

“The Word of God, a Marvelous Help”

By Brother Parrish Lee

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1Samuel 3:1 ...the Word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And the Word of the Lord was rare, special, set apart... You know, back in those days, they didn't have all the nice, fancy things that we got now. It's kind of hard to imagine. They didn't have printing presses. If you wanted to find the Word of the Lord, you didn't go to college. They didn't have elementary schools. You know what they were worried about back in those days? survival. They didn't have electricity and refrigeration back then. They didn't have the niceties that we've got. If you wanted to learn about the Lord back in those days, you had to go find and aged man that had somehow spent some time with the Lord. Or maybe you can find it if there was a prophet in the land, and you could go around and find some Word from the Lord from him. Maybe there was a small group of men that had dedicated themselves, taking months out praying and fasting, trying to find some vision from God so that they could have something themselves that they could give to other people. Yes, it was precious. If you could find somebody that could tell you something about God, you would catch it, you held onto it... Most people didn't know how to read. You didn't need to know how to read; if you got something from the Lord, you remembered it, you kept it in here, you shared it with your family, your kids, your grandkids, aunts and uncles, and cousins... They would come over, because they want to hear: “What was that Word that you got from the Lord? What was it? It's precious.” Nowadays you can find Bibles at Wal-Mart, K-Mart, the Dollar Store, and all over the place. There's all kinds of Bibles all kinds of places. They've got commentaries, all kinds of books—somebody said this, somebody said that—you've got TV, you've got the internet. They didn't have printing presses back then. As far as writing the Word down, for what? You had to have some special people that knew how to make a scroll, and that way, they could roll it up. Nowadays, there's Bibles in bound books all over the sanctuary today. You can listen to it on the radio; you can put it in your I-pod. They're all over the place. You would think that it would be so much more precious now, it's abundant, we've got it, we don't have to search for it so hard—but it's, like a smorgasbord—when it is plenteous you take it for granted. “It's always here, I can get it any time I want it. Yeah, it's precious, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.” I just came back from Baltimore, by the way. “Let's talk about the Superbowl. That's precious. We ain't won that in a while.” I heard a lot of talk about how this was precious or that was precious, but the word of the Lord? “Oh, no, no, no, no, no. We can talk about that anytime. Let's talk about his stuff. But we'd like to cover a few things that the word of the Lord is to us today.

Part 1: A Powerful Help

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit...” Now, that's sharp. Now the Word of

the Lord is not the type of thing that has to come on the scene and it has conditions, or needs things; the Word of God stands all on its own. It does not become lonely. It does not need help. It does not need assistance. It is not conditional. It's not something that only works if everybody gets together and hums the same key. It's not something that only works if you eat only on one side of your head. No, no, no, no, no, no. The Word of God is not powerful to me; it's powerful all by itself. It stands alone. It doesn't care if *nothing* is there. He speaks, and that word comes forth, and the next the you know, life follows. When there was no life, there is life. Living, breathing, life. The Word of the Lord stands so independent, that everything else around it needs it. We live in a society today where independence is glorified. "I need to be independent. I need to be in a place where I don't need anybody. Let me be there." The fact is, you are never going to be in a place where you don't need God. You may fool yourself for a while, but it's just a circle, and by the time you come back round, you need Him more. I love how the Word of God is so powerful. It is so powerful that it can come in and change everything. You ever notice how you can be in a room full of people, and they could be talking about anything, let one Christian come in and everybody knows that he's a Christian. Let him or her be a vocal Christian that has already spoken the Word before, and you see things start to change, because the Word doesn't have to be spoken. The Word stands up, and if it's living in somebody's life, it makes the scene, as soon as they bring it on the scene. The Bible says in Isaiah 42:8: I am the Lord that is my name and my glory will I not give to another—so look at how great this wonderful Lord is, how compassionate, how longsuffering, how merciful, He will not give his glory to another—but He knew that we were going to be a needy group of people. He knew that we were going to have cases where we were going to get stretched off all alone all by ourselves and need something. So, this is what this awesome, loving, compassionate, thoughtful God did for us. He gives us one word. That one word is supposed to be able to come on the scene and be helpful. That one word is supposed to be able to come on the scene and help us all prosper; help us get stronger. If you're feeling pain, you're supposed to be able to use the one word that God gives us, and know that the pain is not going to last, because I can cling to the one word that God gave me. He puts one word on the scene, and I know that whatever I'm going through, if I'm going through something, that trouble's not going to last. He puts one word on the scene, and, all of the sudden, I can feel a change coming on. He brings one word on the scene, and I know that there's a refreshing going on that's all around and surrounding me. He gave us one word, and you have hope; you have focus. That one word is so precious that He sent an angel to bring it down. And that one word is a name. And that name, when he gave it, Joseph; what must he have been thinking? It said he was pondering how he could put his wife away. Then that one word came down with the angel, and, all of the sudden, he had answers. "Oh, I've got some direction now." God was in it. And that name was Jesus. Could you just say that with me... Jesus. Say it again... Jesus.

