



The Word at Work

The Spirit & The Word

Reading the Word

Key Texts: Genesis 1:1-3; Acts 8:31; John 16:13; John 4:23-24

Understanding the Word

Note the relationship between the Spirit and the spoken word

Genesis 1:2 the Spirit hovered, waited

Genesis 1:3 God spoke and immediately something amazing happened

The (spoken) word was like the spark which ignited the flame.

Acts 2:4 this time the Spirit initiates and the words follow, both tongues and boldness in preaching/testifying (see Acts 2:14ff, 40)

When the Spirit and the word mix something happens – unpredictable but always to God's glory

1. The Spirit helps us engage with the word

Context: Acts 8:26-39. Compare v.31 with John 16:13. The Holy Spirit wants to be our guide.

2. The word helps us engage with the Spirit

John 4:23-24: The word can help us be those who worship in *Spirit and truth*.

A particular aspect: thanksgiving, praise and worship using the Bible

Addressing the danger of passivity. Application and perseverance are required: see Hebrews 13:15, Psalm 34:1, Ephesians 5:20.

We can use a scripture to help us focus on God and stir us in our faith (see below). It reminds us of things to thank and praise him for.

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. How can we ensure we are both people of the word and people of the Spirit?
2. Share practical examples of the Spirit giving you understanding of scripture and/or the use of the word to engage with the Holy Spirit.

To Do: {As a group}

3. Read Romans 8:31-39 together. Respond to the words you read. Spend some time thanking and praising God together using the verses you've read. Allow the Holy Spirit to stir you as you lift your hearts and voices in worship.

To Do: {As an individual}

4. Try repeating 3. on your own using different scriptures. Try Psalm 111 or Ephesians 1:3-6 or whatever you are currently reading. Make a habit of doing this.