
THE TRUTH HERALD

Shine For God's Glory: Live by His Word



What do you live by?

The Bible tells us that after Christ Jesus was baptized, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights and was very hungry. In this condition the devil came to Him and said: "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread." But Jesus answered and said, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matt 4:4) 5:20b). Jesus was quoting part of the Scriptures (Deut 8:3) written approximately 1,400 years before His birth on earth. In the moment of temptation He demonstrated that He lived by the Word of God. He went for the Word of God and let it guide His response to the tempter. What do you live by? What do you feed your physical body? What do you feed your mind? What do you feed your soul and your spirit? Are you living by bread alone? Are we out living by your textbooks, the Internet, what your friends say? Are you living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God?

You are more than your physical body. You must care for more than your physical body.

You are spirit, made in the image and likeness of God. You live in a body that you will one day discard. And you have a soul. Just as our physical actions are evidence of the physical body, so our brain and thoughts are evidence that we have a mind and our heart and feelings evidence that we have a spirit. We do not need convincing as we have to care for our bodies. We routinely bathe our bodies, feed our bodies with physical food, clothe our bodies and rest our bodies. And we know the outcomes will be unfavorable and not in our interests if we do not bathe, feed, clothe or rest our bodies for more than a few days. Likewise, we care for our minds. We feed our minds intellectual or mental food -- develop ourselves academically for example, through textbooks and class instruction. We develop our minds through the Internet. Some of us develop our minds through what our friends and others say; through other sources of information. And just as our bodily care is progressive, so is our intellectual care. What would happen if you stopped learning in the fifth grade? The outcomes would be unfavorable and not in your interest. It would be impossible to proceed to the 6th grade, let alone high school or college. Likewise, we develop ourselves spiritually. As children of God, our spiritual food is God's word. Spiritual progress is thus dependent on feeding ourselves with God's word and applying it in our lives. What happens if we fail to read and apply God's word? We fail to develop spiritually. Because we are spirit, soul and body, we must feed and care for ourselves, spiritually, mentally and physically. We must study God's word and apply it in our lives in order to progress spiritually.

We are not alone. We have the Holy Spirit to teach us.

All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). But thanks be to God, He so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Christ promised to all who believe in Him and accept Him as their Lord and Savior the Holy Spirit, also known as the Spirit of truth. He said about the Holy Spirit: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (John 16:13). This is the same Holy Spirit in the heart of every believer today. One key role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is to guide the believer into all truth. All truth. Not some of the truth. Not partial truth. What assurance that we had the Holy Spirit to guide us, teach us, and help us with studying and living the Word of God. We do not have to do it all on our own.

The Word of God brings light.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shine the in the darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not." (John 1: 1-5). As we study and live the Word of God, we shine. We shine for God's glory.

Growing in knowing and living the Word of God is spiritual maturity.

The same way we mature. (or fail to mature) physically and mentally, we also mature (or fail to mature) spiritually. As we feed and care for our spiritual bodies, we develop and mature physically. As we feed and care for ourselves mentally, we mature mentally. Likewise, as we feed and care for ourselves spiritually, we mature spiritually. Paul the Apostle was very keen to see the children of God mature spiritually. You will always be your father and mother's child, but you shouldn't always be a child: every parent expects his or her child to grow up into an adult. We should always be children of God but

should not always be children spiritually speaking. As children of God, we are meant to grow and mature spiritually. In the letters he writes to the church, Paul urges the children of God to focus on developing and maturing spiritually: "... as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.' (1 Peter 2:2) "I fed you with milk and not with solid food, for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you still are not able.' (1 Cor 3: 2). "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food." (Hebr 5:12). Just as we advance in height and other physical attributes, and in our mental abilities, we are also meant to advance spiritually as children of God. Advancing spiritually is advancing in the knowledge and application of God's word; in becoming more like Jesus Christ. And we have the Holy Spirit to help us in this endeavor.

Know and live God's word! Shine for God's glory!

The benefits of knowing and living God's word are numerous, shining His light through the ages. Throughout the Bible, men and women who have sought to know and live God's word have demonstrated the multicolored benefits of knowing and living by His word, bringing God's light to their worlds. David, the shepherd boy who rose to be King of Israel several hundreds of years before Christ Jesus was born on earth, wrote several Psalms that explained the benefits of meditating on and living God's word, and understood that God's word brings light: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119: 105). Five hundred years before Christ Jesus was born on earth, Daniel shone in Babylonian captivity, a committed follower of the Almighty God. God gave him an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of the literature and wisdom, and the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams (Daniel 1: 17), an ability that was to save his life and the lives of several others in the future (Daniel 2). And Paul the Apostle, a few decades after the birth, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, commissioned by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, all of wrote about half of the New Testament after being converted to Christianity on the road from Jerusalem where he was going to arrest and kill children of God. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy and Hebrews. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matt 4:4). And this word causes you to shine for God's glory. What do you live by?