

**THE
WEAPON
OF THE
WORD
BOOKLET**

The Word of God

Basic Class compiled of writings of the Children of David. Part 1



"Heaven & Earth Shall Pass Away, But My Words Shall Not Pass Away!"—Matthew 24:35

The Word of God is the most powerful Truth on Earth! They are Words that contain the very spirit and life of God Himself! "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) The Word is the spiritual spark of God that ignites us with His life, light & power!

Reading, absorbing and following the Word of God is the most important thing you can do! It's the Word that keeps you in tune with God & helps you to keep going God's way. It was only when Adam & Eve quit listening to God's Word that they got in trouble. (See Genesis 3) When you listen to God & His Word, He always tells

you the truth, and if you obey His truth, you'll be happy & fruitful. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11)

Faith in the Word of God is such a vitally important principle! That's what this entire era and Age of Grace is built on, faith in the Word! "For without faith, it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6) and "Faith comes by hearing the Word of God!" (Romans 10:17)

This is the way the Lord has chosen to operate through the ages; this is how He deals with Man. Although He is a "very present help in trouble" (Psalms 46:1) Who will "never leave nor forsake us" (Hebrews 13:5), He deliberately remains largely hidden and unseen behind the veil of the spiritual realm. Therefore He expects us, His children, to "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7), except for occasional prophets or those with certain gifts of the Spirit to whom He may give glimpses of Himself and His unseen operations.

But most of the time the Lord seems to let us more or less fend for ourselves with very little direct, visible or audible intervention from Himself or His angelic agents. He doesn't give us a whole lot of too-easy help of openly visible supernatural assistance from the Spirit World. Instead, He leaves a lot up to us, and He expects us to gain the spiritual strength and faith that we need from His Word.

He wants us to eagerly absorb His Word for ourselves, and thereby gain the faith that we need to meet the needs and confront the situations which we continually face. That is why the Word is so important! It is the primary means by which we receive God's communication and are made aware of His Will, and thereby receive the faith and strength to carry on for Him in this life!

(ML#2484:1-6)

"Open thou mine eyes!" (Psalms 119:18)

Did you know that you can read the Word, but hardly get anything out of it? People can sometimes read passages over and over and it just doesn't sink in. The Bible says, "The natural man doesn't receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14). Unless we read the Word in a prayerful and receptive attitude, looking to the Lord and His Holy Spirit for guidance, it can be very difficult for us to understand some things.

In fact, unless the Holy Spirit reveals some things to you, enlightens your mind, you can be totally blind to certain truths that have been right there in front of you all the time! But if you earnestly pray, as David did, "Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Law" (Psalms 119:18), the Lord is faithful and He will answer your sincere petition. Ask the Lord to "give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowledge of Him, so that the eyes of your understanding will be enlightened," (Ephesians 1:17,18). You won't be disappointed! You will indeed behold wonderful things from His wonderful Words!

A lot has to do with your own desire to hear from the Lord and your own personal hunger and receptivity. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. For He hath filled the hungry with good things, but the rich (full) He hath sent empty away!" (Mathew 5:6; Luke 1:53) If you read His Word prayerfully and sincerely and you ask God to guide you, He always answers the hungry heart!

So much has to do with your attitude. The Scribes and the Pharisees of Jesus' day were fluent in Scripture, they knew it by heart, they copied it all the time by hand. But because they were so

self-satisfied and self-righteous, they were anything but "hungering & thirsting after righteousness", and their hearts were hardened and their spiritual ears were deaf and they were devoid of understanding! They resisted the truth of the Word that they read, and truth resisted loses its power over the mind, and they didn't even realize how spiritually alienated they were from the Lord!

But if you sincerely seek the Lord as you hungrily read His Word, He will speak to you through it. And the more dearly you begin to love His Word and the more you study it and feed from it, the more you will grow spiritually and the more you will find that God can speak to you just as loudly and clearly and directly through His written Word as if He spoke to you out loud in a prophecy during a prayer meeting!

When the Holy Spirit quickens a passage or verse to you, applying it to your own personal situation, it brings the Word to life! The Lord will bring His Word to life and give you things personally, answers to your problems and prayers, as you read His Word. When He applies it to a situation, it suddenly becomes alive! It's no longer just mere words any more, or words that just run through your head, but all of a sudden it hits your heart and you really get the point! "The entrance of Thy Word giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple!" (Psalms 119:130).

(ML#2484:36-41)

"Study to show thyself approved unto God." (2Timothy 2:15)

The more you study the Word and really dig into the Word, the more it will become a constant source of pleasure to you, a source of enjoyment, inspiration, encouragement, edification, information & continuous guidance!

Real study time is not only reading time, but listening to God time also. The minute you begin to stop, look and listen to the Lord's recorded written Word, you are immediately putting yourself in the position of being willing to listen, so then the Lord can begin to speak to you and give you His living Word!

To feed from the Word and hear from the Lord like this, to spiritually graze in the green pastures by the beautiful still waters of His Word that He has for you (Psalm 23), you need to bear in mind what my teacher used to tell me in typing class, that the most important thing is not speed, but accuracy. When you're reading the Word of God, it's accuracy that's important.

So read the Word carefully, prayerfully and thoughtfully. If every time you sat down to eat a meal, you gobbled and gulped it down as fast as you possibly could, you wouldn't digest or absorb it nearly as well as if you had eaten it a little more slowly, nor would you enjoy it as much! This same principle applies to your spiritual food as well. To fully digest, absorb and benefit from the Word, don't let the Devil speed you up or trip you up or sideline or distract you! Of course, an excellent way to really absorb the Word is to memorize key portions and verses.

You can miss a lot of the meaning, the real depth of what the Lord's talking about, unless you stop to really think about it sometimes and apply the Word to your personal situation, and ask, "How is that true and how is that so?" Not with a questioning or a doubtful attitude, but one full of faith, knowing that you can learn even more lessons if you search further and dig deeper.

Remember also that the Lord loves a mystery! He likes for you to learn to dig things out! To find the real precious jewels, you sometimes have to do a little mining, a little digging, and put a little effort into it.

