

Subject: New Life from the Old Book

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:22-25

One of our great hymns begins with the words: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." It is true that all blessings come from God. Some come directly from God and some blessings come from God through secondary means. For example, when God gave you physical life He gave you that life through your father and mother. Another example is our daily food. God give us our food, but it doesn't drop down from heaven. God gives the sunshine and the rain which in turn produce the crops of fruits and vegetables that provide nourishment.

Our spiritual blessings come in the same way. The one we are reading and studying today is the blessing of new birth and new life. This is a precious gift of God. The new birth has been described as the life of God in the soul. And this gift of new life comes through the Word of God. The Scripture is the means by which God brings new life to the soul. That's what Peter is saying in verses 23-25.

1. The Word of God is the means of new birth

No one is born again independently of the Word of God. The Word must be planted within the human soul.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

James 1:17-18 ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

The will of God is the cause of the new birth. The Word of God is the means of new birth. A spiritual harvest of human souls is the result of new birth.

A supernatural birth requires a supernatural book which produces a supernatural life.

In our text Peter describes the Word of God as seed. But not just any kind of seed; it is incorruptible seed that lives and abides forever. There's no other seed like that. All other seed is corruptible, natural, limited. No other seed can produce the new birth.

God's Word is incorruptible, imperishable seed. The Word of God is living and enduring. It is alive and has the power to produce life.

In verse 24-25 of our text, Peter quotes from *Isaiah 40:6-8* ⁶ The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: ⁷ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. ⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

The life of all men is frail, temporary and passing, but the life of God's Word is eternal and powerful. It has the power to produce eternal life in our soul. That's why we must read and study and preach and teach and hear and obey the Word of God. Peter understood this. Paul understood this.

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

2. We must be diligent in receiving and sowing God's Word

If we must be born again to enter the kingdom of God, then we use the means God has given to produce the new birth. We must sow the incorruptible seed of God's Word and we must receive God's Word into our heart.

- A. We must be born again – ***John 3:1-10***
- B. We must be careful how we receive God's Word – ***Luke 8:4-15***
- C. We must be faithful to sow God's Word

2 Timothy 3:15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Sowing God's Word should take place in the home, in the church, in the community, and in the world. But it must begin in the home and the church.