

God Loves You! † Jesus Lives!

## The **True** Power of God's Word

Among God's chief **mysteries**, His "*Greatness, Power, and Glory*" would certainly rank high on *most* people's list. Furthermore, one of the *more* notable aspects of these would involve the "**Power of His Word.**"

**1 Chronicles 29:11 (KJV)** "Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; thine *is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all."

We can **talk** about God's greatness and often do so, but, do we genuinely and fully consider it ourselves? Do we actually comprehend that of which we speak? Often, we open our mouths concerning matters, without considering whether or not **we** truly perceive that of which we speak. **If** we genuinely comprehend that God's **Word** can involve not only His "written" word (the Bible) and His "spoken" word, but, also the "**living Word**" (that is to say, Jesus Christ), **then** our understanding of the Scriptures expands greatly.

**John 1:1-4 (KJV)** "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**"<sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.<sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

In light of **John 1:1-4**, does it not become clear that the "**Word**," in this particular passage, is referring to the **Christ – Jesus**? In the scriptures, we may realize that sometimes God's word is literally spoken by God, but, sometimes it is by the sending of His **Son (Jesus)** to speak. God is also able to deliver His word(s) by the **prophets** (Heb. 1:1), or an **angel** (Lk. 1:11-20, 26-38; 2:8-15), an **Apostle** (the 12 apostles wrote most of the New Testament), by **disciples** (Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts), through **preachers** (Rom. 10:14-15), and **God even used a donkey** to speak to Balaam once (2 Peter 2:15-16; Numbers 22:28-30). **Nothing is impossible with God!**

**Hebrews 1:1-3 (KJV)** "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;<sup>3</sup> Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"

**Psalms 68:32-33 (KJV)** “Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord  
*Selah* <sup>33</sup> To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, *which were* of old; lo, he doth send out his  
voice, and that a mighty voice.”

In Psalms 68:32-33, we see that not only is it appropriate that we praise God for His speaking and/or sending forth of His voice (word), but, it is also commanded that we do so. We also should praise Him for many other things as well! We should always magnify Him and praise His Name, thanking Him for all His mighty works! **Psalms 107:21 (KJV)** “Oh, that *men* would praise the LORD *for* His goodness, and *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!”

People who are gifted in the area of science can speak knowingly about String Theory, M Theory, Quantum physics, the structure of sub nuclear particles, etc. They understand how “**energy**,” which is often manifested in the form of heat or as “**vibration**” (in particular) and how it can be manifested in electron orbitals (i.e. energy levels) of atoms, as well as in other ways (*including sound waves/vibration*). They also comprehend that when energy accomplishes something (i.e. ‘works’), that it manifests itself as a form of “**Power**.” The average person may have a general sense of the concept of energy, work and power. They experience it most commonly in their everyday lives in the form of electricity, their automobiles, and in the *physical* activities they are involved in. **God** truly (and very **gloriously**) **manifested His power**, when He created the heavens, the earth and all things! He also demonstrates His “**sustaining**” power through His ongoing **providential** care of his creation. It raises a question in my mind as to whether I (or the average person, in general) actually appreciate the power involved in God’s creation of all things and His *sustaining maintenance* of His creation. We can understand the energy and work involved in building a house or in manufacturing a car or a truck, for example. And we can grasp that there is significant ongoing energy and work (i.e. power) involved in maintaining that house or vehicle as well. Often, in the end, there is more energy and work utilized in the **maintenance** of a product than there was in the manufacturing process!

