

# Lesson 23 Reading

After seeing how the Bible was written and learning some of the crucial truths in the Bible, we should be very attracted to the Word of God. There should be an appreciation welling up from our spirit causing us to desire to devour the Word of God until our being is fully constituted with His word.

## **THE NEED TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE**

The Word of God is trustworthy. Not one word can be changed or annulled until it is fulfilled. Human words are not trustworthy because they are not eternal. Human feelings likewise fluctuate. We cannot depend on our words or our feelings. But what the Lord has spoken will be accomplished (Num. 23:19). We must accept the Word of God the way it is written.

We should agree with the Word of God. When God says something, it is right; it is established. If we do not presently agree with the Word of God, we will in eternity. When you say “Amen” to the word of God, all the promises of God will become real to you (2 Cor. 1:20).

We must believe the Word of God. Whatever the Lord spoke in the Bible is for us to enjoy and experience. There may be times when we think that what we read in the Bible is impossible. When this happens, the word spoken is not effective in our Christian life. We become weak and beggarly. Whenever we read the Bible, we must believe everything we read. If we lack understanding, we must pray and fellowship until we are clear. Never doubt the Word of God.

Where do we receive faith to believe the Word of God? Romans 10:17 says, “So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Galatians 3:2 and 5 tell us that we receive the Spirit and the Lord supplies to us the Spirit by the hearing of faith. We were born without faith. We cannot conjure up faith to believe. However, when we hear the word of God, faith is infused into our spirit. It creates an appreciation for what is

spoken. When we pray to the Lord according to what is spoken to us, we receive the reality conveyed by the word. If we accept the Lord's word by agreeing with it, believing it, acting on it, and praying according to it, whatever the Bible says becomes not only a promise to us but also an accomplished fact as a bequest to us. Hallelujah!

### **THE NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH IN THE BIBLE**

We also need to know the truth in the Bible. If we do not know the truth, we will not have the opportunity to accept, agree, believe, act, and pray. Therefore, it is imperative for us to know the truth in the Word.

We need to know the truth to be set free. The Lord said, "And you shall know the reality (truth), and the reality shall set you free" (John 8:32). At times, we may be bound by things of sin and the world, or we may be under unnecessary condemnation. The truth sets us free from the bondages of sin and the world.

The church of the living God is the pillar and base of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). [The pillar supports the building, and the base holds the pillar. The church is such a supporting pillar and holding base of the truth.] The church must be built with the truth and constituted with the truth; then she can be the pillar and base of the truth. If the church is full of worldly activities, she cannot display the truth. Truth is essential to the Body of Christ. Therefore, we all should endeavor to know the truth, not only for our own sake, but also for the sake of the church.

Ephesians 1:13 says, "In whom you also, hearing the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise." The word of the truth is the gospel of salvation. A person who is full of truth has much to preach. The truth of the word is crucial in preaching to unbelievers and in begetting and nourishing new believers.

### **THE NEED TO APPLY THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE**

Merely studying and knowing the truth is not enough; we need to apply the truth in our daily Christian life and in the church life. The truth is not only in the Bible; it has been interpreted and published for our benefit.

We need to study the interpreted truth to receive it into us. Then we need to experience the truth so that it becomes our reality. God “desires all men to be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:3-4). Getting saved is not enough; we need the full knowledge of the truth, the complete realization of the divine realities embodied in the Word. This full knowledge comes from knowing and experiencing the truth.

First, we need to apply the truth in our daily Christian life. We must believe that everything spoken of by the Lord is for our experience. If we have this view, we will experience the Lord according to His word in all our daily situations. Many times our experience does not match the Word. We should never say, “It is all right.” Nor should we say, “It is not possible.” We should simply repent and confess our shortcomings, then call on the Lord and pray-read His word. The Lord will save us and allow us to experience Him according to the truth of the Word. Second, we need to apply the truth in the church life. We must not be loose with the Word of God. Whatever the Lord says, we must do. We must practice according to the truth that is revealed in the Bible. We must hold on to the truth and practice accordingly.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Before reading this, what was your attitude toward the Bible?
2. Share an experience how the truth in the Bible has affected your life in a positive way.
3. How can the truth help us both in our daily Christian life and also in our church life?
4. What do you think is the most difficult to do in our lives - believe, know or apply the Bible? Why?