

## ***God's word is the source of life.***

Physical life originates from the word of God. "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind'; and it was so" (Genesis 1:24). "And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

Even more important is the spiritual life that emanates from God's word. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In

Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1-4).

God's word is a necessity of life. Moses said to Israel: "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD" (Deuteronomy 8:3 // Matthew 4:4 // Luke 4:4).

God's word *is* our life: "Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, and he said to them: 'Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe - all the words of this law. For it is not a futile thing for you, because it *is* your life, and by this

word you shall prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess'" (Deuteronomy 32:45-47).

Many times God's people did not listen to His word, which resulted in spiritual death and sometimes also physical death, when God allowed them to be punished by hostile armies.

Yet the life force was always available in God's word. Even when their condition appeared hopeless, new life was possible if they repented. In Ezekiel this is expressed in a powerful way: "The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the

open valley; and indeed *they were very dry*" (Ezekiel 37:1, 2).

In ancient times, after a terrible battle, thousands of corpses were sometimes simply left lying. The vultures came to peck away the rotting flesh and finally, piles of dry bones remained, a ghastly sight.

While Ezekiel examines a valley full of dry bones, God asks him: "Son of man, can these bones live?" Ezekiel is then given a strange assignment: "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'" The word of God can bring life even to dry bones: "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then

you shall know that I *am* the LORD” (Ezekiel 37:3-6).

Ezekiel continues: “So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was no breath in them*” (Ezekiel 37:7, 8). Now it is even more repulsive! A valley full of bones is bad enough, but now we have a valley full of corpses. What God has done is tremendous, but there is no sign of life.

“Also He said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied

as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army" (Ezekiel 37:9, 10).

What is the meaning of this? "Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, "Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!" Therefore prophesy and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and

performed *it,*' says the LORD''''  
(Ezekiel 37:11-14).

By sending His Son Jesus Christ, God has made this promised resurrection available to Israel and to all nations.

The apostles were witnesses of His life-giving power and made it known through holy Scripture. John wrote: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our

fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).

Jesus had promised: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live" (John 5:24, 25). "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life" (John 6:63).

Peter said to Jesus: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

After the ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit, His apostles were commanded to proclaim



the gospel, the good news of life, to all: "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life" (Acts 5:20).

The non-Jews could also have life through Christ. When certain Jews refused to listen to the message, Paul and Barnabas said to them: "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:46-48).

By the power of God's word, they who believe in Jesus can be born again: "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because 'All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever.' Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:22-25).

Once we are spiritually born again through the word of Christ, we as God's children must hold on to that word: "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you

may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain" (Philippians 2:14-16).

God's word is the source of both physical and spiritual life. God's word *is* our life. He who is spiritually dead like dry bones, can live again through the power of God's word. Jesus came to give life. Whoever listens to His word can be reborn and whoever adheres to His word will inherit eternal life.

Amen.

Roy Davison

<http://www.oldpaths.com/RD>