



Maturing in the Word

Bible Study

[Please provide: Bibles, copies of the Bible study for attendees.]

Some words we use seem to be infused with magic, like Abracadabra. In fact, Abracadabra is derived from a cabalistic name for a supreme god. It was written in a triangle shape and worn around the neck to ward off sickness in the 1600s (*Online Etymology Dictionary*, www.etymonline.com). Today, many consider the word children's gibberish.

Words are still important in today's society, however. Mothers encourage their children to "say the magic word" when they have a request, hoping the child responds with the prompted "please." And certain words in society make us cringe when we overhear them while shopping or in other public places. So how important are our words to God?

Well, God began everything in the universe with His Word. Look at the familiar Genesis 1. How many times does God **speak** and it immediately becomes so? His words are power. After He created everything in the universe, He begins speaking to His created people.

Read Genesis 1:28-31. What instructions does God give them?

There are three types of words for us to consider: the Word of God (Holy Scripture), the Word made flesh (Christ), and common words in our everyday speech.

The Word of God

What is the Word of God? Beginning with Genesis, God's Word was given to His people in the Old Testament so they would know and follow His lessons for godly living and His promise of the coming Savior in Genesis 3:15. The Word of God came to patriarchs like Abram (Genesis 15:1), prophets like Elijah (1 Kings 17:24), and other men of God like Shemaiah (1 Kings 12:22).

Read Joshua 1:8-9. What can we look forward to following in this passage?

The Word of God is not to be taken lightly. If those who knew the Word of God did not follow God's instruction, dire consequences sometimes occurred, as noted in Scripture. Read 1 Kings 13:26. What happened?

How can we put on the Word of God? See Ephesians 6:16-17.

How can the Word of God sustain us? See Matthew 4:3-4.

But God knows we are sinful and cannot follow all His commands perfectly, so He provided another gracious Word.

The Word Made Flesh

Read John 1:1-5, 14. How long has the Word existed? (verses 1-2) Compare this to Genesis 1 read above.

Why did the Word made flesh (Jesus) come into this world? (verses 4-5, 14)

Read the following additional references to Jesus being the light: John 8:12, John 12:46, Matthew 5:14.

Jesus knew the importance of knowing the Word of God when He was dwelling as the Son of Man. Read His reply to Satan's temptation in Matthew 4:1-4. What is more important than food?

Secular Words

In our everyday speech, words express to others whether our heart is with God. Whether we follow the command to *not take the name of the Lord your God in vain* (Exodus 20:7) or heed that *gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body* (Proverbs 16:24), words are to be used with intention.

As believers, whose words do we really speak? See Isaiah 51:16.

What does it look like when the Word of Christ dwells within us? See Colossians 3:16.

By staying in the Word, what does God provide for us? See Proverbs 30:5.

Please take the following instructions to heart: *Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus* (2 Timothy 1:13).

Prayer: Lord help me to stay in Your Word so the words of my mouth and the hope in my heart is always full of grace, truth, and love of the Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen.