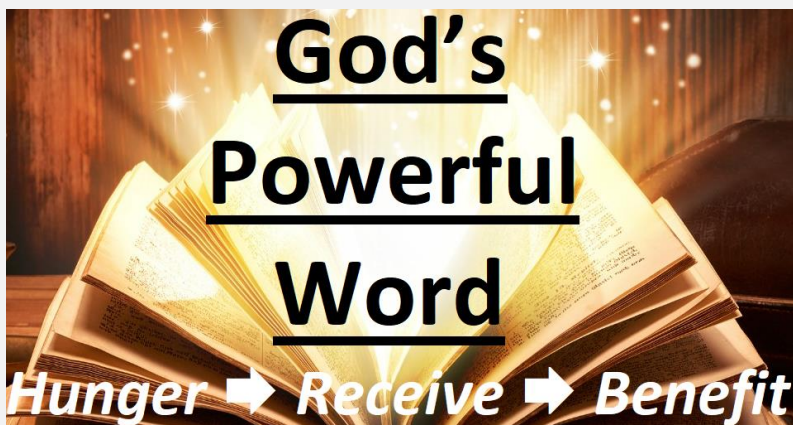


A Topical Sermon on the Bible – 2022

Saturday, 11/19 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/20 at 9:00



Text: Selections from **Joshua 8**; **2 Timothy 3**; **Matthew 4** NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Since we know God's word is *so powerful* and *so important*, may the Holy Spirit keep us ➔ hungering for it, ➔ receiving it, and ➔ benefitting from it. *Let's learn and be encouraged!*

1. **OT – Joshua 8 – Reading Out Loud:** At this point in the Bible, the LORD was in the process of giving the land of Canaan – *the Promised Land* – to the Israelites. In **Joshua chapter 8**, we have the account of the LORD giving the city of Ai and all its people into the hands of the Israelites. Afterward, Joshua expressed great thanks to the LORD; then, *with all the people assembled*, the Bible says: <sup>34</sup> ... **[Joshua] read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law.** <sup>35</sup> **There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them.**

- a. **“the blessing and the curse”** – Good news: faith and obedience result in blessing, BUT bad news: distrust and disobedience result in the LORD’s curse. **This is your assignment:** Read **Deuteronomy chapter 28** – about the blessings in **1-14**☺, and the curses in **15-68**☹ (4x as many).
- b. Reading the Bible – **“Until modern times, reading silently, even when alone, was virtually unheard of.”**<sup>1</sup> Reading silently engages ▶the eyes and ▶the mind, **BUT** reading out loud is much better – engaging ▶the eyes, ▶the mind, ▶the voice, and ▶the ears. When I review my memory verses, *I try to review them out loud. Whenever you can, try reading out loud for MAXIMUM benefit!*
2. **EP – 2 Timothy 3 – Continuing in the Word:** Timothy was a young pastor who assisted Paul and worked under Paul’s supervision. Paul, *near the end of his earthly life*, wrote some very important things to Timothy. This is the end of **2 Timothy chapter 3**:
- a. **BIG Difference Between the Repentant and the Unrepentant:**<sup>12</sup> **“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup> But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. // Repentant ones – those having godly sorrow and trust in Jesus – will ▶desire to live godly and ▶be pressured to deny Jesus. **But** those without sorrow and trust – the unrepentant – will ▶unknowingly deceive others into thinking they**

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<sup>1</sup> Chad Bird, Unveiling Mercy (New Reformation Publications, 2020), 161.

are Christians and ▶even deceive themselves.

What do they need? **God's heart-opening truth!**

- b. Continue: <sup>14</sup> **You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them [your mother and grandmother], <sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings [the OT Scriptures] which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus [Acts 20:32]. // As believers in Jesus – regarding God's word – let us **NEVER** 😞slow down or 😞coast or 😞stop, **BUT ALWAYS CONTINUE** 😊gathering week after week and 😊doing personal study day after day!**
- c. Reap the Benefits: <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is inspired by God** [God breathed: God > HS > Prophets/Apostles > Us] and profitable [useful, beneficial] for teaching [learning God's truth and teaching it to others], for reproof [showing sin], for correction [showing God's will], for training in righteousness [guiding how to please God]; <sup>17</sup> **so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.** // Since God's word is so important, let us ▶hear it and read it, and ▶be open to it and think about it, and then ▶believe it, live it, and share it!

3. **GO – Matthew 4 – Making Spiritual Food a High Priority**: At the end of **Matthew chapter 3**, Jesus ▶was baptized, ▶was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and ▶began His ministry. Then, <sup>4:1</sup> **...Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**  
<sup>2</sup> **And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights,**

He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” <sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

- a. Jesus Was Very Hungry: The Bible says He “**fasted forty days and forty nights.**” The word “**fasted**” comes from the Greek word, “**νηστεύω**” – “**going without food**” (Friberg, BW).
- b. Jesus Did NOT Listen to the Devil: Jesus ✦was hungry, ✦is the Son of God, and ✦could have turned the stones into bread; the temptation was GREAT, *but He did NOT fall into sin!*
- c. Jesus Identified the Importance of Spiritual Food: As Jesus hungered to ✦hear and ✦obey the will of His Father MORE than eating bread for His body, *so let us do the same!*

### Your Challenges:

- Read **Deuteronomy chapter 28** – about the blessings in **1-14** 😊, and the curses in **15-68** 😞.
- Pray for a strong desire to ✦learn and ✦live God’s will for your life!
- Fast for one regular meal each week, then, *during that mealtime*, ✦receive and ✦benefit from the word of God!

**Let Us Pray:** Father in heaven, keep us hungering ✦for You and ✦Your powerful word!

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