

His Word

By Mary Kane



*"This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,
But you shall meditate in it day and night,
That you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.
For then you will make your way prosperous,
And then you will have good success."*

Joshua 1:8

I have always loved books! In order to foster a love for reading, before I was able to read on my own, my mom read to me at bedtime and naptime. She also took me and my sisters to the library on a regular basis to check out our own books. I also received books for Christmas and birthday presents. One book that I liked in particular was a very large children's Bible. I enjoyed looking at the pictures in that Bible because they were very dramatic and colorful.

When I was older, my sister Laura gave me my first personal copy of the Bible as a Confirmation present. As I made my way through my teenage years I read my Bible occasionally, but I found that I really couldn't understand what it was saying; it was as if the Bible was written in a foreign language. Despite my difficulties, I continued reading my Bible. Eventually, I went off to college and my Bible went with me.

The summer after my freshman year, I felt a strong longing to know God more deeply and began seeking Him. One day, on the way to work, by the testimony of my sister, I accepted Christ as my Savior. That night, I went home after work and **read** my Bible for the first time (how clearly I remember this)! By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures opened before my eyes as never before and I was able to understand what God was saying to my heart. I will never forget the excitement of

that moment and how I poured over God's Holy Word those summer nights. Lord, may I always approach Your Holy Word with the same passion and longing.

Now let's turn our attention to a few verses of Scripture and learn about how we can benefit from reading and applying God's Word in our own lives.

Please read Psalm 107:19-20.

Please fill in the missing word from verse 20:

" He _____ His word and healed them..."

The missing word according to the NKJV is *sent*. In the original Hebrew the word used for *sent* in this text is *shalach* which translates "to send, to send away, to direct, to be impelled." The idea in this case is that what is being sent has a commission to fulfill, a purpose.

What did God *send* according to verse 20?

What was the commission of His *word* in this verse?

God sent forth His word to *heal* the people. The word *heal* means: to make healthful, to heal the hurts of a nation and restore favor, to heal individual and personal distresses, to heal sicknesses or diseases, to sew or mend together, to heal a wound, to pardon, to comfort, to restore, to repair.

Please go back up to the above definition and highlight the part that is most meaningful to you at this moment.

Concerning the healing which comes by the Word of God, Matthew Henry states "He does it easily: *He sent his word and healed them*, v. 20. This may be applied to the miraculous cures which Christ wrought when he was upon earth, by a word's speaking; he said, *Be clean, Be whole*, and the work was done. It may also be applied to the spiritual cures which the Spirit of grace works in regeneration; he sends his word, and heals souls, convinces, converts, sanctifies them, and all by

the word. In the common instances of recovery from sickness God in his providence does but speak, and it is done."ⁱ

What kind of healing do you need right now?

Please read verse 20 again. Not only does God's Word heal us, but it also *delivers* us. *Deliver* means "to rescue, to escape, to deliver from danger, to preserve one's life."

How has God's Word brought deliverance to your life?

I am very thankful for the deliverance I have received! God's Word has delivered me from things past, present and future:

Past: His word has brought great healing to my soul from my own foolish decisions and sinful acts.

Present: His Word leads me day by day as I turn to Him in my daily Quiet Time. He guides me and keeps me from making harmful decisions as I seek His wisdom for situations as they arise.

Future: Because I have accepted Christ as my Savior, I no longer have to spend an eternity in hell. Ultimate deliverance!

What else has God's Word delivered us from according to verse 20?

Destructions... things that would destroy us; our choices, our sins, our failings, our weaknesses, the plots of wicked people and the schemes of the Enemy.

In the Old Testament, God provided healing to His people through His Word; "He sent His Word and healed them." You may be wondering if this type of healing ended with the closing of the Old Testament. Let's take a look in the New Testament and see what we can discover!

Please read Matthew 8:5-13.

What was the matter with the centurion's servant?

How did Jesus heal the centurion's servant?



Notice that the Centurion said that Jesus need "only speak a word." The KJV renders that phrase "but speak the word only." The centurion did not ask for a special pill or antidote; he did not ask for Jesus to come and touch the servant or say a particular prayer. Neither did he ask for a word from the disciples. He just asked for "a Word" from God. The centurion knew that the words of Jesus contained power and authority beyond measure. If Jesus spoke a command it would be accomplished, for His Word never came back empty.

The transliteration for *word* in this verse is *logos*, which refers to the whole of God's Word. It means, among many other things, "of speech, a word, uttered by a living voice, the sayings of God, the moral precepts of God, thoughts, maxims, decrees." In this case, *word* is referring to the power inherently contained within the words spoken by Jesus. This is why it is so important that we memorize God's Word and store it up in our hearts. God's Word is a powerful, living two-edged sword; it is the only agent that can change the human heart and transform our minds.

