

“If You Continue in My Word”

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: Focus on words of Jesus for clear understanding, to learn and grow from what He said to His Church.

Life Group Leader Lesson Preparation:

John 8:31-32 (King James Version)

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

- If you abide in, tarry (persevere); continue to the end, don't draw back (reference Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)
- If you hold fast to my teaching – Weymouth New Testament

John 8:29-30 – As Jesus was speaking of His relationship with Father, the scripture says many believed in Him, and if Jesus spoke these words to those Jews present who also heard and believed Him, how much more shall we, who are born of His spirit take heed to His word.

In another place He said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. – *John 14:15* (New King James Version)

Jesus also said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; - *John 14:23* (NKJV)

Continue in Jesus' words; continue in His thoughts, concepts and ideas.

You will be His disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

WEEK #1 – Continue in His Word ... His Word is Seed

Discussion Question: How do we guard our hearts to protect the word that has been sown?

Mark 4:2-9; 14-20 – The parable of the sower:

- They all heard the word
 - Wayside – they heard, but Satan comes immediately to steal the word
 - Stony Ground – they heard – but afflictions, persecutions, offenses came
 - Sown among thorns – they heard, but worldly cares, carnality, evil desires choked the word, and it became unfruitful
 - Good Ground – they heard, received it, and it (the word) brought forth fruit. They continued in His word.

Matthew 7:24-27 (MSG)

“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

“But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”

The Word can transform your life. As you continue in His word you will grow stronger and have the ability to do what God has called you to do in the earth. His truth will become your lifestyle of freedom, joy, and peace.

WEEK #2 – Make Room for His Word in Your Life

Discussion Question: Is God’s Word bringing vision and clarifying purpose in your life?

Colossians 3:16 (KJV) - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;

Be deliberate: Giving His Word access in your life. Welcoming the Word into your daily life will cause decisions and abilities to become easier, with His Word having first place in your life.

Isaiah 55:10-11(KJV) – ¹⁰ For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

1 John 2:14 (American Standard Version)... I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the evil one.

Being strong is connected to having the word of God abide or dwell in us. When we let God's word abide in us, it becomes the best medicine for our spirit, soul and body. It strengthens us and heals us.

Proverbs 4:22 - For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

WEEK #3 – You will Learn to Trust Him

Discussion Question: Do you believe God's promises are for us today? Give a personal testimony to the truth that His word is true.

God keeps His promises

God's promises are unfailing

- *1 Kings 8:56 (KJV)* - "Blessed *be* the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.
 - God kept his promises to Moses. He will do the same for you.

God is able to fulfill His Word

- *Romans 4:21 (KJV)* - And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform
 - It took Abraham 25 years to see the promise of God come to pass. Yet Abraham trusted Him.

God shares His divine nature with us through His promises

- *2 Peter 1:4 (New Living Translation)* - And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

You will learn to trust Him and lean not to your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV) - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

- *Hebrews 11:8* – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and forever
- *Numbers 23:19* – God is not a man that He should lie
- *Malachi 3:6* – For I Am the Lord, I do not change

Isaiah 55:8 (KJV) - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

WEEK #4 – You will have a fruitful prayer life

Discussion Question: How has continuing in His Word helped establish a quality prayer life for you personally?

The power of prayer based on His words abiding in you

John 15:7 (Revised Standard Version) - If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

Jesus gave instructions concerning prayer:

- *Luke 18:1 (NKJV)* – Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

- *Luke 21:36 (KJV)* - Watch ye therefore, and pray always, ...
- *Luke 9:18 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)* - While He was praying in private,
...

He led by example:

- *Luke 9:28 (NKJV)* - Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.
- *1 John 5:14 (NKJV)* - Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- *Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)* - Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Continue in His Word, take time to pray and meditate on the scriptures: it will transform your life!