

# The Word of God

## The Freedom Project Series

20 April 2017

If someone were to ask me, what do you think is the single most important ingredient when it comes to freedom. The most crucial. The essential ingredient, without which there can be no sustained freedom? That would be the Word of God. Hands down. The most essential, most critical, central and pivotal factor.

There are 3 sources of revelation:

1. God, His Word, His Spirit
  2. The enemy (voice of fear, voice of unbelief)
  3. Ourselves (our feelings, our insecurities, our own flesh)
- Whose voice are you listening to?
  - Whose voice is loudest?
  - Whose voice are you listening to?
  - Whose word do you trust the most?
  - Whose word are you building around?

We need to hear God's Word and what He is saying.

The enemy knows that if he can get us to listen to him, to listen to ourselves more than God, if he can amplify these 2 voices above God's Word he has a major advantage over us.

Eph 6:10-18

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [*be empowered through your union with Him*]; draw your strength from Him [*that strength which His boundless might provides*]. Put on God's whole armor [*the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies*], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [*all*] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [*contending only with physical opponents*], but against the despots, against the powers, against [*the master spirits who are*] the world

rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [*of danger*], and, having done all [*the crisis demands*], to stand [*firmly in your place*]. Stand therefore [*hold your ground*], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God, And having shod your feet in preparation [*to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news*] of the Gospel of peace. [*Isa 52:7*] Lift up over all the [*covering*] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [*one*]. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God. Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [*manner of*] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

## **The Word of God:**

Jn. 1:1-5

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

### **1. Is our milk for growth**

1 Peter 2:2

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may **grow** thereby,

### **2. Is our daily bread for sustenance and strength**

Eph 6:10

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [*be empowered through your union with Him*]; draw your strength from Him [*that strength which His boundless might provides*]

Mt 4:3-4

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

### **3. Is our solid food for maturity and strength**

Heb 5:11-14 AMP

Concerning this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull in your [*spiritual*] hearing and sluggish [*even slothful in achieving spiritual insight*]. For even though by this time you ought to be teaching others, you actually need someone to teach you over again the very first principles of God's Word. You have come to need milk, not solid food. For everyone who continues to feed on milk is obviously inexperienced and unskilled in the doctrine of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action), for he is a mere infant [*not able to talk yet*]! But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble and what is evil and contrary either to divine or human law.

### **4. Washes and cleanses**

Eph 5:25-26

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

### **5. Is alive and active**

Heb. 4:12

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged

sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## **6. Accomplishes God's will**

Is 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it. Is.

## **7. Has creative power**

2 Pet 3:5

They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of His command, and He brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.

## **8. Upholds all things**

Heb 1:3 AMP

He is the sole expression of the glory of God [*the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine*], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power.

## **9. Is the bedrock of our faith, which is our shield**

Rom 10:17

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

## **10. Is the offensive weapon we are to use in warfare**

Eph 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

In 1 Tim 1:18 Paul is instructing his son Timothy to wage warfare according to the Word of God. The Word is a weapon.

1 Tim 1:18

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,...

Warfare requires the Word of God.

What is the "good warfare"?

I imagine it is warfare in which the outcome is positive. I imagine that there must be victory at the end of it in order for it to be "good".

- If the Word of God is that powerful and amazing, and such an impressive spiritual tool and weapon, whose word do you listen to the most?
- If faith comes by hearing, how is your hearing?
- Whose voice are you listening to?
- Whose voice is loudest?
- Whose voice are you listening to?
- Whose word do you trust the most?
- Whose word are you building around?

We need to hear God's Word and what He is saying.

The enemy knows that if he can get us to listen to him, to listen to ourselves more than God, if he can amplify these 2 voices above God's Word he has a major advantage over us.

But when we listen and tune our ears and our lives with what God is saying, we have a guaranteed victory!!

## **2 Kings 6:8-12**

Now the king of Syria was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Syrians are going down there." So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that

he was on his guard in such places. This enraged the king of Syria. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

Elisha was listening to and hearing the Word of God. The King of Israel was hearing this and listening to it and heeding it and arranging himself according to the Word (gird up your loins). And he was walking in victory.

### **1 Sam 17:8-11**

Then he (Goliath) stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? *Am* I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." **When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.**

When we listen to the words of the enemy, inevitably they end up bringing fear. Fear is like having faith for the negative to happen, it is faith in reverse. When the enemy gets us in this corner, we often become paralysed. He has finished his work, he doesn't even have to carry on with his battle, he has just won it. It is now a matter of time.

### 1 Sam 17:23; 26

Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; **and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard *them*.** .....Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? **For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?**"

David was more in tune with God's Word than the enemy's word. In fact he was the only one that we know of, and his older brother interpreted his boldness and confidence in the Word of God as Pride and arrogance:

1 Sam. 17:28

Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

Insecurity often interprets confidence and boldness as arrogance and pride.

That was an attack on David's faith in God's Word and it came from his brother, and his older brother at that. Someone he likely respected and looked up to.

Whose voice are you most attuned to?

### **War Talk**

Often in war, there is a discourse of some sort. There is a dialogue. Maybe it is within you, maybe it is with the enemy. But there is some dialogue. And you had better make sure you have the Word of God for this exchange of words, because the outcome will often determine the victor.