Actually, I must admit that I have **not truly appreciated the connection** between **God’s word(s)** (whether it’s His written Word, His spoken Word, or His Living Word [Jesus]) **and the “energy” (or power)** needed to accomplish “**His purposes**.” What a blessing it has been to begin to do so! God has given me a deeper understanding of the “**mystery**” of His power, as demonstrated by His mighty works. He has done this in various ways, too numerous to describe. The primary ways involve people (and circumstances) that He has brought into my life and, of course, the love that He has placed in my heart for His Word – the Holy Bible. There are so many examples of God’s mighty works in the Bible that I can’t begin to do them

justice. A *few* examples of the various “*sorts*” (or manifestations) God’s power and mighty works include the following (as listed below):

### 1. *Almighty God’s Creative Power*

**Psalms 33:6, 9 (KJV)** “By the **word** of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. <sup>9</sup>For He **spake**, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

I suppose most people wish that they could simply speak and things would get done. What a simple, yet awesome statement to be recorded in **Psalm 33:6, 9**. Can we *truly* appreciate its truth? I doubt it, especially since we can’t even genuinely comprehend the **totality** of His creation, the majority of which we can’t even see! The atomic and subatomic structures are too small to see, and the universe is so vast that we cannot perceive the fullness of it either. We are very limited in our ability to fathom God’s creation. I’m reminded of a famous line of actor/producer Clint Eastwood, where he said, “A good man always knows his limitations.” (**Magnum Force** – 1973) Therefore, maybe I am a better man simply for recognizing my own limitations a little more fully. It humbles me to realize that my limitations are far more severe than I have thought in times past. Any person would do well to candidly recognize their limitations, whatever they might be. Fortunately, God is **not** limited, except by His nature and His promises. He is the **Beginning and the End**, the Almighty God! **Praise His name!** For example, God cannot lie because He is truth, by nature. He can’t be evil because He’s good by nature! And even better, He (**and His Word**) **never** changes! Both are **immutable!** **Praise His name *always!***

The Apostle Paul described, in a letter to the Colossians’ church, how *Jesus* was involved in God’s creation of all things:

**Colossians 1:15 -17 (KJV)** (referring to Jesus) “Who is the **image** of the **invisible** God, the firstborn of every creature: <sup>6</sup>For by *Him* were **all** things *created*, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: <sup>7</sup>And He is before all things, and by *Him* **all** things *consist*.”

**Genesis 1:1 (KJV)** “In the *beginning* God *created* the heavens and the earth.”

**Genesis 1:3 (KJV)** “And God *said*, Let there be light: and there was light.”

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**Genesis 1:6 -7 (KJV)** “And **God said**, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. <sup>7</sup>And God made the *firmament*, and *divided the waters* which were *under* the *firmament* from the waters which were *above* the *firmament*: and it was *so*. (\*\*This passage describes God *forming* the atmosphere around planet earth.)”

**Genesis 1:24 (KJV)** “And **God said**, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: *and* it was *so*.”

Considering the magnitude of the creation, there is **not** a lot of detail recorded in **Genesis 1:1-2:1** about **how** God created the world and **all** of its creatures. **The Bible** simply records that God **spoke** and it happened. We aren't given how many horsepower or megawatts were utilized in the creation of **all** things. We just get the most basic of facts. In the Old Testament, the **word of God** was the effective tool (or instrument) of God for creating, blessing or chastising (as well as communicating with and directing His people), and it remains so to this very day. The passages above corroborate a religious **truth - God created** through His **word**. In creating, God brought things into existence out of **nothingness**. Initially, He did **not** take previously existing matter and transform it into new kinds of material objects. He began with **nothing** and ended with the **whole** of existence, which He brought into being out of His powerful **word**. Now that is a **very difficult concept** to wrap one's mind around and actually be able to truly understand.

**Everything** that **exists** (**all** physical matter, atoms and all that comprises atoms – whether the nucleus, protons, neutrons, electrons, the quarks, neutrinos, antimatter, and **everything** else that is incorporated within **all** of God's creation) is a **manifestation** of the **power** of God and His spoken and living Word!! Another **form** of God's “**creative**” power is manifested by God's creation of “**life**” itself.

**Genesis 2:7 (KJV)** “And the LORD God **formed** man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils *the breath of life*; and man became a **living** soul.” (How many **horsepower** or kilowatt hours did that require?)

