal-minded Christians. The Word is foolishness to them that perish but it is the power of God to them that believe. (1COR 1:18) Submit yourself to God and resist the Devil! (JAMES 4:7)

Thirdly, she confessed the Word. *“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy WORD.”* (LUKE 1:38) This is a very important and oft neglected phase of deliverance. Your confession will either free you or build fear and sickness in your system. *“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”* (MAT 12:34) See that your lips speak only of the faith and victory in your heart. In Romans 10:10 we read, *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* The Spanish translation expresses *“salvation”* as health, both spiritual and physical. To be saved, we believe and confess Christ as Lord. To be healed, we believe and confess *“I am the Lord that healeth thee.”* (EXO 15:26) *“By His stripes we were healed.”* (1PET 2:24) To be prospered, we believe and confess, *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health.”* (3 JOHN 1:2) To have our needs supplied, we believe and confess, *“According as His divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness.”* (2 PET 1:3) Your confession will bring possession! You will overcome by the words of your mouth!

Believe, submit and confess the Word in the face of any circumstances, above all the voices of doubt...above the howl of fear...in the midst of the storms of life. God is in His Word. He watches over His Word to perform it! Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word endureth forever. Eat His flesh [Word] daily. Drink of the blood, or life of the Word which is the Spirit of God. As the blood giveth life to the flesh, so the Spirit of God gives life to the Word. The Holy Spirit will make the Word alive in you. *“The Spirit giveth life.”* (2COR 3:6) Abide in the law of the Word and it will abide in you. Abide in Christ and He will abide in you.

“He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.” (JOHN 6:56) Amen.