

## **Get Growing - Session 3 - "The Word"**

- Good Evening, welcome to session 3 of our Get Growing Series
- We are learning how to grow as Christians in this series on Wednesday nights
- Let's pray
- The Wheel Diagram developed by Dawson Trotman is a powerful tool to help us understand the disciplines of spiritual growth
- It's a wheel - motion, action
- The hub of the wheel is Christ - Jesus is to be the center of our life
- The rim of the wheel represents obedience
- The four spokes represent the 4 fundamental activities of Christian growth
- Two vertical - our interaction with God
- Two horizontal - our interaction with others
- Last time together we looked at spiritual discipline number one - prayer, reaching up to the Lord in prayer
- Tonight we look at spiritual growth discipline number two - the spoke reaching down to us, the way that the Lord reaches down to us, the way that He speaks to us
- The Lord primarily speaks to us through His Word, through the Bible
- So if we are to grow spiritually than we must be life long students of the Bible, the written word of God
- So let's talk about the Bible and our personal reading of the Scripture, definitely one of my favorite topics!

### I. Get Growing - Session 2 - The Word

#### A. Bible Basics

- Bible Facts
  - ▶ There are two main sections in the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament
  - ▶ There are 66 Books in the Bible, 39 books in the OT, 27 Books in the NT
  - ▶ There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible, 31,102 verses, 788,258 words

- ▶ The Bible was written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek
  - ▶ It was written by 40 different authors from all walks of life: kings, peasants, prophets, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars
  - ▶ The Bible contains history, poetry, prophecy and doctrinal books
  - ▶ The OT was written over a period of 1,000 years, the NT was written over a period of 50-75 years
  - ▶ Despite the variety of authors, and the long period of time over which it was written, everything agrees
  - ▶ The entire Bible has been translated into 532 languages
  - ▶ Partial Bibles have been translated into 2,883 languages
  - ▶ There are 58 English versions of the Bible!
  - ▶ The Bible is the greatest all time seller in history, 5 Billion copies have been sold
  - ▶ 100 million copies of the Bible are sold every year
  - ▶ It is also the most stolen book every year, people take it from hotel rooms and houses of worship, and I'm ok with that!
  - ▶ The Bible has literally transformed countless lives
- How it was produced
    - ▶ Now how was the Bible produced?
    - ▶ Well listen to this very important verse

## 2 Peter 1:19–21 (NKJV)

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ Every book of the Bible had a human author

- ▶ A human author, with his own personality, and background and under specific historical circumstances wrote each book in the Bible
  - ▶ Moses wrote the first 5 Books of the Old Testament
  - ▶ Jeremiah wrote the book fo Jeremiah
  - ▶ Luke wrote the gospel of Luke
  - ▶ Paul the Apostle wrote 17 NT letters
  - ▶ They all wrote with their own styles and according to their historical settings and cultures
  - ▶ But they wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit
  - ▶ They did not dictate letters for God, they did not spirit write
  - ▶ They wrote as human authors wrote
  - ▶ But the Holy Spirit superintended and orchestrated every detail of every book written by every author of Scripture, so that the final product was God’s word to us
- It is God’s very Word
    - ▶ The Bible is God’s word to us

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- ▶ All Scripture is God-breathed, it is perfect, it is inerrant
- ▶ When you are reading the Bible, any portion of it, you are reading a love letter from God to you
- ▶ Christian, the Bible must be the primary influence of your life and your knowledge of it must grow and grow and grow
- ▶ It is the most important and most powerful Book you could ever read

## B. Power of God’s Word

- Spiritual Food

- ▶ Ok listen to some important verses about what the Word of God is to us

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

4 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.’ ”

- ▶ The Word of God is likened to bread
  - ▶ It is also called milk, it is also called meat
  - ▶ It is spiritual food for our souls as Christians
  - ▶ In order to grow physically and stay healthy physically, you have to eat
  - ▶ In order to grow spiritually and stay healthy spiritually, you have to eat
  - ▶ The word of God is your food, you have to eat it
- Light
    - ▶ Listen to this one

