

## THE WORD OF GOD

**“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” (1Thes 2:13)**

What do you envision when you think of the Word of God? Many people think of a leather bound book. Yes, the Bible is the Word of God, but this passage does not refer to a book. The Bible, at that time, was only in the process of being written. Yes, some had written scrolls of the Old Testament Scriptures, but this message was something new. Even though spoken orally, it was still the inspired Word of God. The Thessalonians knew this. They received the message, not as the word of man, but as it was in truth, The Word of God.

This inspired message was alive and active. It was at work in them. It was growing like a seed, producing change, and radiating from them to others. Just as the Adam's seed produced the human race, this spiritual seed was producing a transcendent people whose genealogy could be traced back to Jesus. Jesus, as you know, is the “last Adam” (1 Cor. 15:45.)

Those in this new race are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of the incorruptible, even the Word of God which lives and abides forever (1 Peter 1:23.) This “Word” or “seed,” however, was still in the process of being written during the Age of the Apostles. Please consider:

- The last book of the New Testament Scriptures was not written until near the end of the First Century.
- The oldest list of our 27 New Testament books dates back only to the Fourth Century.
- It was a thousand years latter before Bibles began to be printed.
- After over 500 years of printing Bibles, millions of Christians still do not have one.
- The largest and most evangelistic church in history is said to be in China. Most Chinese Christians do not have a Bible and some do not even have a written language.

The point is, that the Word of God is not just in a book, it is in us. Paul wrote that we have this treasure in earthen vessels. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 4:6,7.) Those who have been born again are living letters. The Spirit of the Living God has written His Word in their minds and hearts (2 Cor. 3:3.) This message can be known and read by all men.

Note this stunning analogy between Adam and Christ. Adam's pure seed was not deposited in a sperm bank to be used by each new generation. We receive Adam's seed through more than a hundred generations of very imperfect people. So also with Christ. His seed also has come to use through generations of imperfect people. There are no original manuscripts available for us to examine. We are not born again by means of a historical document thousands of years old, we are saved by the foolishness of preaching. As corrupt as we are, no one becomes a Christian without human involvement.

Certainly all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim 3:16-17) That Word, however, must become flesh. If it remains locked up in the pages of a book it will produce no fruit.

Once the Word of God takes root in our hearts it flows to others like a river (John 7:38.) It ought to have free course in our lives (2 Thess. 3:1.) It is sharper than a two edged sword and lays bare thoughts and intents of the human heart (Heb. 4:12.) It abides within the believer (1 John 2:14.) It is not bound by human limitations (2 Tim. 2:9.) It can increase (Acts 6:7.) It can grow and be multiplied (Acts 12:24.) It grew mightily and prevailed (Acts 19:20.) **“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” (1 Pet 1:22-23)**