As with the most precious metals and jewels, gold and silver and diamonds etc., you have to hunt for them and dig them up and find them. He purposely doesn't make it too easy for you. He says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth!" (2Timothy 2:15). If you will diligently and prayerfully labor in His Word, He will greatly reward you, and you will agree with David, who exclaimed, "Thy Word is better unto me than thousands of gold & silver!" (Psalm 119:72).

(ML#2484:42-48)

God's Word is Soul Food!

Jesus said, "The Words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life"! (John 6:63) His Word is the very Life of God! That's what gives us spiritual life and food and nourishment and strength and health, which is why a good wholesome balanced diet of His Word is essential if you wish to grow and stay close to Him!

Jesus Himself is called "The Word of God" in the Bible. (Revelations 19:13; John 1:1; John 1:14.) Jesus is the Word, He is the Spirit and the Life, and you have to have a dose of Him every day, a good feeding and feasting and drinking, if you're going to grow and stay healthy spiritually! Just like you have to eat in order to have physical strength, you have to feed from the Word, drink of the Word, to have spiritual strength.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby." (1Pet.2:2) That's a picture of a baby who

must have its mother's milk in order to live. Without receiving nourishment from the good, wholesome, nourishing, encouraging and feeding Truth of God's Word, you will starve and eventually die spiritually!

You've got to feed your soul or your soul is going to die! You have got to be fed spiritually, or you will never grow up spiritually, you will never fully mature, and you will stay a spiritual infant or baby because you haven't properly fed from the milk of His Word.

When you're spiritually weak, it's usually because you're weak in the Word. You haven't really been strengthened by the Word and really indoctrinated with the Word and filled up with the Word, baptized with the Word. They haven't lived on the Word, drunk the Word, feasted on the Word. The Word has not been their life and strength and health like it should have been.

Just like a baby has a natural, instinctive and irrepressible God-given desire to suck and draw the milk from its mother's breast, so we should hunger and thirst for the pure milk of the Word. If we are healthy spiritually, we should devour it, drink it in and cry out to God for it just like a baby does for the milk of its mother!

The great Prophet Jeremiah said, "I found Thy Words and did eat them, and Your Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart!" (Jeremiah 15:16). Job said, "I have esteemed the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food!" (Job 23:12) Do You?

There's nothing more important to your spiritual life than the Word because the Word is Love, the Word is God, the Word is Jesus, the Word is everything! His Word is just that important!

(ML#2484:21-28)

Only One Thing is Necessary!

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:38-42)

What is the "good part" that Mary chose? The Word! She sat at Jesus' feet and listened to His Words! This is something that is so needful, so necessary, you've simply got to do it, to rest in the Lord and sit at His feet and hear from Him and His Word. #2484:29

(Jesus speaking in prophecy:) Only one thing is needful. Do you understand that? Do you grasp the immensity of that statement? Only one thing in all of life is needful, and when you have chosen that good part, it will not be taken away from you.

That good part, this one thing that is needful, that I require and look at more than any other obedience or good deed or even sacrificial deed that you do, is your time spent with Me, sitting down at My feet to learn of Me. *(End of message from Jesus.)*
(ML #3292:135,136).

That's the only thing that's really necessary, to listen to the Lord, to sit at His feet and hear of Him and hear His Word.

Help us to remember, Lord, that Thy Word comes first. This is our whole duty and our whole obligation and our whole job, to love

Thee and to love others, to love Thy Word, and love them with Thy Word, and anything else is not really essential, not really necessary. (#1316:128,167).

His Word says that He has exalted His Word even above His Name! God considers His Word even more important than His Name!

His Word is very important, and you had better not forget it or neglect it or in any way fail to receive it, believe it, act on it and obey it! There's nothing more important than the Word. Because His Word is love, and His Word is God, and His Word is Jesus, His Word is everything; His Word is that important! (#1286:29,40,41).

Jesus is the Word, He is the spirit and the life, and you have to have a dose of Him every day, and have a good feeding and feasting and drinking. Just like you have to eat in order to have physical strength, you have to eat of the Word, drink of the Word, to have spiritual strength.

The Word is all of these things: The Word is Jesus, the Word is God, the Word is spirit, the Word is life! And without Jesus you're without God, you're without Spirit, you're without Life, you're dead!

I'll tell you, it's dangerous to neglect the Word! The minute you start crowding the Word out of your lives, you're getting too busy!

The secret of power and victory and overcoming and fruitfulness and fire and life and warmth and light and leadership, everything, is the Word! And the lack of it is the secret of backsliding and failure and coldness and darkness and weakness and dying spiritually. (#1089:18,21,31,32,46,63).

If you put the Word first, the Lord will always give you time somehow to take care of the other things. But you say, "I've got so many other things to do now and so much work to do, how am I ever going to find time to read the Word every day?"

If you get so busy with a little here and a little there that you don't even have time for the Word of God, I'll tell you, you'll crack up that way! It's dangerous to neglect the Word! The minute you start crowding the Word out of your life you are getting too busy!

You can't just let things slide and get so busy with other things that you neglect your inspiration, the spiritual food and nourishment that you need from the Word. I know lots of times I would really get down if I didn't feed on God's Word!

Of course, once you have a good feeding, a good meal, you can get pretty full and be satisfied for quite a while. But pretty soon you need another one. And it's the same way with your spiritual food. You need to regularly take time with the Lord and His Word to make sure you get your spiritual food and inspiration. Try to set aside at least an hour each day in which you can quietly commune with the Lord through His Word. When you see the difference it makes in your walk with the Lord, you'll wonder how you ever got by without it!

You are what you read and what you're hungry for, so make sure you're getting the right spiritual food! If you like to read the Word of God best that shows you love the Word of God and you would rather hear from the Lord than anybody.

(ML#2484:30,32-35)

In Conclusion

There's so much more that we could say about this marvelous subject of God's wonderful Word, but suffice it to say, the more you live in the Word, the closer you'll be to the Lord, and the more blessed and fruitful your life will be! So let's keep the connection strong with His Word and His Spirit, His Truth and His Love, in humility and obedience.