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

- ▶ The word of God gives light to your path in life
- ▶ It answers all of the big questions in life: How did I get here? How did the universe get here? What’s wrong with the human race? Is there life after this life? What’s the purpose for life?
- ▶ The Bible tells you how to get right with God
- ▶ The Bible tells you how to live a life that is pleasing to God
- ▶ It gives you morals and absolute truths that you are to abide by
- ▶ It tells you what your priorities should be in life
- ▶ It gives you detailed information in all matters of life: friendship, dating, marriage, parenting, finances, conflict resolution, health

- ▶ It tells you everything that you need to know about life both here and forever more
  - ▶ God's word to you, God's direction for you, God's light to you
  - ▶ Whenever you buy a new gadget, it has an instruction manual
  - ▶ The Bible is God's instruction manual for life
  - ▶ It tells you everything you need to know and can help you in anything you go through
- Living and Active
    - ▶ Listen to this one

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

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.

- ▶ The word of God is a living book, it's alive
- ▶ You will discover this for yourself as you read it
- ▶ When you read the Bible you will find that it reads you
- ▶ God will speak to you
- ▶ He will convict you about things in your life that need to change
- ▶ He will comfort you directly as you go through tough times
- ▶ He will direct you in incredible detail
- ▶ It is always alive, it always meets you where you are
- ▶ There will be times when the same passage of scripture will minister to you at different times in different ways
- ▶ My experience with the parable of the prodigal son
- ▶ This Book will completely and totally change your life and keep you on a path that is safe and fruitful for life, in every area of life

Warning: This Book is habit-forming. Regular use causes loss of anxiety, decreased appetite for lying, cheating, stealing, hating.  
Symptoms: increased sensations of love, peace, joy, compassion.

- ▶ Do you want that? I so hope you do!

### C. Exposure to God's Word

- Activities
  - ▶ Ok so you need consistent exposure to the Bible, you need to constantly be growing in your knowledge of the Bible
  - ▶ You want to get to a point where you are reading your Bible for yourself personally
  - ▶ Read it daily
  - ▶ Quiet Time - Prayer and Bible Reading
  - ▶ Bible Reading Plans - through the Bible in a year
  - ▶ Start with Matthew in the New Testament
  - ▶ Start with Genesis in the Old Testament
  - ▶ Journaling - write out what the Lord is showing to you that day
  - ▶ Hear it Preached Consistently - attend a Bible Teaching church
  - ▶ Study it for yourself - take on a challenge every year, I'm going to study a Book in the Bible
  - ▶ So many resources to help with this - Bible dictionaries, Bible commentaries, Bible Encyclopedias, Word studies, Blue Letter Bible website
  - ▶ Get involved in a small group Bible study where you study a Book in the Bible with others
  - ▶ Memorize it - take time to memorize some scriptures
  - ▶ Navigators - Topical memory system
  - ▶ Meditate upon it - chew on it
  - ▶ Again, these are all recommendations
  - ▶ You invent your own approach, God will give you a system that works well for you
  - ▶ It's not meant to be a religious thing

- ▶ It's meant to be a blessing, Enjoy reading the Bible, hearing from God Himself
- ▶ Oh no, I missed a day, start again
- Benefits of God's Word
  - ▶ Growing spiritually
  - ▶ Knowing God better
  - ▶ Good theology / discernment
  - ▶ Keeping good priorities - the eternal perspective
  - ▶ Protection from temptation - Jesus quoted from the word when tempted by the Devil in the wilderness

Psalm 119:9 (NKJV)

9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

- ▶ Testimony from Tony Coronado at men's retreat
- ▶ Comfort and counsel
- ▶ Direction from the Lord
- ▶ Success for life and all eternity

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

- ▶ Hearing God speak to you personally
- ▶ Connor and Lebanon
- ▶ February 27 Wedding date
- ▶ As a Christian you have a personal relationship with God, and you get to talk to Him about anything and everything,

and you get to hear from Him about anything and everything

- ▶ It's wonderful, it's beautiful, it's the greatest blessing

## Conclusion

- Psalm 121
- Closing Prayer and Invitation