Oh, the blessed name of Jesus. There is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). One word; that name. You just say that name, and there's nothing like it. If you've ever found yourself where you needed to say it one time; you were at the end of your rope, and you said, "I don't even know where to turn," but you said his name. You said His name. Then, all of the sudden, your hope returned. As bad as it was, you just said His name. That one word is so powerful that everything connected to it automatically brings glory. Jesus - the lamb of God, Jesus—the rose of Sharon; Jesus my deliverer; Jesus my healer; Jesus, my Savior; my rock, my sword, my shield, my helper, my friend, my Lord, light of the word, way out of no way; Jesus, my Savior; Jesus, the shepherd; Jesus, lover of my soul;

Jesus the dayspring; Jesus, my ever present help in time of need; Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. That one word is so powerful that according to Ephesians 3: at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess—oh yes the knee of all of us here, and the city, the state, this country, the world—past, present and future. But not just us humans, the knees of the animals have to bow the needs of the plants and trees have to bow, they tell me that every embryo whether it's human or animal when it's in inception it is any bent over position as though it were bowing. And even after they are created in their lives they bow—just ask the fig tree.

And not just them; when we call on that word given to us asthma will bow, bronchitis will bow, cancer will bow. I am a witness to the asthma, the bronchitis-time and time again the doctors have told me of my ailments—and time and time again have I seen God say peace be still. And not just them, the storms have to bow, the stars have to bow, bad Angels have to bow, good Angels have to bow, every knee has to bow to that one word. There are many great words God has given us and names to know but at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. But according to the Bible. There is one thing you must have with this from the book of Acts chapter 3 verse number 16 His name through faith in His name. You must have faith. We have a responsibility to.

Act 3:16 And His name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

You ever hear people use that name and not have faith? I just came back from my sister's; she was receiving her doctorate, so my family said, "Please be here, Parrish." "Okay." You know, I had a great time with my family, God opened a lot of doors. One thing that happened when I was with some of my family members, and one of them used the word Jesus like a swear word. Anybody that knows me knows that brings me halfway there. You use my Lord's name as a swear word, we may have covered a lot of ground, but you've got me real close. Then, a younger person in our family said it. "So what? This is what our family does; they do it, I'll do it." As soon as he said it, I couldn't hold it back any more. I had to ask, in front of everybody, "Let me ask all of y'all something: Why *that* name? Why are you calling on that name? Are you expecting him to do something for you?" Now they knew something has started him now. "I have to know, why that name? Why don't you call Allah? Why don't you call dad's name? Why that name?" The young guy said, "Well, I don't know. I never really thought about it." I told him, "If you call on Him, He hears you, and expect Him to remember that you called on is name in vain. What about you? Why did you use His name in vain?" This guy is a little more rough, and he didn't mind me being kind of brash. He kind of said, "Oh, you want to make a scene? I can make a scene, too." So, he said, "You ain't the only one who ever studied the Bible. That Bible was just for the Hebrews." I'm going to have to cut this story short. "Let me tell you something. That's one of the big ten. That's one of the Ten Commandments: Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain (Exodus 20:7). Okay, I've said my piece; we can go back to having fun." They weren't having as much fun as they were when they got started, but... God gave us that name to be saved by, and we don't take it for granted. It's real power. And the end of that story is, the very next day, the one who decided to take me on, called me up and said, "Please pray for me. I wish I had whatever it is you've got in your life. There was nothing I could say to what you was going on. You've got to help me." I said, "I want to help all our family. We all need more God in our life. Period. I'm not ashamed of what He put

in my life.” The younger one, too, came and said, “Uncle Parrish, how can I find what you’re talking about?” “Let me tell you what I did? I got away from everybody. I got away from mom; I got away from dad; I got away from everybody and I prayed. It took me several days, but this is what you can do. You can pray.” He said, “But all I know is (rote prayer in Arabic).” “No, no, no, no, no, no, I’m not talking about that; I’m saying pray. Don’t recite a bunch of mumbo-jumbo; pray. Tell God who you are, where you are, tell Him what you desire, ask Him to bring you to Him. Ask Him.” He said, “Nobody’s ever talked to me about this. Ever.” It was a blessing.

“His name through faith in His name, hath made this man strong...” If the word is so powerful—why don’t we see more miracles? We see miracles, amen? I’ve seen three miracles this morning: Two in my life, and one in my sister’s. We know that Moses parted the Red sea, how about Lake Michigan? What about that tornado? Why aren’t we seeing more miracles? two reasons. You have to need them—number one is because of need. There has to be a need; God isn’t just going to throw them around because He has nothing else to do. And number two—because of our faith. Jesus said, according to your faith and answered the disciples because of their lack of faith. This kind cometh not out but by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:19-21). We need more faith. That’s what the disciples said, “Lord, increase our faith.” (Luke 17:5) So it has never been just saying that name and that invokes power, it has always been through your faith in His name.