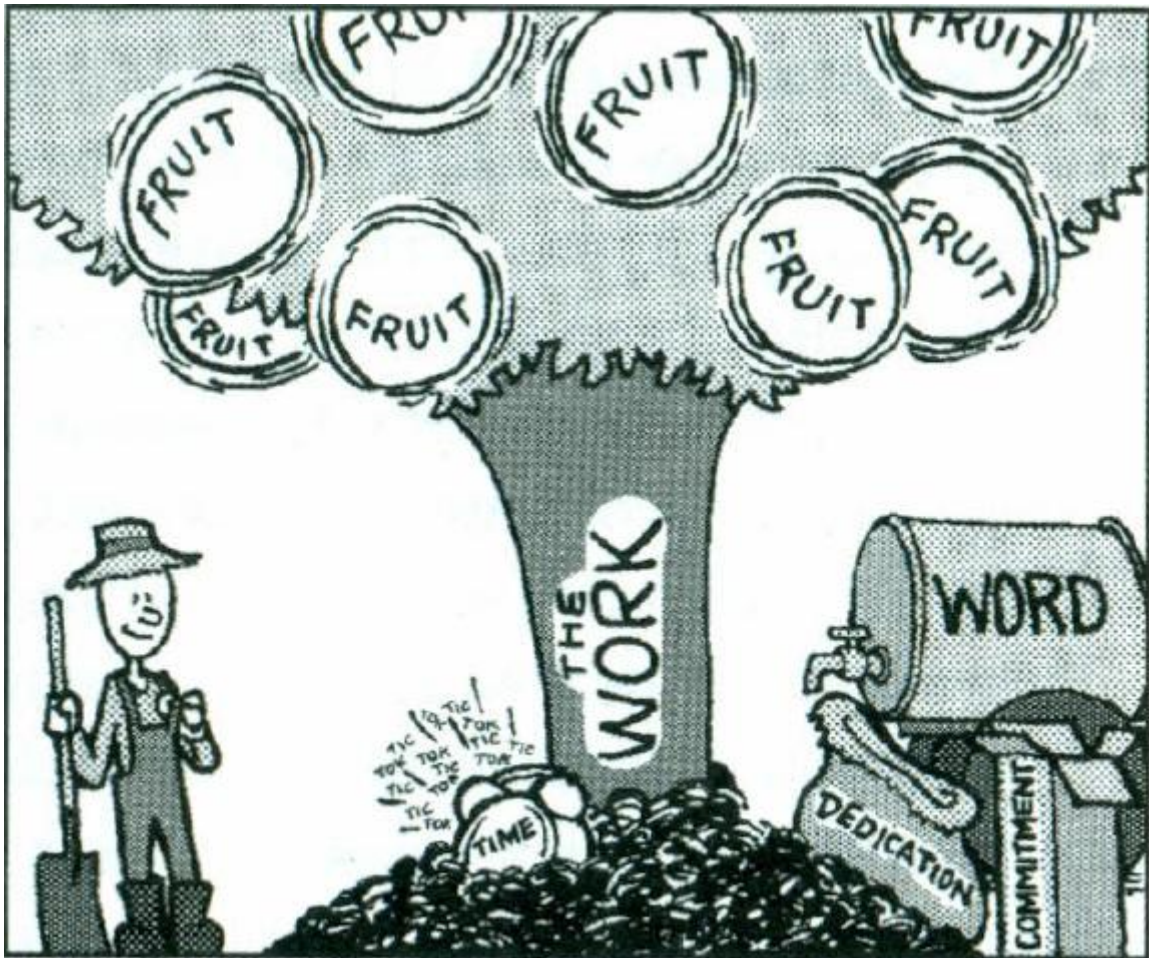
Help us, Lord Jesus, to remember that your Word comes First,

that Your Love comes first, and that Your Love is primarily manifested in Your Word, Your loving Word from You and Your loving Word to others, on which our entire work stands. This is our whole duty and our whole obligation and our whole job, to love You and to love others, to love Your Word, and love them with Your Word, and anything else is not really essential, not really necessary.

Help us, Lord Jesus, to fill our hearts and our minds with You and Your Word so that we really get close to You and get to know You and to really depend on you. Help us to saturate ourselves with the Word and to inspire our hearts by Your wonderful Word!

(ML#2484:76,78,79)

Part 2: **The Effects of the Word of God**



The Word of God always has an effect! No one can hear or read the Word of God without being somehow influenced. Everyone who hears the Word is affected one way or another. Here are some of the dramatic effects that reading & living in the Word will have on you ...

God's Word gives life and victory!

"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates day and night. And he shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season." (Psalm 1:1,2) The wonderful Water of God's Word can revive you even if you seem to

be spiritually dead. Even if you've neglected it for a long time, if you'll only drink it in again, you can again become beautiful and fruitful! Just as we've seen seemingly "dead" trees, shrubs, plants and gardens which were utterly barren and lifeless and leafless spring to life and become productive again when properly watered, so the Water of His Word can bring you, though spiritually withered, new life and virtual resurrection if you will soak in His Word!

No matter what's wrong with you, if you'll just read the Word with an open and receptive heart, it will get you straightened out! It's reading the Word that kindles the desire to change in your heart because you will be inspired, envisioned, revitalized, renewed, invigorated, challenged, enthused & filled with faith from His Words! The Word is the secret of victory or of defeat! It's the secret of success or failure! It all depends on how you treat the Word, and how you live in it and live on it, or try to go on without it! That's the secret! The secret of power and victory and overcoming and fruitfulness and fire life and warmth and light and leadership is the Word! And the lack of the Word is the secret of backsliding and failure and coldness and darkness and weakness and dying spiritually! So for God's sake, live in the Word!

God's Word Causes Growth and Gives Strength

If you keep close to the Word and really let it change you, you will grow steadily, and mature into what the Lord wants you to be. A lot of your spiritual growth is up to you and how much nourishment you receive!

Jesus told us that His Words should abide in us, and that "as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine, no more can ye except ye abide in Me." (John 15:4,7). So in order to have the strength to do our important job for the Lord, we have to spend time getting filled up with His Word. As the old saying goes,

"You cannot do the Master's work without the Master's power." And to get it, you must spend time with the Master feeding from His Words.

