

Sunday Service

26th November 2023

Topic: Activating The Word

Text: 1 Timothy 4:13 - *"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."* (NKJV)

"Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching."
(MSG)

INTRODUCTION

From the beginning of this month, we started on the topic, Spiritual Discipline, which is divided into different parts. We started with Prayer, where we laid a foundation and understood the dimensions of praying in the spirit and the different kinds of prayers a believer must pray. We moved from there and learnt about Faith and how it is a vital factor in drawing the hand of God in a man. From there, we moved into the understanding of Soul-winning. If you are not winning souls, you are not mature and productive as a Christian. All these are things that sum up spiritual maturity in an individual. Today, we are discussing the Word of God and its activation.

"Your journey in Christianity is not completed when the level of God's word in your life is low."

You must understand that the Word of God becomes important as you journey in Christendom. Men who want to make an impact and enter a new dimension of God for their lives must understand how to bury their hearts in God's word and become what God has said about them. The Word of God is key to spiritual maturity and discipline.

Our golden text explains the fact that Christ has given us an occupation before He comes back - "*Till I come...*". He wants us to be active in doing something, which includes the act of devouring the Word daily. Every Christian must have the capacity to engage in that act of devouring (reading, studying and meditating) by paying close attention to the Word not by memorizing. When last have even you read the Bible? Are you aware that doing such is synonymous with staying at the post God has assigned to you?

"Activating the Word of God is paying attention to reading the Bible."

A Christian without the Word of God cannot last. The Bible says it is the house that is founded on the solid rock that will stand in trying times. You can pray but the best way to pray is to pray the Word. Don't just be praying, do it with an understanding of God's Word in your life - Spiritual Discipline! You must stay at your post, giving attention to the Word. This is what brings maturity to us as believers.

It is very possible that there are times when you read the scripture, it might seem incomprehensible. This should not stop you from reading; read it over and over again. Know this, you can also make the understanding harder yourself by reading in versions that are complicated like King James. It is better to always read the Bible in simpler versions. In fact, in this teaching we have checked other versions apart from New King

James Version, to get a more fuller understanding of the truth. This is the simple way to grow.

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (NKJV)

Whatever you would become as a Christian can either be founded in God or man via a word. This is because the Word of God and the Word of Man are both capable of moulding and forming a person. I have met a lady who told me that no matter the words I tell her regarding her capability to achieve a specific milestone (which I do not want to disclose), she won't believe it. This is because, over the years, her mother has uttered that she can never achieve it no matter what. The word of her mum has stood to form her in a certain way. So there here are two sources that form an individual, God or Man through the vehicle of words.

"Know this, the person who speaks over your life matters a lot in your destiny."

It is the word of God that proceeds from Him that makes a man rooted and birth conviction. The word is so powerful either from man or from God. If you are constantly exposed and you depend on what men say you might not go far in life.

In that same scripture, we see **two attributes of man: they can lie and can change their words easily.** This is not so with our God. He can't lie not change His word.

If you are dealing with God, believe Him and hold unto Him that what He will says He will do. In fact, I have seen in the scriptures where Jesus said that He can't commit himself to men because He knows them inside out. (John 2:24). Men can praise you today and crucify you tomorrow. So be like Jesus, don't commit your life to the hands of men.

I have come to tell you that every word of God will stand and come through in my life and yours. Stop looking at men, look at Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He will always come through for us. Sometimes we have experienced serious disappointment but we know God can never disappoint us. We know inside it, that He is with us.

Let the Word of God be your source of strength not the experiences and prophecy of man. This is why if you don't pay attention to reading, you will be deceived. Many are out there basing their lives on experiences and they cancel what God has said. The greatest source of authority for a believer is the Word of God. This is why I charge you, to give attention to reading the Word.

"Let the Word be the basis of your decision and go ahead in life."

In this kingdom, we don't do anything because of trends, we move and act based on conviction through the word. If you act based on trends, there are weighty repercussions for you. Word is the only currency we spend in the time of problem. It is what will convince and cause you to stand.

Don't be things because everyone is doing it, May God help you. It is the conviction that gives us strength to continue.

NATURE OF GOD'S WORD

➤ The Written Word.

Jeremiah 30:2

"Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: "Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you." (NKJV)

When the Bible says to pay attention to reading, it is because there is a Word of God that is written.

"There is a word of God that is written for you, it is wise for you to discover and pray them continually."

Whenever you read the Word and a verse jumps at you like a promise, don't just mark it in your Bible, find a note to write it out. Then, from there you pray it out to reality. The written of God is the complete Bible and the one that is for you. I remember studying the scripture years back and I saw this powerful verse:

Isaiah 50:7 - *"For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed." (NKJV)*

Immediately, I wrote it for me to nurture it daily so that the word can become flesh. I tell you this, the day the written Word becomes flesh is the day you see its manifestation. This is the way we grow. If you are not reading your Bible, you can't have access to it. Do devote time to reading it. I remember the time God asked me to start a study on the Book of Philippians; the moment I got verse 20 of chapter 1, received a light and I prayed that verse for a year and a half.

Philippians 1: 20 - *"According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death."* (NKJV)

The words stuck as I wrote it and prayed over it. Every Word you receive concerning a thing, write it out and carry it everywhere. There are also times when you would need to say this Word out instead of praying out. But the problem remains what do you read?

It was by reading that Daniel discovered that their time was up. By reading! In this kingdom, we don't have an alternative. It is only what God says that we claim, so how can you a whole week without reading? I pray for today, to receive grace to read and understand the Bible.

Don't let problems come before you begin to search the Word of God about what He has said. Do you understand this? Do you have any with you? Take a minute to pray it out now!