

“Word of God!!!”
By Bob Heirtzler
Sunday, June 9th, 2013

What a powerful, powerful presence of God. God is so real. I know we all know that. He’s our provider, our encourager. He supplies everything that we need, even things that we don’t like, but we still need, like rebuke, correction, hair-combing, butt-kicking, etc. I’m thankful today; I’m thankful that God called me to this ministry many years ago. I’m thankful that he placed His Spirit in my life, that I can wake up each morning with a sound mind. I woke up one morning in the middle of a field; I did not know how I got there. I remember being at the carnival with the firemen, and that was the last thing I remember. My dad told me, “The Fire Department brought you home at three o’clock in the morning, you went off in the back lot somewhere.” I don’t remember any of that. I woke up about 10:30 in the morning in the middle of a field; keep in mind there’s cougars, bars, coyotes, skunks, and other critters out there, oh, and snakes: we had timber-rattlers, copperheads, and another one I can’t remember right now... There were black widows in the area... God protected me. I woke up and I said, “God, I promise I will never, ever, ever do this again.” I’ve held to that to this day. I have never been in that condition again.

I also want to send some greetings from my mom and dad. My mom had surgery. She is doing fine. She had a knee replacement; she appreciates your prayers. Friday she went to physical therapy, and the doctor told her, “I just need you to get on the bicycle, and I just need to make half-turns, just to get the knee going.” She didn’t hear the doctor say that, she got on the bicycle and pedaled for ten minutes. She was going somewhere. Wherever she was going, she was going. God blessed, and touched her. Amen, I’m thankful for that.

Today we’re talking about the Word of God. My opening Scripture is in John Chapter one, verses one through fourteen. We’re talking about the Word of God. Parrish shared last week about the precious Word.

John 1:1-14 ...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Does anybody know who this passage is talking about? The answer is... Jesus.

Verse 9: That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

We all know that was Jesus that walked among us.

The word “Word” is singular! (from John 1:1) “...the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Meaning One, 1. Word was made flesh!! That One Word that Parrish talked about last week, that precious one word!! – Jesus!! You call out that Word, and it heals you. You call out that Word, you’re praying. You call out that Word when you’re having a bad day and it turns around... I remember one time I said, “God, I need you to help. I’m about to lose my temper because I’m not going to like the answer I’m going to receive.” I prayed to that Word,

and God put calmness over me. Sometimes bills stack up, and you don't know how to take care of them, but that Word will take care of them. Sometimes we make plans, but things don't turn out the way we want it to be; that one Word will change our perspective. I remember going into the restroom and praying to that one Word because I needed a calm spirit about me... That one Word, Parrish, we all know that one Word is Jesus.

He also stated it's a precious Word. I want to do a little visual here, this moment. We all know that—I need some help here. Anybody remember any books that were written in the past that became movies? “The Ten Commandments” “Roots” “The Hunt for Red October” “Gone With the Wind” “Peyton Place” “The Notebook” “The Passion of the Christ” (That was a book?) “Harry Potter” “The Lord of the Rings” “The Hobbit” “The Chronicles of Narnia”

What are some comic books that became movies? The Green Lantern, Superman... How many Batman movies do you think there are? Too many. This is my favorite, The Incredible Hulk. Some of these are years ago; some are close by.

They have conventions about these people. They have meetings about these fictional characters. There are DC and Marvel comic conventions and people dress up in these weird outfits, and they become these princes and warriors and whatnot. They're fictional characters. They did that movie, “Pirates of the Caribbean;” you've got Johnny Depp who's known as: “Captain Jack Sparrow,” and every time you see a pirate, you think of Captain Jack Sparrow. Whenever Sylvester Stallone goes to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, what is his name in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania? Rocky Balboa. They built a statue. They put his footprints on those steps. So, my question is, why is it so hard for people to believe that God came down in the flesh, and walked among us? What's so hard about that? They believe in fictional characters, what about non-fictional characters? God walked among us. We're talking about the Word of God. Where is the Word of God? Is it more than just this book here? It's in our hearts? We have to walk the Word of God.

The King James Bible is made up of 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. There are 31,102 verses in the Bible; no, I did not count that, I just Googled it. First Word in the Bible is, “In.”

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The middle verse of the Bible is Psalm 118:8. I like this Scripture. This will help us.

Psalm 118:8 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

So the King James Bible has the words "the Lord" right in the center of it (the King James Bible has an even number of words). Last Word is “Amen”

Revelation 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

So, the first word is, “In,” the middle two words are, “the Lord,” and the last word is, “amen.” In the Lord, Amen!! It's all centered around that.

Where is the Word of God today?

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

If you continue in God's Word, then you are His disciples. We shall know the truth, and the truth shall make us free.

Philip had a hard time understanding who was who, so Philip asked the question,

John 14:8-11 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake.