**John 11:40-44 (KJV)**, “Jesus saith unto her, **Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?** <sup>41</sup>Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up His eyes, and said, **Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me.** <sup>42</sup> **And I knew that Thou hearest Me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me.** <sup>43</sup>And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a **loud voice**, **Lazarus, come forth.**

<sup>44</sup>And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, **Loose him, and let him go.**”

John chapter 11 records that Lazarus had died and how Jesus raised him from the grave – *after* his death and being in the tomb for 4 days. Another remarkable miracle – by the *word* of God! Some interesting questions can be raised from God’s creation of “*life*” itself. How much power does it take to create life? What “*form*” of power accomplishes this *creation* of life? In **John 6:63 (KJV)**, Jesus *said*, “**It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**” How great and glorious is such a manifestation of raw power! Who, besides God, can wield such power? In what other ways does God manifest the greatness and glory of His matchless powers? I will briefly address just *four* more “general” ways, in addition to His “*creative* power,” but they are only the tip of the iceberg.

## 2. *Almighty God’s Healing Power*

**Matthew 8:1-3 (KJV)** “When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. <sup>2</sup>And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, *saying*, **I will; be thou clean.** And *immediately* his leprosy was *cleansed*.”

**Matthew 9:2-7 (KJV)** “And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the *palsy*, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; **Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.** <sup>3</sup>And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, **Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?** <sup>5</sup>**For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?** <sup>6</sup>**But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (then *said* He to the sick of the palsy,) **Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.** <sup>7</sup>And he arose, and departed to his house.” (Here Jesus not only healed a man by the power of His *word*, but, He also *forgave* the man’s sins by His *word*. I think it is not hard to understand that *forgiveness* is actually a *form* of healing as well).

**Mark 3:1-5 (KJV)** “And He entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>And they watched Him, whether He would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse Him. <sup>3</sup>And He *said* unto the man which had the withered hand, **Stand forth.** <sup>4</sup>And He saith unto them, **Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?** But they held their

peace. <sup>5</sup>And when He had looked round about on them with *anger*, being *grieved* for the *hardness* of their *hearts*, He *saith* unto the man, **Stretch forth thine hand.** And he stretched it out: and *his hand was restored* whole as the other.”

**Mark 7:31-35 (KJV)** “And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, He came unto the Sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they bring unto Him one that was deaf, and had an *impediment in his speech*; and they beseech Him to put His hand upon him. <sup>33</sup>And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers into his ears, and He spit, and touched his tongue; <sup>34</sup>And *looking up to heaven*, He sighed, and *saith* unto him, **Ephphatha**, that is, **Be opened.** <sup>35</sup>And *straightway* his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.”

These four passages represent a *few* of the healings recorded in the gospels. *Many others are recorded* in the gospels and the rest of the New Testament (and the Old Testament) and they are only a *few examples* of the healings God has done since the creation of all things. Once again, the question *remains* – what *form* of power is it that can accomplish such healings of body and soul?

### 3. *Almighty God's Power over Nature and Natural Forces*

**Mark 4:37-41 (KJV)** “And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. <sup>38</sup>And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest Thou not that we perish? <sup>39</sup>And He arose, and *rebuked* the wind, and *said* unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the *wind ceased*, and there was a *great calm.* <sup>40</sup>And He said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?** <sup>41</sup>And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

Not only did Jesus's *words* calm the raging sea while in the boat with His disciples, but, it also calmed the *storm of despair* within His disciples' *hearts*, when *thought* they were going to **die**. Isn't it nice to know that God can accomplish more than one thing at the same time?

**Matthew 21:18-20 (KJV)** “Now in the morning as He returned into the city, He hungered. <sup>19</sup>And when He saw a *fig tree* in the way, He came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and *said* unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.** And *presently* the fig tree *withered* away. <sup>20</sup>And when the disciples saw *it*, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!”

**Luke 5:4-6 (KJV)** “Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, **Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.** <sup>5</sup>And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled



all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at **Thy word** I will let down the net. <sup>6</sup>And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.”

Professional fishermen worked all night and caught nothing, yet, **at Jesus’ word**, the fish filled their net until the net was literally breaking from the large catch of fish. **John 21:1-6** gives another (separate, but *similar*) account of an incident that happened after Jesus had *arose from the grave*.

