

## On The Rock: 5

### A Word-Led Lifestyle

#### **Matthew 16.13-20**

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (vs 18)

We have seen how Jesus likened the man or woman who hears what He says and does it as a wise person who builds on rock.

#### **Mark 9.2-10**

- Peter, James and John were with Jesus on the mountain
- They were eyewitnesses to the events that took place - they had seen the prophets and the cloud, they had heard the voice of God speaking.

#### **2 Peter 1.12-21**

Peter begins to outline the legacy that he wished to leave after his death.

- He did not preach stories or cunningly devised fables
- He preached, spoke and wrote about what he had seen – He was an eyewitness. An eyewitness account is very difficult to disprove.
- Peter refers to the voice of God that he heard on the mountain – we heard it, we were there.

#### ***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”

Many people in the church have words, they receive prophecies, they hear 'God speaking' – but Peter could honestly say he heard the voice of God.

Peter's legacy – He went to encourage the church by telling them that they have the prophetic word confirmed – the Holy Scriptures.

- We do not trust in visions, prophecies, or gifts of the Holy Spirit
- These gifts and utterances will always be backed up with the Scriptures – this is the prophetic word confirmed, or made more sure.
- The gifts are to be taken as confirmation of what we already know and believe from the word of God
- We must esteem God's Word above all – the rock.

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” (**Psalm 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.