



Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church | www.clcriverside.org | 951-689-6785

Today we are diving into one of the most life-changing truths in all of Scripture: HOW God's Word actually works in our lives and produces lasting fruit! The Word of God is not just information; it is the MOST transformative power on earth! It can take the lowest, most broken sinner and completely transform them into a son or daughter of the living God!

INTRODUCTION

1. God's signature in Scripture.

- The Bible is not random religious writing — it is ONE unified story, written over 1,500 years by more than 40 different authors, kings, farmers, shepherds, warriors, doctors, tax collectors, prisoners, fishermen, and prophets, across 3 continents and in 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).
- There is no way man could coordinate that. Only a Divine Author could oversee that level of unity across centuries.
- And even the structure of Scripture itself declares this truth in the exact center chapter of the Bible: Psalm 118:8 *It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans.* God literally placed the core message right in the middle of His Word: **Trust God. Not man.**

2. ONLY ONE EXAMPLE of Scripture as God's divine authorship (He exists outside of time and our reality, and sees the end from the beginning...)

- **Prophecy** | **Isaiah 44:28** *who says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid."*
- **Fulfillment** | **Ezra 1:1-3** *In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia... the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go...'"*
- The power of God's Word is not only seen in what God says—it's seen in how His Word literally shapes and directs history BEFORE history ever arrives.
- Isaiah, prophesying in the late 700 BC, calls Cyrus by name over 150 years before he's born... and over 100 years before Jerusalem even falls to Babylon.

- When God said through Isaiah that Cyrus would rebuild Jerusalem and lay the foundations of the Temple (Isaiah 44:28), Jerusalem was still standing, the Temple was still untouched, Babylon was not even the global empire yet, and Cyrus did not even exist.
- This is the supernatural dimension of Scripture. The Word of God lives outside of time and forces time to bow to it. **What God decrees comes to pass exactly as He speaks.** This is why the Word is not passive, not academic or theological—it is **living, active, authoritative, supernatural**, and it moves nations, governments, empires, and the destinies of those who believe it.
- The Cyrus prophecy illustrates that Scripture does not just *contain* prophecy, the Scripture is breathed and authored by a God who writes history before man walks into it.

Jesus is the embodiment of the Word of God!

John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word (Logos), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it.*

Understanding the two main words for “word” in the New Testament.

1. **Logos** | The written word or expression such as the Bible.
 - The Roman Centurion in Matthew 8:8 said, “*Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word (Logos), and my servant will be healed.*”
 - Matthew 8:16-18 *When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word (Logos), and healed all who were sick,...* (Isaiah 53:4)
2. **Rhema** | The revelation of God’s Word (Logos) *personally* received from the Spirit of God.
 - Jesus in the wilderness quoting Deuteronomy 8:3: *Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word (Rhema) that comes from the mouth of God.* (Ephesians 6:17, the sword of the Spirit which is the Word, Rhema, of God)

God’s Word has power of its own.

1. Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is ALIVE and ACTIVE. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
 - **Alive** | God’s Word is living and breathing, having Resurrection Life in itself. The Greek word describes it as having the very Life of God! This power is not static but literally infused with the Spirit (pneuma: breath) of God!
 - **Active** | The original Greek word is *energes*, from which we get energetic. The Word is energetically at work in those who hear, receive and put it into practice! The Word lives because God lives and acts through it. (Psalm 33:6,9)

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate (to gaze at) the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory,...*

What's my role in seeing God's Word come alive in me?

1. For God's Word to be effective we must first **hear** the Word. This is intentional attention. Jesus often said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." People have physical ears but not everyone has spiritual hearing. Spiritual hearing is aimed at the heart, not just the mind. Biblical "hearing" is listening with the aim to respond, submit, and obey.
2. Romans 10:17 states that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God. Faith is produced when we are spiritually tuned in to what God is saying, *not distracted, passive, or half-hearted*, but **leaning in with intentional expectation**. Notice the key elements in this one Proverb...
 - Proverbs 4:20-22 *...pay attention (focused, not distracted) to my words and be willing to learn (teachable, humble); open your ears to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart (guard God's Word as precious). For they are life to those who find them, and healing and health to all their flesh. (AMP)*

The condition of my heart also affects the fruitfulness of God's Word in my life.

1. Jesus used the four soils in **Luke 8:4-15** (also Matthew 13:3-23 and Mark 4:2-20) as a vivid illustration of the condition of the human heart in its ability to receive God's Word. In Mark 4:13, Jesus even said that if we do not understand this parable, we will not be able to understand any of the parables. Hearing the Word is not the issue, **the condition of the heart hearing it** is what determines whether the Word bears fruit or not.
 - **Path** | Here the gospel makes no impression on the heart and Satan immediately steals the Word so that there's no fruit. The scribes and Pharisees obviously fall into this category. (Matthew 13:10-17)
 - **Rock** | This soil represents the hidden places of our lives, deep wounds, resentment, and unconfessed sin. God's Word grows until it hits those hardened areas. Many "believe," but only mentally, not with full surrender. When truth confronts them, they fall away because the Word never went deep enough to transform. (Jeremiah 23:29)
 - **Weeds** | Just as weeds choke out nutrients in the soil, the pursuit of money, identity, comfort, pleasure, and self-focus chokes out spiritual growth, preventing God's Word from maturing and producing fruit.
 - **The good soil** | This soil represents the heart that's prepared, and whose lives are not cluttered with competing priorities or worldly values. In this soil, the Word not only produces life, it matures and bears lasting fruit. The characteristics include: a pure and honest heart with no mixture (Matthew 5:8), holding onto the Word (the Greek picture is "echo," like being pregnant with it), and patiently bearing fruit by remaining faithful.

Challenge: *Am I surrendered to let God's Word go into the deep places of my heart, even the painful places, so God's living and active Word can transform me?*