



Lecture 4

Meditating On The Word

IS GOD'S WORD AT HOME IN YOUR HEART?

Last week we looked at some practical suggestions to help you get started if you've never been taught how to meditate on the Word of God. We want to begin, this week, by looking at one of those points in more detail. For the Word to become implanted in your heart, for you to be able to mix your faith with it and see it come to pass, **you need to know God's Word is personally directed to you.**

Hebrews 4:2 (Wuest translation)

For, as for us also, to us [first-century Jews] was the good news [of rest in Messiah] thoroughly proclaimed, with the present result that we have it indelibly impressed on our minds, as well as the good news [of rest in Canaan] thoroughly proclaimed to them [the generation which came out of Egypt], good news that was indelibly impressed on their minds. But the word of the report did not profit them, not having become mixed together with faith in the case of those who heard.

It does not matter if the Word of God is "indelibly impressed" on our minds - that is, permanently etched into our minds such that we never forget it - it is only the Word that has "become mixed together" with our faith, that will profit us and bear fruit in our lives. We can memorise countless verses but until we take them for ourselves, personally, as God's Word to us (to *me*, personally) we will not be able to apply our faith to receive what His Word has promised.

John 15:7 (Wuest translation)

"If you maintain a living communion with me and my words are at home in you, I command you to ask, at once, something for yourself, whatever your heart desires, and it will become yours."

To do this, however, requires us to **know** who we are in Christ. Only from a proper self-identification as new creations in Christ, will we have a basis for faith and trust, and be able to meditate and receive God's Word by the Holy Spirit. A Christian who knows the truth according to the Gospel of Grace, is a Christian who has the capacity (by faith) to receive the promises of God without any doubt and unbelief.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (Wuest translation)

"Seeing that all things to us His divine power has generously given, the things which pertain to life and godliness, through the experiential knowledge [which the believer has] of the One who called us [into salvation] by means of His own glory and virtue, ⁴ by means of which [glory and virtue] there have been generously given to us the precious and exceedingly great promises in order that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped by flight the corruption which is in the world in the sphere of passionate cravings."

PERSONALISING SCRIPTURE

As we read or hear the Word of God, we need to recognise God is speaking directly to our hearts. Personalising Scripture helps this truth to become real to us. It is also the means by which we're able to rebuild our thought structures to replace our carnal thoughts with God's thoughts.

YOUR THOUGHTS	GOD'S THOUGHTS James 1:2-5 (Wuest translation)	YOUR REBUILT THOUGHT STRUCTURES
<p><i>In the middle of a testing time we tend to feel sorry for ourselves or disappointed or angry with God:</i></p> <p><i>"Why is this happening? Why hasn't God fixed it or done what I wanted?!"</i></p>	<p>² Consider it a matter for unadulterated joy [without any admixture of sorrow] whenever you fall into the midst of variegated trials which surround you,"</p>	<p><i>God calls me to consider trials as 'special blessings' - actually, to consider them a reason for pure JOY - because He has a very special purpose for them in my life.</i></p>
<p><i>"If I didn't have these trials, my life would be great and I'd be such a victorious Christian!"</i></p>	<p>³ knowing experientially that the approving of your faith, that faith having been put to the test for the purpose of being approved, and having met the test, has been approved, [that this approving process] produces a patience which bears up and does not lose heart or courage under trials.</p>	<p><i>Every trial that God permits, is in my life to test my faith and to produce a new, godly quality in me!</i></p> <p><i>God promises the trials will build patience, endurance and courage in me!</i></p>
<p><i>I am <u>not</u> enjoying this trial! Has God forgotten me? Is He punishing me?</i></p>	<p>⁴ But be allowing the aforementioned patience to be having its complete work in order that you may be spiritually mature and complete in every detail, lacking in nothing.</p>	<p><i>Do I trust God in the situation?</i></p> <p><i>God says that when I respond the right way, He is able to use the trial to make me spiritually mature, in the image of His Son.</i></p>

Every promise of God is an indication not only of what He is willing to do for you, but of what He has already provided for you, by grace, through the Cross. His Word is personally directed to you!