



The Voice Of Truth

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THE POWERFUL WORD OF GOD

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Seldom ever in the age of man has the Word of God occupied its rightful and supreme position in the affairs of life. Man has failed to appreciate and respect the Bible as God's absolute and final will for man. No other book in the annals of history has had so many enemies as God's word, the Bible. But God's Word is enduring (1 Peter 1:25; Matthew 24:35), powerful, it's God's DYNAMITE. "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword; piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). "It is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). The power of the Word of God is compared to the crushing impact of a hammer which breaks a rock into pieces (Jeremiah 23:29). It "cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

From these passages it is apparent that God's Word is active and working, powerful enough to do what it is designed to do (Isaiah 55:11). The very nature of God's Word is such that it will do its job in the one who hears it. It gives men the "power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). It is powerful enough to lead the unbeliever to faith in Christ (Romans 10:17). We can see the active power of the Word in conversion (Psalm 19:7), in the new birth (John 3:5), in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:17), in direction (Jeremiah 10:23), in the prevention of sin (Psalm 119:11). It saves (James 1:21), sanctifies (John 17:17), cleanses (Ephesians 5:26), it gives light and understanding (Psalm 119:105, 130), and it can expose and destroy false philosophies and imaginations (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

God's Word has the energy, the capability to accomplish all these things that He has designed it to do. God's Word has to do with things "•that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). However, it cannot do its work if it is not allowed to!

The Word of God is living, active, sharp, pierces, divides and discerns. Friends, the Bible has endured time, persecution, and criticism because it is the eternal Word of our eternal God.

What Do I Owe My Congregation?

I owe it my loyalty. I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

I owe it my financial support. It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

I owe it my presence. If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

I owe it the influence of a godly life. The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others.

Author Unknown

ON GEESE AND TEAMWORK

When you see geese flying in a "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what facts scientists have discovered about why they fly that way.

FACT: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for those immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 % greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

TRUTH: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the trust of one another.

FACT: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

TRUTH: There is strength, power, and safety in numbers when traveling in the same direction as those with whom we share a common goal.

FACT: When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

TRUTH: We all need to be remembered with active support and praise.

FACT: When a goose gets sick or is wounded and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until the crisis resolves, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group.

TRUTH: We must stand by each other in times of need. We are fortunate there are more geese in life than turkeys. Let's remember to uphold each other in friendship and to give each other a big "HONK" more often.

—borrowed

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17