

In Love With The Word Of God

Welcome!

- Please come at 7 pm & fellowship!
- Worship and teaching until 8:00 – 8:15 pm, followed by Q & A.
- Receive personal prayer and ministry afterwards, or pray at the altar.

About Prophets & Kings:

- Verse by verse study in 1st and 2nd Samuel. Together, let’s extract every drop that we can out of what God is saying to us.
- Listen again on the podcast, or the church website at: htchurch.com/samuel.
- For older courses, go to the “Media” page on the website.
- Catch up with us in your reading to 1 Samuel 22.

Teaching: In Love With The Word Of God (Psalm 119:9-16)

9 BETH. How shall a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word. 10 I have sought You with my whole heart; O, do not let me wander from Your commandments. 11 Your Word have I hid in my heart, so that that I might not sin against You. 12 Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes. 13 With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate in Your precepts, and have respect for Your ways. 16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word.

Introduction

How did David achieve the testimony of being a man after God's own heart? Perhaps it was his devotion to the Word of God. David cherished the Word as his greatest treasure. And in the 119th Psalm, David wrote a masterpiece in which he expressed His love for the Word of God.

- Verses 9-11 are familiar, but still powerful. Only the Word that God has given us can renew our minds.
- Beginning in verse 14, we can see David's fivefold approach to the Word of God.

1. Rejoice in the Word of God. (v. 14)

- David said he rejoiced in the Word as much as in all riches.
- We need to be careful that our familiarity with the Word does not make us think lightly of this precious gift.
- The Jewish people have an entire holiday devoted to being thankful for the Bible? It's called *Simchat Torah*, which means "the joy of the Torah."
 - The scroll of the Torah is taken out and they literally dance around with it.
- Here's an interesting question: what would we really know about God without His Word?
- God can and does speak to us **apart** from His Word, in prophecies and in other ways, but the primary way He speaks to us is **in** His Word.
- What about those who live where the Word is hard to find?
- Don't take it for granted!

2. Meditate in the Word of God. (v. 15)

“This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate in it day and night, so that thou may observe to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.”

(Josh. 1:8)

- In the Bible, meditating is not mental or passive, but active: it means to murmur or to mutter, and it means to reflect, to ponder.
- Ancient reading was out loud: God told Joshua not to let the book of the law depart from his **mouth**.
- God also said to do this **day and night**.
- He also said we need to pay attention to **“all that is written in it.”**

How to do this?

1. Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Word to you.
2. Second, read the Word aloud.
3. Get nourishment from each thought
4. Repeat passages that seem to be significant.
5. Avoid being distracted by curiosity.
6. The point is to meet God in His Word, not to get head knowledge per se.
7. Jot down things you do not understand and then research them afterwards.

There’s almost no single habit you could adopt that would change your life as much as Bible reading!

3. Have respect for the Word of God. (v. 15)

- Treat the Word of God with respect.
- Have respect for the fact that the Word of God is binding on us.
- Think of how the Devil has always attacked the Word.

4. We need to delight ourselves in the Word of God. (v. 16)

We need to recover the sense of joy and delight at feasting on the Word of God. David said, It's sweeter also than the honey and the honeycomb.

5. Memorize the Word of God. (v. 16)

One of our biggest problems is that people's thoughts about God are not shaped by God, they are shaped by the spirit of this world. Who is shaping your thinking about God?

Not forgetting His word also means that as we go through temptations and difficult times, we let the Word govern our actions and our responses to things.

How can you be strong? How can you overcome the wicked one? Let the Word of God abide in you. It's the best way to keep our way pure.

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