God's Word Gives Faith!

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God!"
(Romans 10:17) You get faith from reading the Word! Every word you read gives you more faith, strengthens your faith, and drives away your doubts and fears!

Faith is not something you can try to have! It is something that is built by faithful study of God's Word! You have it because you're full of the Word of God. If you're weak in faith, it's because you're weak in the Word, you're out of the Word! And if you are, it's your own fault, because you're either not taking time to read the Word, or you're not receiving the Word that you are reading!

If you're having battles with doubts, the best cure is the Word! Prayerfully read the Word and it should cure any doubts you have, if you're sincerely willing to receive the Truth and you really want to know! Of course, if your mind is already made up and you don't want to hear the facts, then there's not much hope for you! But if you really want to know, the Lord and His Word will show you!

The best way to encourage your faith is to bury yourself in the Word of God! Encourage your faith with His Word and hang on to the Lord and you won't have to try to hang on to your faith, because it will come automatically. "Faith comes by hearing the Word of God," it's an automatic thing. Just read His Word and you will believe!

God's Word Liberates!

"If you continue in My Word, then are you My disciples indeed, and you shall Know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free!" (John

8:31,32) The only way on God's Earth to find true freedom is to continue in God's Word! There's no other way to be truly free! His Word is His Truth, and His Word is what makes us free, nothing else! So if you want freedom, it comes from living in the Word, knowing the Word and following the Lord and His Truth!

God's Word Cleanses!

"Now you are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you." (John 15:3) The only way to be thoroughly cleansed from the spiritual stench of the old stinking soiled filthy dirty clothes of your old past life and your old sinful self, is a good bath in the pure water of the Word to thoroughly wash away all the old pollutions and any further desire or taste for them!

So if you need cleansing, go to the washing of the pure Water of the Word, and let His Truth cleanse you and rid you of all the filth and hogwash of this rotten old World and your own sinful heart! (see: Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 12:2) "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word (Psalm 119:9) ...Cleansed with the washing of water by the Word." (Ephesians 5:26)

God's Word Separates us from the World!

"I have given them Thy Word, and the world hath hated them because they are not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth." (John 17:14,17) As you absorb the Word, that's what really draws the line that separates you from the World and from the Worldlings. "He that is of God, heareth God's Words" (Jn.8:47) "They are of the World, therefore speak they of the World, and the World heareth them. We are of God: He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we

the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." (1John 4:5,6)

God's Word Keeps You!

"The law of his God is in his heart, none of his steps shall slide."
(Psalm 37:31) Years & years of study of God's Word have given me a solid rock foundation of faith so that I don't get led astray or blown away by every little breeze of the Devil! And you need to have that kind of a solid foundation too! He says, "Henceforth ye should no more be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine! (Ephesians 4:14) "But be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord!" (1Corinthian 15:58)
If your faith is founded on God's Word, it doesn't even matter how you feel, you know the Word is still the same. God's Word is still just as effective and unchanging regardless of your feelings. And it is your faith in the Word that counts and will pull you through in times of severe trials or tests! "For this is the victory that overcometh the World, even our faith." (1John.5:4)

The Word of God is your spiritual ballast, your only hope of salvation, the only thing that will keep you steady and on the firm foundation of Truth! If you retain the Words in your heart, and your faith is founded on the Words, they will preserve you no matter what you may go through! Even though you may sometimes be weakened, you will still stand if you keep on God's firm foundation of faith, balanced firmly with His Words.

God's Word is Our Weapon!

"The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." (Ephesians 6:17)
The Word of God is our spiritual sword that drives away and defeats the Devil every time we use it! When Jesus Himself was tempted by the Devil, He fought back with the Word! (See Mathew 4:1-10) So

when the Enemy comes around, take out your sword and whack away! He can't take it! He'll run every time! Sock it to him with the Sword of the Spirit! The Word! That's the stuff that victories are made of!

Nothing scares the Devil like the Word of God! He just can't take it, he can't stand the Word! The best way to put the Enemy out of action is with the Word! Just bury him in a flood of Truth! And he and all of his doubts and fears will flee!

The Word is also a light that drives away and defeats the Enemy's darkness! "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!" (Psalm 119:105) When you fill your mind with the Word of God you don't have room for the darkness. So fill your mind with the light of God's Word and the darkness will flee! When the Devil attacks you with his doubts and his fears and his discouragement and his temptations and all the rest, turn on the light of God's Word and the shadows will flee! Read it, quote it, sing it, claim it! It never fails!

God's Word is a Surgical Scalpel!

"The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) His Word is the most powerful weapon in the World, sharper than any two-edged sword, sharper than any other weapon on Earth. It can do more than split atoms, it has greater power even than the hydrogen bomb! Because it can even divide asunder the soul and the spirit of man! And it can change hearts and change minds and win followers to Christ and His cause! So use it!

(ML#2484:49-72)

(Jesus speaking in prophecy:) Please consider the following regarding My Word:

- * The Word is Me. It is My Spirit, it is My life. I am the Word.
- * The Word is the most powerful truth on Earth and throughout the universe.
- * The Word keeps you in tune with Me; it keeps you going My way.
- * My Word is the source of all true strength.
- * My Word is food for your soul and health to your flesh.
- * You can't have faith without My Word.
- * My Word cleanses; it makes new.
- * My Word liberates; it is freedom.
- * My Word keeps you from falling.
- * My Word gives you peace.
- * My Word is wisdom; it makes the simple wise.
- * My Word gives understanding.
- * My Word is the discerner of all things, of every thought and every intent of every heart.
- * Through My Word, you partake of My divine nature; you become like Me.
- * Through My Word, you escape the corruption that is in the world.
- * My Word never fails.
- * My Word will stand forever.
- * My Word is the secret to power and victory, the secret to overcoming and fruitfulness, the secret to leadership, the secret to everything!
- * Absorbing and applying My Word to your lives daily and following the Word is the most important thing you can do!

