

The Integrity of the Word of God: 2

Being Led By God's Word

In the message I preached a few weeks ago we began by saying that God's Word is trustworthy – it is eternal, it is true and must have the priority in our lives. As a foundation verse we looked at Peter:

Mark 9.2-10; 2 Peter 1.16-21

- We do not trust in visions or prophecies
- We must esteem God's Word above all

God's Word Is True & Eternal

- The Bible declares that all of the Word of God is true in its entirety, from Genesis to Revelation (**Psalm 119.160**).
- God cannot lie, He cannot break His word, He has given us His promise and His oath (**Romans 3.1-4, Hebrews 6.18**)
- He will not change one word that He has spoken from His mouth (**Psalm 89.34**). Men can offer their thoughts, opinions, diagnoses; governments can legislate and pass laws but that doesn't alter that God's Word is true.
- God's Eternal word is forever settled in heaven (**Psalm 119.89**) that means regardless of whether we believe it or not, it is true, established and not one letter will fail of God's word (**Matthew 5.18**). The truth of the matter is that men change, feelings change, circumstances change but God's Word remains.

God has bound Himself to His covenant, ie His Word. He cannot work outside of His Word. The Bible tells us that He has magnified His Word above His own name (**Psalm 138.2**). This is one reason why some people don't see the results they might want – eg maybe asking God to do something that He has already entrusted to us.

That's why Jesus put much emphasis on hearing what His Father said and doing it – He did nothing of His own volition but only those things He heard from the Father - He lived by what God said.

- In His parable he said that the wise man was the one who having heard His sayings [God's Word] acted upon them. Jesus likened that person to a wise builder that built on a sure foundation. God's Word is the rock, the sure foundation.
- We do not build on feelings, visions or dreams, nor do we build on prophecies or Gifts of the Spirit – all these things must be judged in line with the Word of God (**1 Corinthians 14.29; 1 Thessalonians 5.21; 1 John 4.1**).
- How do we test these 'words' - God's Word is the benchmark

This was a lesson that Peter had to learn:

- He was impetuous and often got himself crosswired with Jesus – on one occasion Jesus told him that he didn't have the right spirit, his thinking was in line with man and not God (**Mark 8.33**). He wasn't judging His thoughts according to the Word of God

Allowing The Word of God to Lead You.

On the mountain top Peter heard the voice, he saw the visitation of Moses & Elijah and he recalls this incident in his letter but then goes to say “..but we have a more sure word of prophecy”

Seeking God's direction is not about waiting to hear a voice, or a visitation of angels, longing for visions or dreams, it's about the more sure word of prophecy. God leads us and directs us by His Word.

In his first letter Peter writes that we should “desire the pure milk of the word so that we can grow” (**1 Peter 2.2**).

- Desiring the word is not just for babies. It is essential for babies, it causes growth, it establishes them and grounds them in the faith and their walk with God.
- As we grow up we're not meant to swap the milk for a 'fizzy-pop' diet, we must maintain our intake of the word.
- We develop to solid food and strong meat and we still get that from the Word of God

God's word will not only feed us so we become spiritually strong but it will lead us and direct us in all our ways

“lean not to your own understanding.. in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths” (**Proverbs 3.5-6**).

- The context of these verses is to do with receiving and keeping the Word.
- We are not to lean to our own understanding – feelings, dreams, visions – these can all be influenced by our surroundings, circumstances and even demonic forces that seek to destroy us. If we honour, treasure and keep the Word it will direct our paths.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (**Psalms 119.105**)

- Here the psalmist tells us plainly - God's Word is a light that illumines the way and shows us which steps to take.

In **2 Timothy 3.14-17** the apostle Paul wrote some instruction to a young man who was a trainee minister of his

- He tells him to “*continue in the things which you have learned..*”
- He had been brought up on the Word and must continue in it – it would lead him, guide him, instruct him, train him for life and service.

A vision, a dream, feeling or any other 'prophetic word' will clarify what you already know and believe to be true from the Word – and if they are from God they will be confirmed by Scripture.

If you have a dream, vision or prophecy that does not make sense to you, ie it does not clarify a situation, then seek God and ask Him to reveal the interpretation to you. Spend time in His Word and allow God to speak to you.