



bits from bob....

## Hiding God's Word in your heart March 15, 2021

"The study of God's word, for the purpose of discovering God's will, is the secret discipline which has formed the greatest characters." -- J. W. Alexander

The psalmist wrote, "I have stored up your word in my heart so I will not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)

What does it mean to store up God's word in our heart? How? Do I? Do you? Do we? In the Old Testament, the kings wrote out their own copy of Scripture. How "in tune" are we to God's Word? How aware are we? Do we know the Bible? Do we know only a few selected verses?

Do we preach and teach the whole counsel of God? Or are there large sections of Scripture that we seldom or never touch?

The Bible describes Jesus as the Word of God (John 1:1). Jesus came as the living Word from God -- Jesus is God's communication to human beings. Jesus is God's logic (logos); He helps make sense of the world. The Bible is the written Word of God. The Bible is God's communication to his human creation. These two truths suggest that God has revealed himself to us in a living word (Jesus Christ) and in a written Word (the Bible). Both have the purpose of revealing God to us. In one sense, the written Word is the story of the living Word. These two messages or communications from God are not inconsistent; they are consistent. Our focus on the message of the written Word of God must not detract from the importance of the living Word. Nor can one ignore the written Word in favor of focusing only on the living Word. Finally, integrating these concepts means that God is not primarily giving us facts, instruction, and laws. He is revealing himself to us. Jesus makes the Father known. The Bible is the revelation of God.

The focus of this article is on the written Word of God, the Bible. Here are disciplines that can bring us closer to God through his Word.

- Read God's Word
- Study (and understand) God's Word
- Memorize God's Word
- Meditate on God's Word
- Apply God's Word
- Pray God's Word
- Listen to (hear) God's Word
- Personalize God's Word

If you would like a great resource to help you begin, may I mention again my book? *Dwelling in the Word: New Testament* is designed to help you read, study, meditate, apply, and pray God's Word. Reading the Bible with another person will help you listen. Memorizing Scripture, even randomly, will place God's word in your heart.

This book makes a great gift -- graduation, Mother's Day, Father's Day, weddings, anniversaries, new parents. The book is not based on the calendar year -- begin reading and praying the Bible at any time!

### HELP YOUR CHURCH FIND FAITH FOUNDATIONS IN THESE TIMES!

How quickly things change! Church leaders are rethinking, reinventing ministry dynamics. What aspects of church are important? What is non-essential? What must be done? In times of change, one commitment is essential -- Christians need help centering their lives on the unchangeable Word of God.

When a church dwells in the Word, faith foundations are secured -- even with restricted assemblies, limited fellowship, and social distancing.

The book, *Dwelling in the Word*, makes it easy for your church to dwell in God's Word. With a devotional for each chapter of the New Testament (260), families, small groups, Bible classes, entire churches will find guidance for the faith journey. Your members will fall in love with Scripture!

Request a preview packet and take advantage of publisher discounts: [www.jameskaypublishing.com](http://www.jameskaypublishing.com)

Now is an ideal time to learn how your church can begin to "Dwell in the Word."