**Matthew 14:25-31 (KJV)** “And in the fourth watch of the night **Jesus** went unto them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. <sup>27</sup>But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid**. <sup>28</sup>And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, **if** it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water. <sup>29</sup>And **He said, Come**. And when **Peter** was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>**But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me**. <sup>31</sup>And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**”

In this instance (above), **Jesus** walked on the water, *defying natural laws of physics*. Moreover, Peter asked Jesus to tell him [Peter] to walk on the water as well. When Jesus *spoke the word*, “**Come**,” Peter *also defied the natural laws of physics* and walked on the water as well! The four examples *in this section* demonstrate God’s *absolute power over nature and its forces simply by His word*.

#### 4. *The Physical Power of God’s Words*

**John 18:2-6 (KJV)** “And Judas also, which betrayed Him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with His disciples. <sup>3</sup>Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him, went forth, and said unto them, **Whom seek ye?** <sup>5</sup>They answered Him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am He. And Judas also, which betrayed Him, stood with them. <sup>6</sup>As soon then as He had said unto them, I am He, they went backward, and fell to the ground.”

It is important to understand that the “band of men and officers” refers to a lot of people. This could have been as many as 1,000 men, but was probably a few hundred (most estimate it at about 200 - 600) men. Although the **actual** number of men was unknown, there were *definitely a significantly large number of people on hand* at the arrest of Jesus. When Jesus *spoke*, it took a great deal of some form of power to cause them to draw back and fall to the ground.

## 5. *The Power of God's Words Over the Spiritual Realm*

**Luke 4:31-37 (KJV)** “And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. <sup>32</sup>And they were astonished at His doctrine: for **His word** was with **power**. <sup>33</sup>And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup>Saying, Let **us** alone; what have **we** to do with Thee, *Thou* Jesus of Nazareth? Art Thou come to destroy us? I **know Thee** who Thou art; the Holy One of God. <sup>35</sup>And Jesus rebuked him, **saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him**. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. <sup>36</sup>And they were all **amazed**, and spake among themselves, saying, What a **word is this!** for with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out. <sup>37</sup>And the fame of Him went out into every place of the country round about.”

**Mark 5:1-15 (KJV)** “And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. <sup>2</sup>And when He was come out of the ship, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. <sup>3</sup>Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and **no man could bind him, no, not with chains**: <sup>4</sup>Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any *man* tame him. <sup>5</sup>And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup>But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and **worshipped** Him, <sup>7</sup>And cried with a loud voice, and said; What have I to do with Thee, Jesus, **Thou Son of the most high God?** I adjure Thee by God, that Thou torment me not. <sup>8</sup>For He **said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit**. <sup>9</sup>And He asked him, **What is thy name?** And he answered, saying, My name *is* Legion: for we are many. <sup>10</sup>And he besought Him much that He would **not** send them away out of the country. <sup>11</sup>Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. <sup>12</sup>And **all the devils besought Him**, saying; **Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them**. <sup>13</sup>And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. <sup>14</sup>And they that fed the swine fled, and told *it* in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. <sup>15</sup>And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and **in his right mind**: and **they were afraid.**” **\*\*Witnessing a genuine miracle can be a scary thing!**

The apostle Paul understood well the relationship between power and God's Word. He spoke of its importance often in his letters to the churches. A few examples are listed below (and on the next page).



**1 Corinthians 4:19-20 (KJV)** “But I will come to you shortly, **if** the Lord will, and will *know*, **not** the *speech* of them which are *puffed up*, but the *power*. <sup>20</sup> For the *kingdom of God is not in word*, but in *power*.”

Paul did not speak *pretty words* but *rather*, he demonstrated God’s **power** in his ministry.

**1 Thessalonians 1:5 (KJV)** “For *our gospel* came **not** unto you in *word only*, but also in **power**, and in the *Holy Ghost*, and in much assurance; as *ye know what manner of men we were* among you for your sake.”