Stop now, read over this list again, and meditate on these truths. If

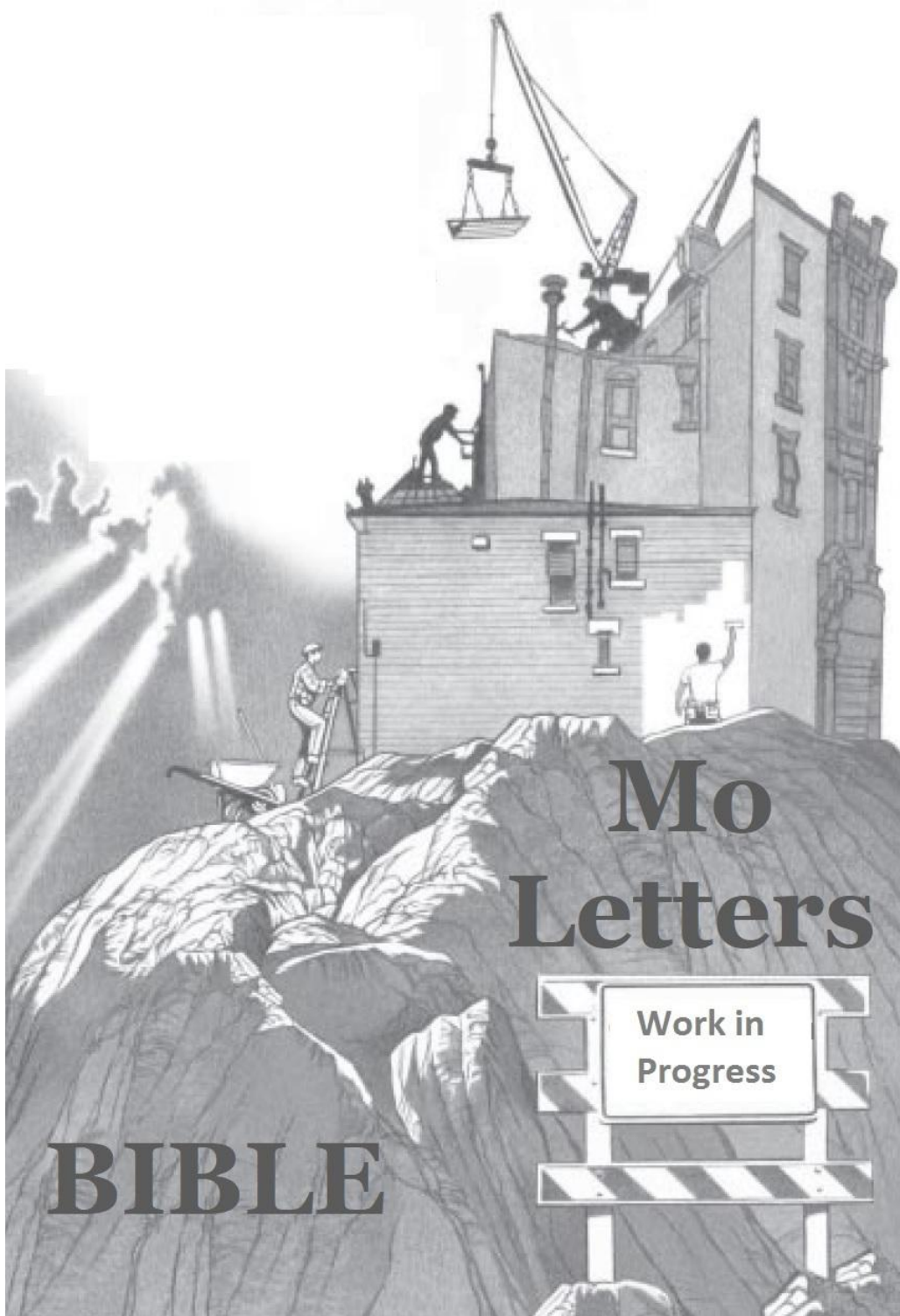
My Word is Me; if it is the most powerful truth; if it is strength, life, peace, if My Word is all these things I've mentioned, and more; if absorbing and applying My Words to your lives is the most important thing you have to do, then ask yourselves: Are you allotting sufficient quality time for the single most important thing in your lives? Take note that the emphasis here is on quality time. (End of message from Jesus.) (ML#3433:64,65)

The Children of David – 2017

The X Factor! : The Word

By Maria ML 3731 10/08

Using the Spiritual Weapon of the Word Professionally in Our Witnessing and Winning!



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"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).

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What?

1. The Word--the rock-solid truth of God--feeds our spirits and strengthens our faith like nothing else can. It's what the Family is based on. Our lives revolve around giving the Word to others. It's not only **our** personal source of strength and answers, but the source of strength and answers for the lost of the world. The Word is still, and always will be, "the secret," as Dad said long ago: "It's the secret of victory or defeat ... of success or failure!" (ML #1089:72.)

Why?

2. As Dad taught us, everyone needs Jesus! Everyone has problems to deal with, and nothing makes them happier than answers. That's exactly what you have in the Word--and you not only have the answers to share with them, you also have your own experience of how those answers worked for you.

3. People want to make sense out of life. They want the truth. The Word is the truth and it will set them free. That's what we live for: to find each searching soul, whether they know they're searching or not, and to be conduits of God's light and truth in order to open their minds and spirits to His love.

4. Maybe you don't speak the local language well yet and you're still learning the distinctiveness of the culture, or you have other "lacks" that you feel hold you back, but you will be an effective powerhouse of a witness if you keep this rule of thumb: Keep the Word at your fingertips as your book of answers. No matter who you're talking to, no matter what situation you're faced with, no matter what question is thrown at you, you will be a successful witness if you use the Word, depend on the Word, and let it guide and direct you.

5. *(Jesus:)* My definition of a genius: Someone who is smart enough to point his or her converts, disciples, and others to the Word, because the Word is the greatest truth in all existence.

6. By pointing your sheep to the Word you're connecting them to the Lord, which is akin to connecting them to a powerful computer that has the answer to every question they could ever have. It will fascinate them. At first you'll have to show them how it works, what the Word can do, and how to be fed from it, but once they get the hang of it and see what a difference it makes, they'll be hooked for life.

