

The Crucial Place of God's Word in our Groups *"Was Truth Communicated?"*

"So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them...." 2 Peter 1:12

God's Word is truth. His Words matter—not our own opinions or perspectives. When we evaluate the "success" of a group, one of the questions we ask ourselves is, *"Was truth communicated?"* In other words, *"Was the Bible used to communicate answers to problems and needs? Was the Bible 'held up' as the source of life?"* God's Word should occupy a crucial place in the life of each member of the group (Colossians 3:16).

1. God's Word in Personal Spiritual Growth

"Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation." 1 Peter 2:2

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

God's Word is the spiritual food by which we grow to be like Jesus.

2. God's Word in Abiding and in Prayer

"If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you." John 15:7

God's Word abiding in us is crucial to us abiding in Jesus.

3. God's Word in Gaining and Maintaining Spiritual Freedom

Jesus therefore was saying to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32

God's word abiding in us is crucial to keeping us free in Christ.

4. God's Word in Overcoming Temptation

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word....I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:9, 11

"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:17, also see Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus' weapon against the Devil was the memorized Word of God.

5. God's Word in Equipping for Ministry

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God—taking His Word and mending the holes in our lives—so that we can effectively minister to the lives of others and show them how to use God's Word to mend their lives...so they can show others how to use the Word of God to mend their lives so that they can....

6. God's Word in the Leader's Ministry

"And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, 'It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.'" Acts 6:2-4

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.... Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." 2 Timothy 4:2, 13

We are to devote ourselves to prayer and equally devote ourselves to the giving of the Word of God. Present the Word of God to the needs of people in such a way that people will know that it is the source of help.

Two Often Overlooked Needs:

1. Meditation and Memorization of the Word

"But delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." Psalm 1:2-3 (also Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9, 11; Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-11, see above)

Meditating on the Word day and night will make you "successful" and "fruitful." (Memorizing it so that you can have it with you always.)

2. Study of the Word

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Many leaders are tired, not just because of their pace of life, but because they are not feeding their souls with the Word of God. Their spiritual strength is not sufficient to lift their ministry load. As you increase your ministry load, you must increase your input of the Word.