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (KJV)** “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came **not** with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup>For I determined **not** to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>And *my speech and my preaching was not* with *enticing* words of *man’s wisdom*, **but** in *demonstration* of the **Spirit** and of *power*: <sup>5</sup>That *your faith should not stand* in the *wisdom* of *men*, but in the *power* of **God**.” (\*Verse 5 is of **crucial significance**)

**2 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV)** “But *we have this treasure in earthen vessels*, that the excellency of the **power** may be of **God**, and **not** of *us*.”

A “**kingdom**” is comprised of **a king** *with authority*, the *subjects* over whom he *rules*, *and* the *power* to *defend his realm*. In all the five “*categories*” (and their verses) above, we see **Jesus** portrayed as a *heavenly King* (on *earth*) *with authority* (and the *power*) to *deliver* His people from *sickness*, *evil spirits*, *physical storms* and any other conceivable problem (*including death*).

It is **so** important that we never forget that **God** reveals *truths* to us for *His* purpose *and* in *His time and way*. We may or may not always know exactly what His purpose is, but, we *can* be sure that He *will* accomplish *His* purpose in *all* things. Furthermore, He will do it by His “*word*” (in the *way* which *He* chooses), and by *His Spirit*, just as we see *demonstrated* time and again in the Scriptures. He may do this through prophets, angels, apostles, disciples, preachers, dreams, or prayer etc. The bottom line is, *when* God sends *forth* His *word*, He *will* most certainly bring about *whatever* it is that He *desires to accomplish*. God states this *plainly* in the book of Isaiah.

**Isaiah 55:8-11 (KJV)** “For **My** thoughts *are not your* thoughts, **neither are your** ways **My** ways, *saieth* the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For **as** the heavens are **higher** than the earth, so are **My** ways **higher** than **your** ways, and **My** thoughts than **your** thoughts. <sup>10</sup>For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth

not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: <sup>11</sup> So **shall My word be** that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall **not** return unto **Me void**, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and **it shall prosper in the thing** whereto **I** sent it.”

I feel led to end with a word of *caution*. When God is revealing His *power* to you, it is *not* to be taken *lightly*, nor is it to be taken for *granted*. It is actually an act of God’s *grace* for Him to reveal *anything* to us. Fortunately, **God is ‘good’** – *all* the time!!! He is “**Good**” because that is His *nature*. I thank God for His goodness. I thank Him for His *mercy*, His *lovingkindness*, His *faithfulness*, His *forgiveness*, His *longsuffering toward us*, and I especially thank Him for His **Word!** We *must realize and always remember* how relevant and important His Word is! It is so much *more* than old stories and dry numbers and genealogies. *It is* very *vibrant and alive*. It is **important** and **incredibly relevant** today! It *will* be **just as relevant tomorrow and** the next day, as well as the next. **If** you look around *carefully*, you will see His Word displayed before your very eyes each and every day.

As I watch the news and consider the current events taking place around the world and in the United States, I see the *truths* of the **Bible** being *demonstrated over and over, day after day*. Often it is *sad*, to see the corruption (*all* around us *and* even within us) that we are engulfed in. Everywhere I look, I see more and more how dire the conditions are. I see **morally** and spiritually bankrupt leaders enriching themselves, at the expense of the people they are supposed to be servng. They are little knowing, if not totally ignorant, that **God** has put them in power and that they will answer to Him one day for how they used their positions of leadership, i.e. whether for good or for evil and whether they served others, as they were supposed to, or themselves. I look at the moral decay and can begin to appreciate what Peter wrote in his second epistle, concerning fallen angels, Noah and Lot:

**2 Peter 2:4-9 (KJV)** “For **if God spared not** the *angels* that **sinned**, but cast *them* down to **hell**, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; <sup>5</sup>And **spared not** the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the **flood** upon the world of the **ungodly**; <sup>6</sup>And turning the cities of **Sodom and Gomorrha** into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live **ungodly**; <sup>7</sup>And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the **wicked**: <sup>8</sup>(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) <sup>9</sup> The **Lord** knoweth how to deliver the **godly out** of temptations, and to reserve the **unjust** unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

The passage above is an *encouragement* to me. *Particularly* verses 7-9. It really *vexes me* to be surrounded with so much ungodliness. It truly *afflicts my soul* and displeases me to no end. But I am *greatly encouraged* to be *reminded* that *this* is *not* something **God *can't* handle**. So, I simply choose to *encourage* myself in **God** *and* in **His Word**, like **David** did in **1 Samuel chapter 30**, when **Ziklag** was destroyed and the people wanted to *stone* him.