Part 2: The Word of God is for Direction

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (instruction & learning) for reproof, (evidence) for correction, (straightening up) for instruction in righteousness (justification): That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished (fully equipped) unto all good works.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...” We’re going to look at a little story. Sometimes the Old Testament can help us to understand what the New Testament is saying. This is about two kings; two great guys, heads of two nations.

2 Chronicles 18:5-7 ... Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides...

So they were going to go into battle. The King of Israel, his name was Ahab, was talking to the King of Judah, his name was Jehoshaphat, “Do you think we should?” “Well, you know what? just to make sure we’re on the right track, we’ve got some wise men over here, yeah, they’re prophets. They’re going to give us the word.” There were four hundred of them, and they were all like, “Yeah, go up, go up! God’s going to bless you! Go up, go up! You’ve got the victory! Go up, go up! You got this! Go up, go up! You got this!” There’s something about when you’ve been with the Lord. When you’ve heard Him talk. When you’ve heard people talk God’s Word, you kind of know when it’s not God’s Word, and when it is. Now, Jehoshaphat had spent time in God’s Word, and he had heard people talk about God’s Word, and Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not a prophet of the Lord we can ask?”—he knew what the Word of the Lord sounded like and what it did for him; he had heard the difference and he had seen the difference. But Ahab said he hated the prophet of the Lord, he hated Micaiah—because he always prophesied evil to me. Jehoshaphat said, “Now don’t get all upset. I know you’ve got eleven tribes and I’ve just got the one, but I want to hear what the Lord has to say.” The story

goes on and Micaiah tells them that all the other prophets have been telling them lies. When you've been around the Word of the Lord, you know the Word of the Lord. When you're hungering for the Word, you don't fall for a bunch of junk. If you don't want to follow the Word of the Lord, you can find plenty of people willing to lead you down any path you want to go. There have been times in my life where I just needed fellowship, and there was a demon that said, "No, you don't need fellowship." There have been times when I kind of had my mind made up in another direction, when I was around certain brothers and sisters in the church, I didn't have to tell them what was going on in my mind, because I knew when they started sharing about God... If you want to get away from God, he can find you. You know, it doesn't have to be a big thing, it can be something small. I've been guilty; I've been guilty of not forgiving somebody and I had a brother pull me aside and say, "Let me tell you a little something about forgiveness." He shared with me, and I could feel the Word of God come from him as he shared with me, and ministering to that wound in my life. I never had the strength to say, "God, I need to take care of this in my life," until this brother shared with me under the unction of the Holy Ghost. So, they were both of Israel, they both were of Abraham.

I want to make a statement right now: the Word of God is the answer. Some might say, you don't know what my story is. You don't know what my father did, what my mother did, you don't know the story in my house—with my wife, with my husband, with my children, you don't know what it's like on my job, the Word, the Word, the Word. How are you going to stand up there in that pulpit and say that the word is the answer? How are you going to stand up there and write carte blanche, write a blank check for things you don't even know about? There are many questions, but there's not a one that the Lord can't answer. A spiritual answer for physical needs? I need healing. I need money. I need some rest. I need some answers. I don't really know what I need.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life...

Jesus was talking to the Pharisees. When the Pharisees oppressed Jesus he told them to search the Scriptures for in them they think they have life. And then he said, and they testify of me—and you will not come to me. So the Lord had defined the problems of the Pharisees that the word pointed to Jesus and they would not come to him. I profess to you today to the world today that in 2013 our Lord proposes the same question; that the word points to Jesus and the world will not come to Him. Christians have to be careful that this does not become true in their testimony.

Part 3: The Word of God is for Protection

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...

We who trust the Word have found that the Word of God can predict the future: for where the Bible says a haughty spirit goeth before a fall and pride before destruction (Proverbs 16:18). If you find somebody with a lot of pride, find somebody with a haughty spirit—voila—there you have it. And have found it to be a great detective on the soul for the Bible says it is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, dividing the soul from the spirit.

Hebrews 4:12 ...is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

We have found it to be a protector for the Bible says:

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Psalms 18:30 ... the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

Don't you just love how here when it talks about the word of the Lord every first to the word of the Lord as He? But Scripture says here in Proverbs that he is a shield to them that put their trust in him. And in Psalms that he is a buckler to those that trust Him. Nowadays we have drones. You can go to a base in Texas and pilot a drone in Afghanistan and never even have to see your enemy. It's a nine-to-five job. Now back in the Old Testament days they fought many types of battles and it's not like it is today, back then you could look on the field and see your enemy. And you could see if the archers were there, you needed a shield that was a decent enough size to deflect the arrows that were long-range attack. If after the battle got up close and personal swing and a shield around took a lot of time and energy and you would need something to deflect really fast close range attacks. And that's where the buckler came in. So the Scripture tells us that His able to, (He being the word of the Lord,) is able to protect us from all kinds of battles; we still got to be in the battle but He is our protection.

And we have found it to be something we can live by, for the Bible says:

Matthew 4:4 ...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Jesus said we live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Job said, in the Old Testament:

Job 23:12 ...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

And if we ever think that's not enough...

Psalms 119:42 ...I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in Thy Word.

To sum it up...

1Peter 1:18-23 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.