

**DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD**

INTRODUCTION

The power that belongs to God is stored in the eternal resource of His own Word–The Bible! Our God is the God of all power! If we wish to draw upon His power, we must not neglect His Word! **(Hebrews 4:12)**

Martin Luther once said, “*The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.*” (Martin Luther, “Martin Luther–The Early Years,” *Christian History*, no. 34.)

Frank Minirth of the Minirth & Myer Clinic said, “*Living the Word of God is much more basic to helping people than psychology will ever be.*” (Frank Minirth, *Leadership*, Vol. 1, no. 4)

I. THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO CONVICT MEN OF SIN! (Acts 2:37; 5:33; 7:54; Romans 7:9; 1 Cor 14:24-25)

When we look back at what produced this deep conviction of sin, we will find that it was the Word of God preached by Peter and Stephen in the power of the Holy Spirit!

It is the Word of God, used by the Spirit of God, that pricks men’s hearts and minds!

Author Mark Twain once said, “*Most people are bothered by those Scripture passages which they cannot understand. But for me, the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I do understand.*” (Mark Twain, *Christian Reader*, Vol. 33, no. 5)

A. It Produces Conviction In The Sinner That Can Bring Them To Salvation!

B. It Produces Conviction In The Saint That Can Bring Them To Sanctification!

II. THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO GIVE NEW LIFE (REGENERATE)!(John 6:63; 1 Peter 1:23-25; James 1:18)

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We are to sow the seed of the Word of God and water the seed that has already been planted in order to see the increase that is produced by God! *1 Corinthians 3:6–“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”*

If a farmer doesn’t plant seeds, he will never harvest a crop. It doesn’t matter how weed-free his ground is; he must also plant and cultivate good seed.

In the same way, we can only reap a harvest of purity and integrity by planting the good seed of God’s Word into our lives!

The new birth is simply God imparting to us a new nature–His Divine nature!

The Word of God is the seed out of which God’s Divine nature springs up in the human soul!

III. THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO PRODUCE FAITH! (Romans 10:17)

We do not get faith by merely praying, by an effort of our will, or by trying to generate it in any way!

Faith is the effect of the Word of God in the soul!

A. The Word Produces Saving Faith. (Acts 16:30-34; John 7:17; 20:31)

We must do more than tell folks they must “believe,” we must give them something for their faith to rest upon!
i.e. The Word Of God!

The Word can even dispel the doubts of the skeptic!
(John 20:31; John 7:17)

B. The Word Produces Prevailing Faith! (Mark 11:24; 1 John 5:14-15)