**1 Samuel 30:6 (KJV)** “And David was *greatly distressed*; for the people spake of stoning him, *because* the soul of *all* the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but** David *encouraged* himself in the **LORD** his **God**.”

Yes, the *Word can* cut like a knife, *but* it can *also* bind up wounds and *encourage* and *strengthen* us as well. God knows far *more* about us than we, ourselves, do. He is *omniscient*, knowing *everything* about us. Even better, He knows *exactly* what we need, in *whatever* situation we may find ourselves. There is no other god like our God! He is the *only true God*! With a *word*, **He** can calm *any* storm that may rage *within* us or *around* us: *Listen*, as **He** speaks to *your* spirit *and* soul, saying; “**Peace, be still.**”

There is one final aspect about the *Word*, to be “fair *and* balanced,” that I wish to address. The *spoken Word* can not only create, heal, control nature, exhibit physical power, *and* control the “spiritual” realm, but, it can *also* “*judge* and *kill*.”

**Proverbs 18:21 (KJV)** “**Death** *and* **life** *are* in the *power* of the *tongue*: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”

**Isaiah 11:4 (KJV)** “But with *righteousness* shall He *judge* the poor, and *reprove* with *equity* for the meek of the earth: and **He** shall *smite* the earth with the *rod* of **His** *mouth*, and with the breath of *His* *lips* shall He *slay* the *wicked*.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:8 (KJV)** “And *then* shall that **Wicked** be revealed, whom the **Lord** shall *consume* with the *spirit* of *His* *mouth*, and shall *destroy* with the brightness of *His* *coming*.”

**Revelation 19:15, 19- 21 (KJV)** “And out of **His** *mouth* goeth a sharp *sword*, that with it He should *smite* the nations: and He shall *rule* them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and *wrath* of **Almighty** **God**. <sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. <sup>20</sup>And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before Him, with which He deceived them that had

received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped His image. These *both* were cast *alive* into a *lake of fire burning with brimstone*. <sup>21</sup>And the *remnant* were *slain* with the *sword* of Him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of His *mouth*: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

## 6. *The Conclusion of the Matter*

We must be *cognizant* of so *many* things in life and it can be very *intimidating* at times. I wish to leave you with a thought that *may* be of some *help*. It is really true that one can *generally* “*reduce*” the *most* important things in any *particular topic*, that we *need* to know (*and to do*), to *about* “a *half a dozen* things.” *If* you *do* those *few things*, that it basically covers about *80%* of the *important* stuff. Well, I will give you a list of *seven* significant *Scriptural* points I know of. Some require some *additional clarifying* (explanatory) verses. I *believe* these *seven* points to be *consequential* to my *standing with God*. Since *all seven* are *crucial*, I guess it doesn’t matter in what order I give them to you. I will be hopefully providing you with *roughly 80%* of the *most important* things you *can*, and *should, do* in your life, to please *God*. Hopefully that will *ease* your mind and give you something to *focus* on *remembering* and *doing*, as it does for *me*.

1. John 6:63 (KJV) [*\*Jesus speaking*] “*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*”

- *Know this: Spiritual* issues “*trump*” (or *outdo*) *fleshly* ones in *God’s* eyes.

2. Micah 6:8 (KJV) “He hath *showed* thee, O man, what *is good*; and *what* doth the *LORD require* of thee, but to *do justly*, and to *love mercy*, and to *walk humbly with* thy *God*?”