7. Your ideas and opinions won't come anywhere near to answering the heartcries of those you witness to. The Word is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, and will feed the Lord's sheep with exactly what they need. Imagine if you hooked them up to your little brain and tried to give them the answers yourself by trying to use **your** wisdom to come up with the solutions to their problems. Rather than connecting them to a deep and unending power source, you'd be hooking them up to a weak and fallible source that could only give them peanuts in comparison to the vast energy of the Word of God!

8. None of us want to connect our sheep to ourselves; everyone in the Family wants to connect their sheep to the Word. But it's also the nature of man and pride to be tempted to take just a little of the credit to yourself, or to bask in just a little of the adoration of man as your sheep look to you for the answers, because it makes your pride feel good.

9. Sometimes, even unintentionally, you can be drawing your flocks to yourself instead of to Jesus and to the Word. It's not something anyone ever wants to do or plans to do, but it's something that can creep up on you without warning, and it's dangerous! We can't be ignorant of the fact that the Enemy would be more than happy if your sheep looked to you more than they looked to the Word. He will do whatever he can to distract both you and your sheep from keeping the Word as your focal point.

10. As Dad said in "The Word" back in 1981, some of the shepherds and leaders in the early days were more interested in popularity, power and money than in nourishing themselves and their flocks with the Word. That's why their works crumbled. The flocks were drawn to individual shepherds rather than being deeply connected to the Word. Or, in some instances, the

shepherds only gave them some of the Word, but not all of it. They died of spiritual malnutrition, due to a lack of the Word. Dad said of the sheep, "They had their eyes on **people**. ... They had their eyes on the method ... instead of their eyes on **Jesus** and the **Word**" (ML #1089:23).

11. (*Jesus:*) Feast on the Word and you fatten up faith. Neglect the Word, and faith is starved.

12. We can't let this happen during the Offensive, folks! Our flocks must not have their eyes on individuals, or methods, or successes, or even our way of life! Dad said, "You can't have that way of life and living **without** the Life [the Word] that makes it live. You've got to have the **Life** or the **way** of life will die! ... You can't even put the fruit of the Word above the Word itself. Without the seed, there never would have been new life, there never would have been fruit. Without the sap, the tree dies" (ML #1089:31-32,49).

13. Getting detached from the Word--shepherds and flocks alike--is probably the most dangerous pitfall of winning and building flocks. Because it's so dangerous, as well as subtle, we have to vigorously guard against it! We need to promote the Word zealously, and connect our sheep and flocks to it intimately, in order to protect us and our flocks from this very real danger of the "cult of the personality" and "becoming alienated from the life of God" (Eph.4:18).

14. As I said, it's not something that anyone sets out to do, but it can happen over time, even to those with the best of intentions, if we're not extremely careful. Those of you who are naturally gifted and anointed with more showy talents--such as speaking and teaching abilities--will have to be doubly on guard against this pitfall involved in winning, because you are more susceptible to it. Be on guard against the praise of man; don't accept it! Because you do have natural talents, you will be even more accountable to give the Lord and the Word the credit, and to do so regularly and audibly in front of your flocks, so that they and you don't succumb to the temptation of thinking your accomplishments are a result of man's wisdom.

15. (*Jesus:*) The Word is the foundation of your spiritual life, and you need that foundation to be secure in order for everything else to work. You can have everything else down to a science; you can be doing all the right things; you can be up to your ears in good works and intentions--but if your

plans and your work aren't based on the Word, you'll fail.

16. If the Word is not at the core of all of our witnessing and winning efforts, if it is not the most important thing in our lives and in the lives of our flocks, then our works will crumble. The Lord simply won't allow us to succeed. And the saddest thing about works crumbling is the effect that it has on the sheep. They're the ones who suffer. They're our spiritual "babes" (1 Peter 2:2), those whom the Lord has entrusted to our care, and if we fail to connect them to the Word and if we fail to stay connected ourselves, then we are failing them. They are the ones who are going to suffer and become disillusioned, and miss out on what God has planned for their life. With all that is within us, we must remain connected to the Word and ensure that our flocks remain connected to the Word. (See "The Temple Prophecy," ML #9.)

17. The Offensive is going to be successful, because His Word has promised that it will be as we do our part to obey. In order to be successful, all we have to do is what Jesus said to do: "Depend on Me, listen to Me, follow Me, and obey Me." Jesus is the Word (John 1:14). Replace "Me" with "the Word" and what do you get? The Offensive is going to be successful as we "depend on the Word, listen to the Word, follow the Word, and obey the Word." Those are the plain and simple facts, but they're absolutely vital and essential facts.

18. We can't do the Master's work without the Master's power! The Master's power is the Word. Jesus also warned us that "a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me" (John 15:4). That means that you, as a shepherd of the flocks of the Lord, absolutely must be filled with His Spirit, connected to the Vine, abiding in Jesus. That comes first before anything else--before the works of your hands, and even before the needs of the flock.

19. Dad said, "Even getting out the Word to others is not as important as getting into the Word yourself first. We need to get the words **in** as well as out! Otherwise, you'll never have the spiritual strength and stamina, or the spirit that will sustain your bodily strength and stamina to keep going to get out the Word, unless you yourself are drinking **in** the Word and being spiritually nourished and strengthened by it yourself first" (ML #2484:56).

20. You must have the Word in your life! It has to be an unmovable part of your life, something that you are convinced you can't do a good job without. I'm talking about a deep understanding in your heart about the need for the Word to the point that you're afraid to neglect it. The minute you start thinking that you can build a flock and feed the sheep without the Word, the day you think you can get by without the Word, that's the beginning of the end for you. It's serious business, folks! We must do whatever it takes to stay connected to the Word so that we can connect others to the Word. There is no other way.

