

SOLID ROCK #2 THE WORD

Our faith is based on the Word of God. By that we mean the Bible or written word. It was written originally in Hebrew and Greek with a small portion in Aramaic. Why do we put our faith in an ancient piece of literature? First let me tell you just a little about this book. It is the all time best seller, 2,500,000,000 copies printed since 1815. It is accessible to 98% of the world's people in their own languages. (Doesn't it seem reasonable that if God loved mankind, He would make the revelation of Himself available to all?) It is without a doubt the most loved and hated of all historical literature. There have been campaigns to destroy all copies in languages other than Latin. Many were burned at the stake for possessing it. The Britannica says it is probably the most influential collection of books in human history.

66 books written by about 40 different men from all walks of life, kings to shepherds, fishermen to physician, it tells one story. Written over a period of about 1600 years it tells of the beginning of time and the end. It is the best-preserved book of all historical works. Though attacked many times as to its authenticity, ancient manuscripts prove that it came down through history many times more accurate and closer to the original than all of the classic works of literature put together. Over 300 prophecies alone were fulfilled in the life of Christ, not generalizations but specifics. David in the Psalms prophesied of the details of the crucifixion before the Romans invented it. Daniel told of the coming world kingdoms by name.

That is a little bit of the evidence but rarely does this evidence alone convince anyone to believe. What does move the heart instead of the mind of man is the living Word. RHEMA is Greek for the spoken word, when God speaks to your heart, sometimes through the written word LOGOS, sometimes through a brother or sister, sometimes that still small voice of I Kings 19. This is the confidence it is God's Word. Does your spirit know that the Bible is God's Word? If not, ask Him to speak to your spirit so you will know. Psalms 4:4 Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still. Psalms 46:10 Be still and know that I am God. Jesus said John 6:63 The words I speak unto you are spirit and they are life. During the Spanish Inquisition many risked their lives and some gave their lives for the possession of a Bible. In Revelation 20:4 we read about those that were beheaded for the Word of God.

The Bible says of itself, 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God... "and 2 Peter 1:21 "For prophecy came not at any time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were born along by the Holy Spirit. "

In John chapter one we read that Jesus is the word of God made flesh. Jesus was a demonstration of the abundance of the heart of God that was ultimately displayed on the cross. Our grasp of the word of God is our relationship with the word made flesh. Not knowledge or conscience or obedience to rules but relationship. Never be too busy to listen to God. He wants your ear first because any sheep who hears his voice knows He is the Good Shepherd. John 10:1-5 voice = 'phone' in Greek

There are many voices in the heavenlies and there's a lot of competition for your thoughts. How do you know the voice your hearing is of God? 2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." What God tells you will never contradict the scriptures. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, Satan quoted scripture and Jesus answered with

scripture. Matthew 4:1-11. It is very important to understand the power of the Word to help you through this life. Hebrews 4:12 "For the Word of God is quick and effectual, and sharper than all two edged swords, and piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Ephesians 6:11-17 All our armor is the Word of God. Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

Some corrupt the Word of God. 2Corinthians 2:17 and 4:2. If someone tells you they are Christ returned, you know by Matthew 24:23-27 that they have some serious problems. If someone tells you they are an end time prophet, you know by Luke 16:16 that you need not listen any further. It is important to hide the Word in your heart so that you will not be deceived, not just the letter, the words themselves, but the spirit. Psalms 119:9,11 Hide it in your heart. Joshua 1:8 Meditate on it day and night. 1 Timothy 4:15 "Meditate upon these things, be in them that your profiting may appear in all things."

1 Peter 2:2 "As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby." Feed your spirit with it. Colossians 3:16 "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly,..." Let it fill you up to overflowing John 4 The water that I shall give you shall be in you a well of water springing up into eternal life. John 16:13 When the spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak. When something you hear doesn't ring true in your spirit don't agree even if everyone else does. Take it to the Word, check it out, seek and ye shall find. Acts 17:11 Paul talks about those who received the word with readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Let the word have its way with you completely. John 3:21 "He that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." James 1:21 Receive with meekness the implanted word which is able to save your souls. Let it have free course, 2Thessalonians 3:1. It will stand forever Isaiah 40:8. "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35. 1Peter 1:23-25 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the spoken word which by the gospel is preached to you."

It's alive, this Word of God, and HE created you to hear his voice and have friendship with him, Not just a friend but a friend that is closer than a brother. A friend that knows your every pain shares your every joy and knows your every need. But the relationship takes effort on your part, a commitment. Any relationship requires a commitment of time. Do you feed your body and starve your soul? How much time do you take to feed your physical body? Take time for the word to shine in your soul to show you what you need, to give you truth that lasts, to develop a friendship that will grow through all eternity.