

Day 20 - A Word Filled Life Offers True Security

Despise God's Word and find yourself in trouble. Obey it and succeed.
—Proverbs 13:13 (TLB)

As Christians, we have the Spirit of God in us. But ours is the responsibility to keep sin out of our lives so that the Spirit can produce His fruit in us. Become grounded in the Bible. As Christians, we have only one authority, one compass: the Word of God. Abraham Lincoln in a letter to a friend said, "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance upon faith. You will live and die a better man." Begin the day with the Book; and as the day comes to a close, let the Word speak its wisdom to your soul. Let it be the firm foundation upon which your hope is built. Let it be the Staff of Life upon which your spirit is nourished. Let it be the Sword of the Spirit which cuts away the evil of your life and fashions you in His image and likeness.

One of our great responsibilities as individuals is to protect those we love. One of my great duties as a husband is to protect my wife and children. This duty and responsibility shows up as we lock the doors at night, listen to weather advisories, remind them to buckle up, watch for suspicious characters when we drop them off places, warn them to be careful - all because we love them and want to protect them. ***Constant vigilance is needed to keep our freedom and safety secure physically.***

Additional Reading

A safe, secure, and liberated life is described in God's Word as 'word filled'. As Paul said, a Spirit filled believer has the Word richly dwelling or filling them. But how is that possible? To find out we need to turn our hearts to Psalm 119. There EZRA explains the secret of maintaining a Word Filled Life - the only sure protection in the dark spiritual forests of life into which we -- and our loved ones, must walk each day.

Our focus is that Old Testament Giant of the Faith - EZRA. His testimony is the 119th Psalm. He gives us in these 176 verses the content of his personal HABITS or RESPONSES to the Lord, and his personal resolves or HOPES in the Lord.

Ezra's testimony is in two areas: his habits (the "I have's") and hopes (the "I will's"), or to put it differently - his spiritual responses and his Scriptural resolves!

A Word-Filled Life is a Life with Habits of Scriptural Responses

First, Ezra shares in Psalm 119 a list of his Habits or SPIRITUAL RESPONSES he had cultivated toward the Lord.

A Word-Filled Life is a Life with Habits of Scriptural Resolves

Ezra also shares in Psalm 119 a list of his Habits or RESPONSES he had cultivated toward the Lord. Secondly, he records his hopes or RESOLVES

So how do we adopt Ezra's strategy? Here are some elements to practice getting alone with God.

- **START WITH HIM:** Try to spend at least 12 minutes each day in reading God's Word and seeking to find one truth to hold on to all day long.
- **SPEAK WITH HIM:** From that time alone with God, think through your entire day. Ask HIM what would be the best use of your life for this day.
- **STOP WITH HIM:** Try to also get in the habit of a weekly time of evaluation. Just a half hour reflecting on where you are, and where you are headed in life and ministry.
- **STAY WITH HIM:** Finally, try one time of strategic planning each month, to truly reflect on life for a couple of hours. Take a spiritual retreat. Sit with a pad of paper, your calendar, and an open Bible. List your priorities for the next month. Pray over them, change them, decide upon them and then do them!

Prayer

Father, teach me Your way this week. Teach me to fully depend on your word not just for affirmation but for every aspect of my life. Lord, let your word dwell and fill me today let it give me wisdom and guidance. Let your word fill my heart so your Spirit can bear fruit inside me. Thank you for your word, thank you for showing me the way through your word. Thank You for Your peace that surpasses all understanding as I place my confidence in You and believe You are at work in my life.