Through the centurion's encounter with Jesus we witness a whole new type of healing. Up to this point, people came to Jesus to be touched and healed by Him. But the centurion did not bring his servant to Jesus to be healed—the centurion came in his place. How did the centurion

know that Jesus had power and authority over sickness and could heal by speaking words? Perhaps the centurion had heard the marvelous stories of healings that were circulating throughout the region. Maybe he had overheard Jesus teaching the crowds. Perhaps the Holy Spirit revealed this information to the centurion and by faith, a Roman...an enemy and a gentile... brought healing to his servant because of his faith in the Word.

What kind of healing did the servant experience? If we look back in verse 6 we learn that the servant was "lying at home paralyzed and dreadfully tormented." After researching the original language, it seems as if the servant had recently suffered a stroke. The Greek word for *healed* used in this verse is *iaomai* which means to cure, to heal, to make whole, to free from errors and sins, to bring about salvation. I believe the servant was completely restored to physical health and may have also become a believer in Christ.

Go back to the previous paragraph and highlight the phrase "to make whole." When I was a young Christian, I used to be afraid that if I followed Jesus too closely that I would lose myself... that I would no longer be me, that I would lose my personality and become a Christian robot. That belief was a lie the Enemy used to try to keep me from becoming all that God created me to be. From the definition of the word *healed*, we see that it is only through Jesus that we become *whole* and who we are meant to be; our true selves. If you are seeking healing—look unto Jesus! But wait! Didn't we just prove that the *Word of God* brings healing? Please read John 1:1-3, 14.

Who is the Word?

Jesus is the Word. Do you see it? Do you understand? The more of God's Word we have, the more healing we will experience. Healing for our injuries, for sicknesses of body and soul, healing from bitterness and hatred and fear. The more Jesus we have, the more Word we have. The more Word we have, the more healing we will have. The Word=Jesus=healing and wholeness!

God's Word can transform our hearts and minds and heal us from destructions and disease.

What else does the Word do according to John 1:1-3?

The Word creates!

What do you need the Word to create in you?

A new attitude, a new hope, a new outlook on life? Whatever you wrote in the space above, find a Bible verse that pertains to that subject and memorize it. Then *speak* that verse into your circumstances. For example, I have often struggled with fear so I have memorized a few different verses pertaining to fear. When I find myself becoming fearful I'll say out loud, "Lord, your Word promises that You did not give me a Spirit of fear, but of power, sound mind and love, therefore, I am choosing to trust you and move ahead rather than give way to fear." I can testify that this method works.

Why do we need to speak God's Word aloud? Isn't thinking His Word enough? Let's look at the example that Jesus set in scripture. How did Jesus create the universe or bring healing to a person? He *spoke*. He didn't *think* the universe into being or *think* health to a needy person. He spoke. We need to do the same; we need to speak God's Word into our prayers, circumstances, needs and praises. We also need to speak His Word over our spouses and children, claiming for them the promises of God's Word.

Let's look at another amazing promise from God's Holy Word. Please read Psalm 19:7

List two things God's Word does according to this verse:

His Word converts the soul and it makes wise the simple! I have desperately needed both of these promises in my life! Not only did God save me, but He saved me from my own foolishness. We must take a deep look at the word *foolish*. In the original language *foolish* means "foolish, simple, open minded, naïve." It also means "folly, a silly person, one easily persuaded and enticed" (*Brown-Driver-Briggs*). This word also refers to a person who believes every word they hear. Like me, if you have ever been easily enticed into doing something extremely foolish and stupid, let this verse bring you great hope! There is hope after foolishness...you can become wise! Reading, studying and applying God's Word will make you wise (when you finish this study you will be smarter than when you started!!)

Let's look at one final scripture as we close our study time for today. Please read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

How do the Scriptures benefit Christians?

And why was scripture given to us?

That we may be healed, strengthened, completed, corrected, educated and equipped to serve God with all of our hearts.

What have we learned today about God's Word?

- Our level of faith in God's Word is directly proportional to the amount of healing we will experience in our lives (Matthew 8:13). Our faith in God's Word can also bring healing to others.

- The more we incorporate God's Word into our hearts and souls the healthier we will become; the simple will be wise, the lame will leap, the deaf will hear and the dead will live again!
- God's Word equips us to effectively serve Him.
- Speaking God's Word into our circumstances will greatly impact the outcome of these circumstances.
- God's Word will transform our character and cause us to experience great victory over our sin, our flesh and the Enemy.

Are there any other benefits that you'd like to add?

Please let me close in prayer:

Dearest Holy Father,

We thank you so much for the gift of Your Holy Word. May Your Holy Word be more valuable to us than precious gold. Help us to love and delight in your Word so we will seek it each day, with all of our hearts. May we be like Samuel in that we will not let "one of your words fall to the ground."

Amen.

(To access several wonderful study tools please go to www.blueletterbible.org)

By Mary Kane

All rights reserved

Copyright 2011

ⁱ Henry, Matthew. "Commentary on Psalms 107." . Blue Letter Bible. 1 Mar 1996. 2011. 2 Jan 2011.
<[http:// www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?
AuthorID=4&contentID=1230&commInfo=5&topic=Psalms&
ar=Psa_107_20](http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=4&contentID=1230&commInfo=5&topic=Psalms&ar=Psa_107_20) >