The Word of God is in us. When we share under the unction of the Holy Ghost, the Word of God is being shared. It could be as simple as saying, "Good morning." It could be as simple as getting a cup of coffee, or, when someone is coughing, you just get a glass of water and put it on their desk. We're sharing the Word of God through our lives by being ministers.

John 14:25-27 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Country was sharing how Jailed was learning to play the violin. It took practice and practice, and practice brought back to her remembrance how to do that. If I ask a simple question, like, two plus two is? "Four." Five times five is? "Twenty-five." Twenty minus fifteen is? "Five." How do you spell, 'cat?' "C-A-T." 'Dog?' "G-O-D." Somewhere along the line, we went to school. Right? Somewhere along the line, we went to school and we learned that. When I ask those questions today, it brings back to your remembrance how to spell or how to add, multiply, or subtract. That means that we have to study the Word of God to have it brought back to our remembrance. We have to get into Bible Studies.

I have to tell a story; this is an extra commercial: We had a group outing with the church, years ago, over six hundred students. A lot of teachers were there. That was the same day that they were cleaning the ravine. I did not know who was cleaning the ravine; I did not know who was down there, but they were playing very loud, vulgar music. The kids said, "Mr. Heitzler, could you please have them stop that? We're trying to get away from that kind of stuff." Gerry Nelson was there that day, and I said, "Gerry, can you bring out the PA system? I need to bring out the guns, and blast this thing over the hill." He said, "I've got a new CD from Kirk Franklin." "Okay, let's put it in." The first song was, "Stomp." We just blasted that. Pastor Saniatan came out with a cup of coffee. It was just loud, over the ravine. This gentleman came up, and said, "Hey what's going on?" "Well, we're just having a Children's Church picnic, and your music is kind of vulgar, and the kids don't want to hear it." He said, "We'll turn ours down

if you turn yours down.” I said, “Okay.” We waited, they turned theirs down, so I said, “Gerry, turn it down.” I did not know that he was the mayor of Waukegan at the time.

We have to study the Word of God. Parrish encourages us all to read one chapter a week, five minutes of prayer, and call two people to encourage them. Continue to do that. You know what’s going to happen? We’re going to call four people. We’re going to get two baptisms, we’re going to get more and more excited about what we’re reading. The more we read, the more we’re going to want to share. We’re doing those things already, we’re just going to fill up; you know what I’m saying?

*1 Corinthians 2:1-16 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. *And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Reference Scriptures:

**Philippians 3:4-8 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

Paul’s giving us his resume, right off the bat. He automatically gave his resume, why he could do what he did, but he counted all dung, that he might win Christ. Every time I come across people that tell me about all the things that they have done for God, okay, God likes that, but what are you doing right now? Where a tree falleth, there shall it lie (Ecclesiastes 11:3). The Old Testament shares several stories about people that lived right for years, but then they turned for a moment, and they were lost. God didn’t remember their charity for several years when

they died; it's that present moment where we stand. Where a tree falls, there shall it lie. I've never seen a tree fall, get back up, and fall in a different direction. Once it's down, it's down.

***John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

This one blew me away when I first read it. There is enough written for us to make it to Heaven. That's why, when we start seeking the key things of God, there's more to show. I had a dream one time (I don't usually share dreams, but this particular dream I had) I was lying on top of the lake, and I couldn't get under the water. I was laying on top like a dead-man's float or a back float, and I couldn't get under the water. God said, "You know this lake so well. You know every pier, every rock, every tree, every dock, all around this lake." God was showing me that the deeper you go, the more you understand what's in this lake: what kind of fish are in it, what sort of sunken vessels are in it, what's are on the bottom... The deeper you go, the more you learn, and the lake will eventually come to a bottom. God said to me, "I have no bottom. You can go as deep as you want, and learn as much as you want in My Word, I will teach you." I want to go deep into the Word of God. Anything that sticks in my head has to match up with the Word of God. We have those spirits that try to distract us, and try to take us off the path, and lead us to something that's not really there. You know that the Word of God will back up whatever path that you need. If it's not there, then don't go that way. Make sense?

I thank God for the great day we're having today.

***John 21:24-25 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*

There's a lot of things that He did that wasn't written down. It says that the world couldn't handle the books that would have been written. The Word of God is in us, just like it was in Jesus. What book are we writing? What is the report now, about us? The Book of acts is still going on. It doesn't end with an 'Amen.' It's the history of the church. What our legacy? What does that little dash in between date of birth and date of death represent? that we aspire to live for God; that we did everything we could to reach out to people. How do we get the word of God in our lives? meditate, pray, fasting, fellowship, worshipping, obeying... Now that we've got the Word of God in our lives, what are we supposed to do with it? I posted on FaceBook this morning, 'Do you ever just wake up and go "NOPE" and roll over and go back to sleep?' It was amazing some of the replies I got. Jimmie called me a Holy Roller. Thanks, Jimmie. All right, now we have the Word of God, like I said, what do we do with it?

