**Truth Sowers Life Group**

Sunday June 17, 2012

**The Word Becomes Meat!**

**Introduction: Hebrews 5:11-14**

The Word of God is a multi-faceted, incredible thing that we, as humans, could never truly come to understand if it were not for the enlightening we are given by God’s Holy Spirit. The Word of God is so much more than words written in a book. The Word is Christ Himself. He is alive. The very words in the Bible are alive because they ARE Him! There is no other book in all the universe like the Bible. The Word of God enlightens. The Word of God saves. The Word of God heals. The Word of God makes us whole. I could go on and on.

How are you receiving the Word of God into your life?

When we accept Christ into our lives, spiritually, we are just like a brand new baby. Without care, no baby can live. As a new Christian, we need care. We need other Christians to feed us, to clothe us, to change our messy diapers. But all normal babies, who are nurtured, grow and get to the point that they can take care of themselves. Eventually, they become full grown and have children of their own and the cycle continues.

**At what stage of life are you spiritually?**

1. Spiritual growth
	1. Infancy
		1. It is okay to be a spiritual baby for a time.
			1. **1 Peter 2:2**

*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*

* + 1. All believers begin as spiritual “babies.”
	1. You will grow if you stay in the Word
		1. Hebrews 5:11
			1. The Hebrews were “dull of hearing.”
			2. *“Of Christ we have many things to say which are difficult to make clear to you, not because they are mysteries, but because you are slow to grasp the doctrines delivered you.”*
			3. **What are some reasons that they may have been “dull of hearing?”**
				1. Religious traditions?

**Ephesians 4:14**

*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.*

* + - * 1. Culture?
				2. Goes against the worldly system?
				3. Goes against reason? (Reaping and sowing, etc.)
			1. Where is your spiritual hearing?
				1. Take a true inventory of your spiritual life.
				2. Where are you in your spiritual growth?
		1. Hebrews 5:12
			1. The Hebrews should have been full grown and teaching the Word.
			2. They were still in need of milk.
			3. What is “milk.”
				1. The Word of God will never change.
				2. There are no “New Revelations.”
				3. God can open our understanding where we have previously been blind.

MUST be judged by the Word of God.

* + - * 1. **Deuteronomy29:29**
				*The secret things are the Lord our God's: but the things which have been made clear are ours and our children's for ever, so that we may do all the words of this law.*
				2. Illustration: John 3:16 will always say what it says and it will say the same thing to one who is a baby and uses milk as it does to one who is full grown and eats meat. So, what is the difference between it being milk to one and meat to the other? It is our “level of perception” of the Word of God.

Logos vs. Rhema

The Word becomes alive to us and “drops into our spirit.”

* + 1. Hebrews 5:13
			1. Spiritual babies are “inexperienced” in the Word of God.
				1. Because they don’t know the power of the Word.
				2. They don’t know the truth of the Word.
				3. They don’t know the limitless abilities they have as Children of God.
				4. They don’t know that they are Christ’s replacements upon this earth!
		2. Hebrews 5:14
			- 1. As you grow spiritually

Your faith will grow.

You will do the things in **Mark 16:17, 18**

Cast out demons.

Speak in new tongues.

Take up serpents.

Be immune to deadly poisons.

Shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover!

**When is the last time you have done any of these?**

You will discern good and evil.

You will share the gospel.

1. How to know if teaching is correct and doctrinal.
	1. It MUST line up with the rest of the Bible.
		1. **2 Corinthians 13:1**

At the mouth of two witnesses or three shall every word be established.

* + 1. “In the Essentials, unity. In the Non-Essentials, liberty.
			- 1. **What are some of the “Essentials” that we must believe?**

The virgin birth.

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Salvation by faith, not by works.

* + - * 1. **What are some of the “Non-Essentials?”**

Any of the things that don’t make a difference in our salvation.

Demons – fallen angels or disembodied spirits?

Speaking in tongues.

This does not mean the “Non-Essentials” are not important.

As Christians, we can agree to disagree but use Scriptures for your stance.

* 1. In the last days, deception will be rampant.
		1. **Matthew 24:24**

*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

* + 1. **2 Peter 2:1-3**

*1 But there were false prophets among the people, as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly put forward wrong teachings for your destruction, even turning away from the Lord who gave himself for them; whose destruction will come quickly, and they themselves will be the cause of it. 2 And a great number will go with them in their evil ways, through whom the true way will have a bad name. 3 And in their desire for profit they will come to you with words of deceit, like traders doing business in souls: whose punishment has been ready for a long time and their destruction is watching for them.*

* + 1. **2 Peter 3:17**

*17 For this reason, my loved ones, having knowledge of these things before they take place, take care that you are not turned away by the error of the uncontrolled, so falling from your true faith.*

* 1. Check EVERYTHING by the Word of God.
		1. **Acts 17:11**

*Now these were more noble than the Jews of Thessalonica, for they gave serious attention to the word, searching in the holy Writings every day, to see if these things were so.*

* + - 1. These men gave serious attention to the Word, doing what it said.
			2. They searched the scriptures daily (there is a difference between “reading” and “studying” or “searching” the scriptures.”
			3. The made sure what was being taught was doctrinal.
		1. **Hebrews 4:12**

*For the word of God is living and full of power, and is sharper than any two-edged sword, cutting through and making a division even of the soul and the spirit, the bones and the muscles, and quick to see the thoughts and purposes of the heart.*

* + - 1. The Word is alive!
			2. The Word is full of power!
			3. Sharper than any two-edged sword.
				1. **Isaiah 49:12**

*And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me.*

* + - 1. The **ONLY** thing that can cut through the soul and the spirit!
			2. Cuts through the bones and muscles of the spiritual body.
			3. Exposes the thoughts and intents or purposes of the heart.
			4. It is LIFE to those who accept it.
			5. It is death to those who do not.

Conclusion: God’s Word, the Bible, is unlike any other volume in the universe. It is alive! According to John 1:1, the Word IS Jesus Christ! He has always existed and has always been with God and has always been God! Our feeble minds could never grasp this truth without the help of the Holy Spirit.

When a person is born again, they begin their spiritual growth. We start off with the “milk” of the Word and as we grow we begin to partake of more solid food. Eventually, we are taking in the “meat” of the Word. I enjoy a cold glass of milk with my meals sometimes but I also enjoy a good steak. Because “our level of perception of the Word” is what determines whether a particular truth in the Word is “milk” or “meat” to us, we will always be growing and having some milk and some meat. Our goal should be to desire the Word enough that we will study it and search it, much like the men of Berea so that we can grow in the Lord and so that we will not be tossed about by every wind of doctrine.