1 Sam 17:43-47

So the Philistine said to David, "*Am* I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But **I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the**

**earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."**

Don't you love what David does? He prophesies! He proclaims. He declares the Word. War talk. We have to have our hearts filled with His Word so we can walk out on it in battle, so we can stand on it in faith and birth the victory he has for us to birth, so we can proclaim and declare and prophesy in the midst of the war when it really counts!

David had a revelation that the battle is the Lord's. He had walked on this Word before. He had done it with the lion and with the bear. And now he had graduated to doing it with the biggest, most intimidating Philistine giant.

1 Sam 17:36

Your servant killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

That is the goodness of God right there. He walks with us, and we graduate in battle. He leads us and if we walk with Him, we are at the right place and the right time and on time for the right battle that He already prepared us for! He had prepared David for this moment.

Sometimes in the midst of our warfare I think we need to step back and realize that God allows warfare for our own benefit,- to teach us how to war so that when we enter the next level we are able to maintain and sustain the land that we have taken for Him.

Ps 144:1-2

"Blessed *be* the LORD my Rock, Who **trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle**—My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and *the One* in whom I take refuge, ....."

We see something in how God deals with the Israelites. The whole generation of the men of war perished in the 40 years of wilderness

wanderings. When God brought the children into their promised land, he said, "right. None of you know how to war. You will have to learn to war to take this land. I have given it to you, that is my Word, but you will need to war to take it. And the reason is this: once you have learnt to war and have taken the land, you will have to tools and weapons to maintain the land you have taken.

### **Whose voice are you agreeing with?**

1 Kings 20:1-4

Now Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his forces together; thirty-two kings *were* with him, with horses and chariots. And he went up and besieged Samaria, and made war against it. Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, "Thus says Ben-Hadad: 'Your silver and your gold *are* mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine.' " And the king of Israel answered and said, "My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all that I have *are* yours."

Really? Just like that? I hope we don't agree with the enemy and give him territory as easily as that.

Let's continue reading:

1 Kings 20:5-6

Then the messengers came back and said, "Thus speaks Ben-Hadad, saying, 'Indeed I have sent to you, saying, "You shall deliver to me your silver and your gold, your wives and your children"; but I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants. And it shall be, *that* whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they will put *it* in their hands and take *it*.' "

When we give a small portion to the enemy, when we concede in some area, he will also claim more!

Can you see this is war talk? I don't see King Ahab seeking the Lord for His Word for this situation, or standing on a Word that God has given him.

1 Kings 20:7-11

So the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, (the first wise thing I see King Ahab doing in this situation) and said, "Notice, please, and see how this *man* seeks trouble, for he sent to me for my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold; and I did not deny him." And all the elders and all the people said to him, "**Do not listen or consent.**" (Wise counsel is so important). Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben-Hadad, "Tell my lord the king, 'All that you sent for to your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do.' (Ahab seems to have a problem with conceding areas to the enemy) " And the messengers departed and brought back word to him. Then Ben-Hadad sent to him and said, "The gods do so to me, and more also, if enough dust is left of Samaria for a handful for each of the people who follow me." So the king of Israel answered and said, "Tell *him*, 'Let not the one who puts on *his armor* boast like the one who takes *it off.*' " WAR TALK! At last Ahab shows a bit of back bone!

I don't see king Ahab engaging in war talk at the start of the dialogue with the enemy and refuting the word of the enemy. I see him agreeing with the voice of the enemy. The fact is that Ahab was not a Godly king of Israel. God in His mercy sent a prophet to instruct him concerning the battle with this Ben-Hadad and his allies. The Lord spoke to Ahab for 2 battles with this king. Both times, when Ahab heeded the word of God, he won the victory.

However, at the end of the second battle that God had graciously helped Ahab to win, Ahab heeded the voice of his enemy again. He agreed with his enemy yet again.

1 Kings 20:31-32

Then his servants said to him, "Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel *are* merciful kings. Please, let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will spare your life." So they wore sackcloth around their waists and *put* ropes around their heads, and came to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-Hadad says, 'Please let me live.' " And he said, "*Is* he still alive? He *is* my brother."

Ahab didn't seek the Word of the Lord and he gave birth to something (a treaty with Ben Hadad) that cost him his people their lives. When we give birth to something from a high place, from fear, from unsanctified mercy, it brings death.

1 Kings 20:42

Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have let slip out of *your* hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.' "

God's word is a matter of life and death.

We need to seek it out. And use it as our guide, our weapon of war, our place of faith to stand on, our hope in walking in the freedom God has for us.

## **Conclusion:**

The word of God

- Is our milk for growth
- Is our daily bread for sustenance and strength
- Is our solid food for maturity and strength
- Washes and cleanses
- Is alive and active
- Accomplishes God's will
- Has creative power
- Upholds all things
- Is the bedrock of our faith, which is our shield
- Is the offensive weapon we are to use in warfare

We can choose whose voice we listen to. We can choose whose word we build our lives around. We can choose whose principles and values we build our lives around. In order to get free, stay free and walk in freedom, we need the Word of God.