In verse 4 (of 1 Cor. 2), Paul says that his wisdom does not stand in the philosophies of man. There are so many books written about the Bible. They even have a Bible written in Vulcan. I'm not saying that reference material is bad, but I'm saying that you need to be careful what it's teaching you. You've got to have the Word of God to understand what's right or wrong. Some people read other books, and there's nothing wrong with that, but don't let that be your main source; let the Word of God be your main source. Don't be quoting something outside the Word of God, quote the Word of God. The Word of God is within us, and we can't

falter or walk away from it. Somebody offered a million dollar reward for anybody that could find a mistake in the Word of God, and they couldn't. What it says in the New Testament, it says in the Old Testament. All these other translations? one minute they're this way, and then, something else. I'll pick one in my head: In the Old Testament, they say that there's one God, but they say there's three in the New Testament. But there's one God throughout the entire Word of God. If they created two more, then why didn't it say 'Gods' or 'Jesus and His two Brothers?' It is so powerful what Malcolm shared that God did not *have* a son, He came down *as* His son, Himself, and walked amongst us. Make sense?

We have the Word of God within us!! What do we do with the Word of God within us? Every morning we wake up, we have two Choices!! My last Scripture is Matthew 25:35-46. We have two choices. We've just learned that the Word of God is in us. The words that we speak are not of ourselves, but of the Father of salvation. We have shared how that we can obey, and keep the Word of God in our lives. This passage has two parts, and I'm going to read the second part first, and then the first part, second.

Matthew 25:41-46 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

We wake up every morning having a choice: To be negative or positive. To be angry, or to be angry and sin not. We wake up every morning asking, "God, who do You want me to talk to today? Who do You want me to share with today?" I wake up every morning like that. I know that we all do, because I hear stories about you sharing with people. So, it's just, what do we wake up to every morning? Is it WBBM, the traffic report? Well, I do that, so that I know how to get to work, but then I switch over to K-Love, and get my mind thinking. I walk into work ready for talking to people. Sometimes on the phone, I get angry, but I have to put that under subjection and calm back down.

Now, it talks about us:

Matthew 25:35-40 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

This doesn't necessarily mean that we physically fed them, but that we spiritually fed them; they were hungry for the Word of God, and they sat down with you, and you fed them.

The next thing is, it says you gave me drink. It doesn't have to be a physical thing, but it can be a physical thing, like that up of coffee or that water I mentioned earlier. WE should be prepared that they can take food or drink out of our lives. we heard that message years ago, that God continues to supply our needs. The next part is, I was a stranger, and you took me in. I was a stranger when I first came to this ministry, when I walked up those stairs. Nobody knew who I was, but they took me in and shared with me. All of us were strangers at one time, and God took us in. Didn't it feel like we've known each other all our lives, once we got involved? We all have the same Father, a Spiritual Father. Make sense? I know this is a crock-pot type message today; it's not a microwave message (hit the button, and, a few seconds later, 'DING!') I'm glad it's like this. God has hundreds of activities for us to do, we've just got to get out there and help the people. The prison might not be a physical building, some people are imprisoned spiritually. They're in a battle, and they think there's no way out. They don't know that one word, Jesus, that can break them out. Sometimes, we as humans, that's the last choice we have on our list. We try everything else out first. God will use us to give that person hope. God has a calling on our lives, church. We have the Word of God with us; we need to share with other people. I'm glad to hear all the good news about the fellowship going on, on Wednesday nights and Friday nights. We are sharing God's love in our lives; reaching out to people. When we wake up in the morning, we have two choices. It's more than just a book; it's alive in our lives. We serve a non-fictional God. He only has one word: His name is Jesus. Jesus can take on everything. Call on the name of Jesus, and that Spirit just starts flowing. Just this past week I had an answer to prayer right in front of me. Sixteen years ago, I had a student in the church school,, and he called me last Sunday night. He said, "God told me to call you. I want to be saved, and I needed to call you." We had a long talk on the phone. He lives in Jacksonville, Florida. Do we know anyone in Jacksonville? Pat Taylor. We had a long talk; I encouraged him about fellowship. I hung up, let Pastor Paine know what was going on, made sure Pat's in the loop. Maybe he went over there today. He said, "I've tried everything, and nothing's working. I've been in relationship, after relationship, after relationship, and I can't find the answer. I'm not in a relationship now, but I just know that there's more." It was a powerful talk. When we start talking to people, we're going to have a lot more stories like that one. It might be somebody at work, somebody in the grocery store, somebody at the gas station, wherever they go. It would be a miracle if a cop pulled you over and wound up getting saved instead of giving you a ticket, huh?

Thank you for listening. God bless you all.