21. (Jesus:) For long-term fruit, long-term success, and in order to reach your long-term goals, the Word has to be flowing through your system. Your physical efforts, powered by your own steam, can get you from A to B. But when you hitch your go-cart style efforts to My sizzling, raging-hot, fire-breathing Word--you will get from A to B and clear to Z, and with plenty of power to go around the circuit again and again! The Word will transform your little vehicle of effort into a sleek, supercharged Lamborghini that is sure to win the race, reach its destinations, catch the public's eye, inspire the lost hitchhikers, and make an imprint on the world that will never be forgotten. The moral? Without the Word, your efforts will avail little; but when the Word is flowing through your system, anything is possible!

22. (Mama:) Something else that I want to remind you of is the importance of asking the Lord what your sheep need for their feeding and strengthening. Of course, you want to be prayerful in how you bring your sheep along and when you share different truths with them, but we have to ensure that we're going at the Lord's pace and feeding our sheep what He wants them to be fed, and not going by what **we** think is best or what we think is "safe" or non-controversial.

23. An important part of getting your sheep connected to the Word is not withholding the Word from them when it's the Lord's time for them to receive it. The Lord said: "Your sheep will be as strong as the Word that you give them. If you give them hefty, daily, adequate doses of the Word, they'll be strong and mature and will become the disciples and members you need them to be. If you fail to give them the Word, then you've left Me out of the picture, and I can't make them strong disciples."

24. Another vital reason why we need the Word in order to be successful in the Offensive is because the Word is what feeds our

faith, and we clearly need a lot of faith to do all that the Lord is asking of us today. We need faith to act and obey; we need faith in the Lord's promises; we need faith to try the new; we need faith in every way, shape, and form, and the Word is what gives us faith.

25. (Jesus:) For strong, durable, raising-the-dead, mountain-moving, storm-stopping, miracle-working, power-inducing, mind-blowing, bottle-breaking, limit-shattering, lying-lips-silencing, science-defying type faith, take daily doses of the Word.

26. The Word will whip your faith into shape, jolt your faith into action, and get results of the kind that will make you proud to be on the front lines of the Offensive!

27. (Jesus:) The Word will change the look of your Home. As you apply the Word and follow the Letters, it's going to be visible to others. It'll change your look, giving you that sleek, professional appearance that will draw men to Me.

How?

28. * Pack the Word consistently into your life and the lives of those you witness to. Make it what you live for, what you study, what you base all of your decisions, ideas, and tactics on. Make it your number-one manual for success, your guidebook, map book, and how-to aid, because it is!

29. * Base your Home's Offensive plans on the Word, and your efforts will go farther than you anticipated, your goals will be reached quicker, many more sheep will be attracted to you, and you'll make a difference that will really count!

30. * Be willing to use interesting concepts from the Word as icebreakers and conversation starters with people, if the Lord shows you that it would turn their key. "Did you ever hear about a camel passing through the eye of a needle? ..."

31. * A lot of people nowadays have a natural mistrust of others because they've been deceived many times by politicians, churches, and even friends and loved ones. It's difficult for them to take others at face value and accept what they have to say. Reassure those you witness to that what you share with them is not just your own opinion and ideas, but God's Word.

32. * If you have a tendency to develop your own pet doctrines along the way, it's a good idea to ask our Husband to check you on that so that you're giving His sheep the pure Word and not your own ideas. A good safeguard against personal pride and pet doctrines is to stay close to the Word by applying it, studying it, and living it, and being open to shepherding, which keeps you humble in spirit. Humility and closeness to the Word are two vital elements that will keep you on track. It's probably also a good idea to have someone else pray from time to time, to ask the Lord how you're doing on this point, as an additional safeguard.

33. * Cash in on the uniqueness of the meatier, radical words of David--the keys, spirit helpers, the Law of Love, Loving Jesus--that separates us from the churches. The truth of the words of David is what sells His hungry sheep on this great product that has been missing in their lives, and proves to them how liberating and wonderful the truth and freedom of the spirit are! Talk about the meat of the Word to those whom the Lord shows you can take it. Regularly ask the Lord what new Word and meat you can share with your flock and how you can do so wisely.

34. (*Jesus:*) The Word is the magic pill that transforms hearts.

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35. (*Jesus:*) The Word will transform your sheep and turn them on to Me. It will leave them with a good impression and they'll be curious to know more about your source of power, happiness, and peace of mind.

36. * People love people who have conviction about what they do. The more you show yourself loyal to the Word in your witness, the more His true sheep will want to know what makes you tick.

37. * When people challenge the Word--"Are you the guys who believe in such-and-such a doctrine?!"--Don't backwater and get flustered, just give them more truth. Answer something like: "That's right, I do. And I believe that because...." Be loyal to what you believe in, live it to the full, don't compromise your words when challenged, and His true sheep and those whom He is calling will respect you all the more for it, and will follow because of your loyalty and conviction. When others see a sample of someone who willingly chooses to live differently from the churches and the world, who is proud of their beliefs, they are not only impressed, but changed.

38. * When you're on the front lines witnessing, remember that the Word is your shield against the Enemy's attacks. Pull it out and quote it, review it, read it, talk about it, witness with it; the Enemy will be defeated, and you will go on to win.

39. * Try to get as many of your sheep as possible subscribed to *Activated*, so that every month they'll be getting spiritual food delivered to their door. This will help to connect them to the Word.

40. (*Jesus:*) The safe box where all the treasure is, is the Word, and faith is the key that opens the box.

41. * Use the written Word, including the Bible, as much as possible in your witnessing, sharing it with your sheep, so that it can work in their hearts and lives.

42. * Read the *Activated* and *Link* magazines yourself monthly. (Reading or listening to these pubs while you commute to and from your witnessing spot is a way to redeem the time, and get in a little extra Word time.)

43. * Think about the needs of your flock when reading the MLs and other Family publications that are not specifically rated for them, in case the Lord wants you to share portions of that Word with them--either in full or in your own words.

44. * Ask the Lord what type of Word each of your sheep should be receiving. It's important to tailor the Word you give them to what they're facing in their life, the battles they're going through, and the areas of their spiritual life and walk with the Lord that they need to be strengthened in. You not only need to pray about what to share with them, but how and when, and what explanations they might need to help them understand it.

45. * When reading the New Wine in your united or personal devotions, ask the Lord to bring to your attention any portions or quotes that you could share with your sheep or add to one of your class outlines.

