

The Word Of God

1 Peter 1:22-25

All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted

*“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring **word of God**. For, ‘ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, BUT THE **WORD OF THE LORD** ENDURES FOREVER.’ And this is **the word which was preached to you.**” (1 Peter 1:22-25)*

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- The Jews on the day of Pentecost.

“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37)

“And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”

(Acts 2:40-41)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- The Samaritans.

“Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.” (Acts 8:5)

“But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.” (Acts 8:12)

- The Ethiopian Eunuch.

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.” (Acts 8:35)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- Cornelius & Family.

“The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all) ...”

(Acts 10:36)

“And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.” (Acts 10:42)

“And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’”

(Acts 11:13-14)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- Lydia & Family.

“And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.’ And she prevailed upon us.” (Acts 16:13-15)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ The Philippian Jailer & Family.

"But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!' And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out, he said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house." (Acts 16:25-32)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ The Corinthians.

"Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.' And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them." (Acts 18:7-11)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- In every single case of conversion in the New Testament, the word of God was preached, believed, and obeyed.

"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41)

"But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand." (Acts 4:4)

"And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number ..." (Acts 5:14)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- In every single case of conversion in the New Testament, the word of God was preached, believed, and obeyed.

"And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." (Acts 5:42)

"Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number ..." (Acts 6:1a)

"The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- In every single case of conversion in the New Testament, the word of God was preached, believed, and obeyed.

"But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike." (Acts 8:12)

"But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord." (Acts 11:20-21)

Conversion To Christ Requires The Word Of God

- The gospel is God's power to save.

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For **in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith**; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.'" (Romans 1:16-17)*

Fidelity To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ The Corinthians.

*"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast the word** which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain."
(1 Corinthians 15:1-2)*

■ The Colossians.

*"And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His **fleshly body through death**, in order to present you before Him **holy and blameless and beyond reproach – if indeed you continue in the faith** firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister." (Colossians 1:21-23)*

Fidelity To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ Converts on Paul's first preaching tour.

*"But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe. After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, **encouraging them to continue in the faith**, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:19-22)*

Fidelity To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ The Ephesians.

"And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks." (Acts 19:8-10)

*"So the **word of the Lord was growing** mightily and prevailing."
(Acts 19:20)*

*"And now I commend you to God and to the **word of His grace, which is able to build you up** and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)*

Fidelity To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ The Thessalonians.

*"Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned with them from the Scriptures**, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." And **some of them were persuaded** and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women." (Acts 17:1-4)*

*"So then, brethren, **stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught**, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us."
(2 Thessalonians 2:15)*

Fidelity To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ All Christians.

*"Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; **the one who abides in the teaching**, he has both the Father and the Son." (2 John 9)*

*"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you **contend earnestly for the faith** which was **once for all handed down to the saints**." (Jude 3)*

*"... but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)*

Fidelity To Christ Requires The Word Of God

■ All Christians.

"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" (John 8:31-32)

*"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will **keep My word**; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.'" (John 14:23-24)*

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its source.

- Came from God.

*"For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received **the word of God** which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe."* (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

- Came through Christ.

"The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me." (Luke 10:16)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its source.

- Came through Christ.

*"If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are **the Lord's commandment**."* (1 Corinthians 14:37)

*"For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it **through a revelation of Jesus Christ**."* (Galatians 1:11-12)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its source.

- Came by revelation of the Holy Spirit.

"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit ..." (Ephesians 3:1-5)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its source.

- Came by revelation of the Holy Spirit.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." (John 14:26)

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning." (John 15:26-27)

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:13-14)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its source.

- Revealed to the Apostles as ambassadors.

*"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; **we beg you on behalf of Christ**, be reconciled to God."* (2 Corinthians 5:20)

*"... for the **words which You gave Me I have given to them**; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me."* (John 17:8)

*"I have given them **Your word**; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."* (John 17:14)

*"As **You sent Me** into the world, **I also have sent them** into the world."* (John 17:18)

*"So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the **God who gives His Holy Spirit to you**."* (1 Thessalonians 4:8)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its source.

- Words selected by the Holy Spirit.

*"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining **spiritual thoughts with spiritual words**."* (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its source.

■ **Treasure in Earthen vessels.**

*“But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves ...” (2 Corinthians 4:7)*

*“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, **according to my gospel** ...” (2 Timothy 2:8)*

*“... according to **the glorious gospel of the blessed God**, with which I have been entrusted.” (1 Timothy 1:11)*

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its sufficiency.

■ **Profitable.**

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate (‘complete’ – ESV, ASV, NKJV), equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

- “For teaching”
- “For reproof”
- “For correction”
- “For training in righteousness”

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its sufficiency.

■ **Profitable.**

*“... preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction**. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.” (2 Timothy 4:2-4)*

*“... for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but **instead even expose them** ...” (Ephesians 5:8-10)*

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

Consider its sufficiency.

■ **Profitable.**

*“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us **everything pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.” (2 Peter 1:2-3)*

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

■ Consider its authority.

- It is the standard by which all religious teaching and practice is to be tested.

*“But **examine everything** carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)*

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)*

*“And Jesus began to say to them, ‘**See to it** that no one misleads you.’” (Mark 13:5)*

*“**See to it** that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)*

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

■ Consider its authority.

- We must examine the Scriptures!

*“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see whether these things were so.” (Acts 17:11)*

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

*“... but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for **the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence ...” (1 Peter 3:15)*

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

- Consider its authority.

- God's word will be our Standard of Judgment.

*"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; **the word I spoke** is what will judge him at the last day." (John 12:48)*

"... on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus."

(Romans 2:16)

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father** who is in heaven will enter."*

(Matthew 7:21)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

- Consider its divine purpose.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.'" (Isaiah 55:8-11)

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

- Consider its eternal nature.

***"The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."** (Isaiah 40:7-8)*

Why Be Anchored In The Word?

- Consider its eternal nature.

"So Jesus said to the twelve, 'You do not want to go away also, do you?' Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.'" (John 6:67-68)

How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Hear the word of God

(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message

(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ

(Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins

(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Remain Obedient

(Hebrews 5:9; 2 Peter 3:17-18)