

Going Deeper into the Word

(Part 2)

Mark Hodgetts

Introduction

We are continuing with the theme, “Going Deeper”, and more specifically “Going Deeper into the Word”. The Bible is called “the Word”.

God told Joshua that giving attention to the Book of the Law (the “Bible” of the Old Covenant time) will result in a **prosperous** and **successful** life:

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your **mouth**, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may **be careful to do** according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way **prosperous**, and then you will have **good success**.”*

Joshua 1:8 [ESV]

Paul said that studying the Word can be **profitable**:

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable**...*

2 Timothy 3:16,17 [NKJV]

Going deeper into the Word will profit us by helping us to...

7. Deploy Discernment

Spiritual discernment is the ability to distinguish right from wrong, established on study of **God’s written Word** with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We need **God’s Word** in order to develop discernment:

*...Everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised **to discern both good and evil**.*

Hebrews 5:13,14 [NKJV]

*Teach me **good judgment**, wise and **right discernment** and knowledge, for I have believed (trusted, relied on and clung to) Your commandments.*

Psalms 119:66 [AMP]

We need to progress from discerning between what is good and what is bad, to discerning between what is good and what is **best**:

*...This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in **knowledge** and depth of **insight**, ¹⁰so that you may be able to **discern** what is **best**...*

Philippians 1:9,10 [NIV]

If we want to develop spiritual discernment through God’s Word, we need to have a balanced diet of Scriptures:

*The **whole Bible** was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us **what is true** and to make us realise **what is wrong** in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do **what is right**.*

2 Timothy 3:16 [TLB]

8. Define Beliefs

Christians are called believers, but many Christians are not sure what they believe.

Proper knowledge of the Bible will help us to order, arrange and describe our beliefs:

*...If anybody asks why you believe as you do, **be ready to tell him**, and do it in a gentle and respectful way.*

1 Peter 3:15 [TLB]

It appears that the early apostles had an orderly way of instruction or a “statement of faith”:

*...They devoted themselves to the **apostles’ teaching**...*

Acts 2:42 [ESV]

9. Deepen Character

The Word plays a vital role in producing the fruit of the Spirit, which is Christian character:

*...He who keeps (treasures) His Word [who bears in mind His precepts, who observes His message in its entirety], truly in him has the **love** of and for God been **perfected (completed, reached maturity)**...*

1 JOHN 2:5 [AMP]

*“I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that My **joy** might be your joy, and your joy **wholly mature**.”*

JOHN 15:11 [MSG]

*Grace and **peace** be yours in **abundance** through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

2 Peter 1:2 [NIV]

Giving attention to the teaching of God’s Word will guard and grow your character:

*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will **save** both yourself and your hearers.*

1 Timothy 4:16 [ESV]

10. Develop Growth

Studying the Bible should make you **grow spiritually**:

*Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the **whole measure of the fullness** of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will **no longer be infants**, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of **teaching**... ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things **grow up** into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

Ephesians 4:13-15 [NIV]

It is about become more like Jesus.

11. Dilate Faith

Studying the Word should “dilate”, expand and enlarge your faith:

*...**Faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Romans 10:17 [NKJV]

*...Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him. ⁷Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then **your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught**, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

Colossians 2:6,7 [NLT]

12. Dispense Power

There is power in God's Word:

*...The word of God is alive and **powerful**...*
Hebrews 4:12 [NLT]

We received the same powerful words that Jesus received from His Father:

*"...I have given to them the words **which You have given Me**; and they have received them..."*
John 17:8 [NKJV]

*"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will **ask what you desire**, and it shall be done for you."*
John 15:7 [NKJV]

13. Decide Action

Sound teaching brings sound believing and sound living:

*...As for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine. ²that the older men be **sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience**.*
Titus 2:1,2 [NKJV]

These words describe behaviour or actions.

14. Determine Destiny

We will not become victims of fate if we build our lives on God's Word:

*"Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of Mine is like a wise person who built a house on solid rock. ²⁵Rain poured down, rivers flooded, and winds beat against that house. **But it did not fall**, because it was built on solid rock."*
Matthew 7:24,25 [CEV]

We can find God's will and His plans for us as we study His Word:

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things **according to the counsel of His will**.*
Ephesians 1:11 [NKJV]

*...We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them**.*
Ephesians 2:10 [NKJV]

Let us go deeper into God's Word!

-oOo-