46. * When one of your sheep asks you a question about your faith or beliefs, be sure that your answer is Word-based. If you don't know the answer, write it down, and let your sheep know that you will study the Word and get back to them. Be faithful to research the Word, so that when you answer their question, it will be the opinion of the Word and not your own

personal leadings or feelings.

47. (*Jesus:*) We have a contract: Love Me, love My Word. If you do that, innumerable things are promised you, such as health, provision, supply, finances, protection, security, and much more.

48. * Promote the Word in the lives of your sheep. Even if they're brand-new babes, encourage them to take time daily to read the Word and be fed by it. Place due importance on it right from the start. Challenge them to set aside a little time each day for the Word. They may get a lot of inspiration by visiting your Home or being around the Family spirit, but they need the Word daily in order to grow in their lives as Christians, in order to learn more about Jesus and His truth, and to progress and be strengthened spiritually. Even if they're reading the Word in classes with you, it's good for them to develop the habit of personal Word time and communion with the Lord.

49. * Encourage your sheep to give out the Word to others, such as tracts or the first 120 *Activated* mags, available at <http://theaudiokey.com>. When they see others' lives changed through the Word, it will give them further incentive to read, receive, and apply the Word to their lives.

50. * Make audios of the Word for your sheep, or share audios with them that are appropriate. Your sheep are probably very busy and won't have much time for the Word, so this is one way to help them get more Word time, as they can listen to audios on their way to work, during their lunch break, while sitting in traffic, etc.

51. * Send your sheep an e-mail every day, or once a week, or regularly, depending on their absorption level, that includes feeding Word. (Some Homes have divided the sheep they're following up on into groups, depending on how much they can receive and how frequently they can receive it, and Home members send each group an e-mail on a regular basis.) Receiving something personalized from you can help give them the impetus they need to get in the Word, as the Enemy fights their Word time in the same way he fights yours.

52. * Invite your sheep to log on to <http://theaudiokey.com> , so they will be fed by the documents, audios and videos related to the Bible and David's Words.

53. * Quote the Word and promises in your prayers with your sheep.

54. * End your phone conversations with a Word sound bite or quote. Regularly send your sheep a quote via SMS or instant messaging.

55. (*Jesus:*) The Word will give you and your Home the inspiration, vision, and conviction to carry through with the Offensive strategy plans I have shown you, knowing that because I have promised success and abundant fruit, I will deliver.

56. * When someone that you're witnessing to tells you about their impossible situation or problem, besides listening to them and praying for them, show them God's promises from the Word and suggest that they put them to the test.

57. * Be faithful to memorize and review the Word personally, so that you're armed and ready to fight the Enemy's attacks of pride, discouragement, negativity, doubts, and any other ways that he might try to hinder you in your witnessing.

58. Encourage your flock to memorize the Word too, so that they understand the importance of hiding the Word in their hearts. You can start by giving them simple memory projects, or you can work on memorizing something together with them--whether key Bible verses, short quotes from the Letters, simple key promises, etc. Memory work doesn't have to be long to be powerful. Help them to find appropriate Word to memorize for tests or battles that they're facing, so that they can learn to use the sword of the Word in their personal lives.

59. * Ask your sheep to tell you what stood out to them from the Word that they have read lately. Build on what they say, support them in their steps to absorb the Word, reflect on it, and apply it. Share with them your recent thoughts and lessons from the Word you have read, and how you are applying it to your life. This teaches them to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only.

60. * Bring up interesting tidbits, facts, or testimonies from the Word that your sheep might not be aware of. Hook them on how fascinating the Word is.

61. * Use the Word to de-stress, and relax with some quality "me and Jesus time" in order to give you the freshness you need for your next day of outreach.

62. * The Word is your spiritual health-insurance package. After witnessing and pouring out, give your body and mind a boost of energy with a good Word treatment.

63. (*Jesus:*) The Word increases your vision for witnessing--and not only the Word that specifically talks about witnessing, but all of it! The Word gives you the vision for your discipleship life, which makes you want to bring others in. It fills you with happiness and inspiration, which makes you want to spread that happiness to others by telling them about Jesus. It solves your problems and gives you peace, which gives you conviction that what works for you can work for others too.

64. * The Word that you've filled up with in the morning before going out or preparing to receive your sheep over to the Home will give you the peace of mind that our Husband is in full control of your outreach. The sheep will sense your peace of spirit and will feel comfortable talking to you.

65. * Play Word-based songs for your sheep. It will raise their spirits, and keep your spiritual force field strong against attacks of the Enemy.

66. * Ask the Lord for practical ways to actively promote and glorify the Word in your times of teaching and ministering to your sheep.

67. * When teaching classes, be sure to point out when the things you share are taken from the Word. Otherwise, it's easy for your sheep (particularly newer ones) to assume that it's just your own good ideas. It's important to build the foundation of their faith on the Word. Point them to the Bible verses that back up what you're telling them. Explain that what you're telling them is based on the writings of our founder, David, or that it's from a message from Jesus; read them quotes or passages, etc.

68. * Ask the Lord for some sentences to regularly use, in order to direct your flock to the Word and Jesus when they're getting too focused on you as an individual. For example, "All glory to Jesus and the Word. All that I know, I've learned from Him and His Word!"

69. * If you're regularly involved in a more public role in the Offensive--such as teaching classes, hosting seminars, or performing--ask others to critique you from time to time and tell you honestly how they think you're doing in connecting your sheep to the Word. Ask them for suggestions of ways that you could do better and promote the Word more

strongly.

70. * Ask your Home members or teammates to safeguard you if they sense that you're getting off track in any way, or taking too much credit to yourself in front of your flock, or even in the privacy of your Home, or if you are becoming a one-man (or woman) show. Others will see things in your conduct and presentation that you probably aren't aware of, so their input is valuable. Soliciting such input on a regular basis will make it possible for you to nip pride and the glory of man in the bud, should they ever raise their ugly faces. As you remember to continually point your sheep to Jesus, they will see His beautiful face in everything you do.

71. (*Jesus:*) Treat My Word well, and you'll be treating Me well, and I in turn will treat you royally.