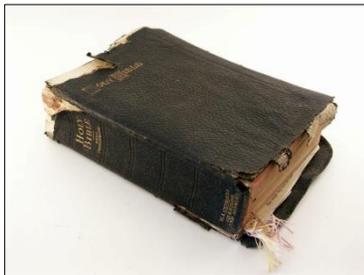


Weaving the Word

Word Play

Part 2 – November 3, 2013

I find something very odd: believers often say “God doesn’t speak to me, doesn’t answer me; I don’t hear His voice,” but, asked how often they read His Word, they’ll usually say, “Not much. I’m not the Bible student type.” What’s so *odd* is the failure to see the obvious connection.



There’s a direct correlation between those who truly hear and those who faithfully read.

The Bible is God’s autobiography, diary, plans, purpose, and revealed will ... for you. What more do you want? Seriously. God *himself* has sent you the ultimate text message!

It’s the only book with One Author and 40 ghost writers.



They didn’t use pen and parchment like a Ouija Board; that’s how the devil works. Possession. Domination. Deception. Control.

God empowered and inspired their convictions, compassions, and concerns, so that even as they wrote, God was breathing into being something greater than the sum of its parts.

The same way He got His Word out of *them*, He’ll get it *into* you.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped ... – 2 Timothy 3:16-17a NIV

See all that? It’s all about guiding and directing and instructing and leading and all the things we need when we want God to talk! **God most often speaks by bringing a scripture to mind.** He speaks through people and circumstances and a still, small, inner voice but, **God chiefly speaks through the Word He’s already spoken.**

I want to be like Hewho in the Bible. And, if you’re wondering who Hewho is, then that’s the proof you need to know your Bible better; because, Jesus refers to him over and over.

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” – Luke 8:8 NIV (also Mat. 11:15, 13:9, 13:43, Mark 4:9; Luke 14:35; Rev. 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22, 13:9)

“He who belongs to God hears what God says.” – John 8:47a NIV

I want to be like Hewho!

If I want to have ears that'll hear and be led, I'll need willing eyes that'll see what He said.



When Jesus spoke of the yeast of the Pharisees, His disciples thought He was talking about bread, and so He challenged them ...

“Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?” – Mark 8:18a NIV

Same question He asks all His disciples. He compares His kingdom to treasure buried in a field. (Mat 13:44)

Yet, He warns of the servant who buried the treasure entrusted to him. (Mat 25:18)



We're expected to discover it *and* invest it. The master tells the servant he should have deposited his money for the interest. (Mat 25:27) **You can't draw from an empty account.** Would you try to withdraw from a bank account that you've made no deposits into?

Likewise, **we can't draw on God's Word if we neglect to deposit its riches into our heart and mind.** That's your *memory bank*.

[King David said] I have hidden your word in my heart [The NAS says, “treasured in my heart”] that I might not sin against you. – Psalm 119:11 NIV

You see, **God's Word must be laid up like treasure in our hearts.**

“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.” – Matthew 12:35 NIV



So, **what're you storing up?** Because, **when you call on God, that's what He'll use to speak and strengthen and support you.**

Satan has a simple strategy: starvation. *Spiritual* starvation. **Not to death, doesn't need to, just to weakness and confusion.** If you could only use persuasion, manipulation, and deception, how would you convince the famished not to dive into this feast?



How could you persuade 'em to just sit there and starve? I don't know. Seems impossible.

Which of these pictures do you think best represents the treasures and pleasures found in God's Word? And, on a scale of one to ten, how much do you think you need them in your life? So, tell me, *how's* he doing it?!

“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ... how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” – Matthew 7:9, 11b NIV

Jesus isn't just bread, He's *restaurant bread!* Jesus is the kind of bread that when you actually taste it, and begin to consume it, it makes you sorry that you ordered anything else!



Everything on the menu was so tempting when you ordered. But then, *that bread!* so good, with the steam, and the pulling apart, and the salted butter, and the melting.

And once you've got the taste you can't stop! And, **the more you eat, the less appealing all that tempting menu food becomes.**

You know who *really loves* Jesus-bread? *Hewho.* Jesus said ...

“... he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven ... He who eats this bread will live forever.” – John 6:57b-58 NKJ

And, do you remember what Jesus said to Satan in the wilderness, when Satan tempted Him to turn the stones into *regular* bread?

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” – Matthew 4:4 NIV

What's Jesus' first name? I mean His *original*, very-first name?

[Look how John begins his gospel] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. – John 1:1 NIV

[In Revelation John simply says] ... his name is the Word of God. – Revelation 19:13, 16 NIV

Jesus is the bread that came down from heaven, *and* the Word that came from the mouth of God.

The Word of God *is* the Bread of Life!

So, **we're not *feeding* on Jesus until we're consuming the Word.** And ***this* is what Satan pulls out all the stops to rob you of, to starve you from, to tempt you and trick you from receiving.**



Beware! On guard! **Don't let him do to you what he did to Adam and Eve!** Jesus, the living expression of God's Word, the eternal life-giving bread, has restored that intimate garden-presence of God. **Just as Satan swindled us out of the garden, he's trying to con you into keeping out!**

Do you see what I mean when I said what's so odd is the failure to see the obvious connection between His Word and His voice? It's like we've been blinded.

Whatever barrier to the Bible you've bought into, it's a lie, a deception, a trick.

That Bible is dull? What a joke! Difficult? Absolutely! **It wasn't designed to be easy, it was designed to be exciting!** Thrilling. Inspiring. Challenging. Puzzling. Rewarding. But, easy? That's just dumb.

Who wants a mystery that's easy to solve?

A video game with no levels?

A sport that offers no challenge or goal?

A puzzle already put together?

A novel with no conflict?

A movie with no climax?

Why do we climb mountains, dive oceans, and dig for treasure?

We're hardwired to play hard!

God's Word offers the best of *everything* we desire, but our eyes are blinded by the lies of our foe, because he and his know what'll happen once you get a taste for *that bread!*



Next Sunday we're weaving together the Gospel stories of Jesus' baptism, from the New Testament accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

So, you can pick up a set of color-coded scriptures, with instructions, in the back, or download a Word document at: hpWordPlay.com

Cut and paste and piece 'em together into one blended story.

It won't feel like learning; it'll feel like Word play.