- *Trust this: If* you *do justly* (i.e. *live righteously*) *and* you *love mercy* (by *being merciful* and *forgiving* toward others – oh, and *don’t forget* to *forgive yourself too*) *and* you *walk humbly with* *God* (walking *with* *God* means that you are walking *in* “*His Light*” and you are *in* “*His*” *Way*”), *that, by* “*applying*” Micah 6:8 in a person’s life, it *will radically* change *their* life for the *better*, making them a more *godly* person and a better “*witness*” to those around them.

3. Luke 9:35 (KJV) “And *there came* a *voice* out of the cloud, saying, *This is My beloved Son: hear Him.*”

## God Loves You! † Jesus Lives!

- God commands us to “hear” what *Jesus says* and *He told* us that the *words* that *He* speaks are *Spirit* and they are *Life*. This is pretty *simple* to understand. This is *also* the reason we must “study” God’s Word – so that we can know what it says. Then we must do it! *Knowing isn’t* enough. **James 1:22** tells us that we deceive ourselves if we are *hearers* only, and not doers of the *Word* of God. It is one thing to hear His Word but quite another to do it!

4. **John 13:34 (KJV)** “**A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**” (Some qualifications are needed on this point)

- Jesus loved mankind so much He *died* for us, to pay the debt for sin that we owed.
  - **Romans 5:8** “But God *commendeth* His *love* toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ *died* for us.”
  - **John 3:16** “For **God so loved** the world, that He gave His *only* begotten **Son**, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
- **John 14:15 (KJV)** “**If ye love Me, keep My commandments.**”
  - Please *understand* that without love, we are nothing and we abide in death. See **1 Corinthians 13** and **1 John 4:7-12, 20-21; 5:1-3, 12**, for further clarification.

5. **Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)** “But without *faith* it is *impossible* to *please* Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

6. **Galatians 5:6 (KJV)** “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

- **Note:** Faith alone is *not* enough. It must produce good works, which are *motivated* by love. The Bible is clear on this. Carefully study **James 2:13-26** below and you will see.

**James 2:13-26 (KJV)** For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment. <sup>14</sup> What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man *say* he hath *faith*, and have not works? Can *faith* save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of

daily food, <sup>16</sup>And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? <sup>17</sup> Even so **faith**, **if** it hath **not** works, is **dead**, being **alone**. <sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the **devils also believe, and tremble**. <sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead**? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? <sup>22</sup> Seest thou how **faith wrought with his works**, and **by works** was **faith made perfect**? <sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham **believed** God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the **Friend of God**. <sup>24</sup> Ye see then how that by **works** a man **is justified**, and **not** by **faith only**. <sup>25</sup> Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot **justified** by **works**, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? <sup>26</sup> For **as the body without the spirit is dead**, so **faith without works is dead** also.”

- In **verse 19** James makes the perfect argument. He states “the **devils** also **believe**, and **tremble**.” The devils **knew** Jesus was God but yet they **trembled**, this was **because** they did **not** do **good** works but **evil**. So, we see that it is **not just faith** alone that saves. **Good works are** very important **and evil** works will be **judged**. The **distinction** that **must** be made concerning **works** is two-fold. We **must** realize **two** things: **1**: One **can't** be saved by “**works** of the **law**,” for **all** have sinned. [See **Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:23**] **2**: Without “**good**” works, **faith alone** will **not save** you. [See **Eph. 2:10** and **James 2:13-26** above]

7. **Psalm 119:160 (NKJV)** “The **entirety** of Your **Word** is **truth**, And every one of Your **righteous** judgments **endures forever**.”

- I give this **last** Scripture **particular heed** for several reasons. It **helps** me to separate **sound** doctrine from **false**, by **comparing** scripture with **other** scripture; it reminds me that God's judgments are **both righteous and eternal**; and it reminds me to **never omit any** of God's **Word** (especially the **entirety** of the **Old Testament** (as **some** would do).

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU RICHLY EACH AND EVERY DAY.**

**I PRAY THAT YOU WOULD GROW IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND POWER OF HIS WORD.**