

# Kept by the Word

In the Christian life everything depends upon the Word of God !  
It is true that God is able and desires to keep us from sinning, but this must be done through His Word.

So it is written, “By the Word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.” “**Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.**” This is the way that God has appointed and there is no other way to have this thing accomplished.

Nor is this way appointed merely because He arbitrarily chose that this should be the way and then laid it upon men that this must be the way that they should go. **His Word is the Way** of salvation and the Way of sanctification (Christian living) because this is the way that the Lord does things, because this is the Way that He manifests Himself. (ref: John 1:14, I Timothy 3:16).

It was by His Word that He created all things in the beginning. It is by His Word that He creates men anew, and it will be by His Word that He will recreate this world and all things pertaining to it. “**By the Word of the LORD were the heavens made and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth . . . .** For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

“**Being born again. . . by the Word of God.**” “And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new. . . . And He said unto me, **It is done !**” ref: I Peter 1:23 & Revelation 21:5-6

It is not only that the worlds were created by the Word of God, but they are also sustained by the same Word. “**By the Word of God the heavens were of old**, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water; whereby [by the Word of God] the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, **by the same Word** are kept in store.” II Peter 3:5-7.

So also it is not only that the Christian is created by the Word of God, but by that same Word he is sustained, nourished, and caused to grow. God holds up “all things” by His powerful Word. And the Christian is among this “all things” no less than any or all the worlds.

There can be no question whatever that all the worlds are held up and held in their places by the Lord. But it is not only all the worlds, it is “all things” that are held up and held in place by the Lord. And it is as true of the Christian as it is of any star in the firmament or any world on high. Nor can there be any question that the stars and the worlds are held up and held in their courses **by the Word of the Lord**. And no less than this can there be any question that the Christian is held up and held in his right course by the Word of the Lord.

This is to be believed and depended upon ! . . . by every one who professes the name of Christ. You and I can no more hold ourselves up and in the right way than can the sun or the earth. And as certainly as the worlds are dependent upon His Word, so certainly is the Christian to depend upon His Word. And when this is so, the Christian is kept in the way of the Lord as certainly and as easily as is any planet in the universe.

It is written that He “**is able to keep you from falling !**” (Jude 1:24). And He says;  
“I will uphold thee with the Right hand of My righteousness.” “Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand !” Isaiah 41:10, Romans 14:4

O struggling, failing Christian, is not that Word which holds up great worlds able also to hold

up you? **Trust that Word.** Depend implicitly upon it. Rest wholly upon it, and then you will find rest in it. (ref: Hebrews 3-4:10).

Trust the Lord to hold you up, just as you trust Him to hold up the sun. His Word holds up the sun, and His Word is over and over to you, "**Fear thou not; for I am with thee.**" "**I will uphold thee. I will keep thee, thou art Mine !**"

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." "I will never leave thee till I have done that thing which I have spoken to thee of !" Genesis 28:15.

**"The Word of God is quick (Living) and powerful."** "Powerful" means "**full of power !**"

The Word of God is living and full of power, to do for you, with you, and in you, all that that Word says. Believe that Word, trust it, for it is the Word of the Living God. It is the Word of the pitying Saviour. "Receive with meekness **the engrafted Word, which is able to save your soul.**" "I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, Which is able to build you up." "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly."

*For* you "are kept by the power of God through faith." **The power of God is manifested through His Word** and therefore it is His powerful Word. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God; therefore, it is the faithful Word, **the Word full of faith.**

Therefore when He says, you "are kept by the power of God through faith," it is only saying in another way, You are kept by the Word of God, "unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." **Believe that Word, trust It, and find It's keeping power.**

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### **The Power of the Word-I**

"As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater. (ref: Deuteronomy 32:2, Matthew 13:3-23, Luke 8:10-12, John 6:27-58)

**... So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please,** and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

The earth can bring forth vegetation only because of the moisture that comes upon it by the rain or the snow from heaven. Without this, everything would fade and perish. So also is it with the life of man and the Word of God. Without the Word of God the life of man is as barren of power and of good as is the earth without rain. But only **let the Word of God fall upon the heart** as the showers upon the earth; then **the life will be fresh** and beautiful in the joy and peace of the Lord, and fruitful with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ.

Notice, too, it is not you who are to do that which He pleases; but, "**It shall accomplish that which I please,**" You are not to read or hear the Word of God, and say, I must do that, I will do that. (Exodus 19:8).

You are to open the heart to that Word, that It may accomplish the will of God in you. It is not you who are to do it, but It. "**It,**" the Word of God itself, **is to do it**, and you are to let It. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." Colossians 3:16.

This is stated in another place thus: “When ye receive the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in Truth (Verity), **the Word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe!” I Thessalonians 2:13.

Thus it is the Word of God that must work in you. You are not to work to do the Word of God: the Word of God is to work in you to cause you to do. “Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily.” (ref: Colossians 1:29, Philippians 2:13).

**The Word of God** being **Living and full of power**, when It is allowed to work in the life, there will be powerful work wrought in that individual. As this Word is the Word of God, the power of which is full, is only the power of God; (ref: John 6:63) and when that Word is allowed to work in the life, there will be the work of God manifested in the life - it is His power working mightily ! And thus it is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. “**It shall accomplish that which I please.**” Let it !

From these scriptures it is plain that we are expected to look upon the Word of God only as self-fulfilling. The Word of God is self-fulfilling. This is the great Truth presented everywhere in the Bible. This is the difference between the Word of God and the word of men. And this is just the difference emphasized in the passage that says, “When ye received the Word of God, . . . ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in Truth, **the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe !**”

There is no power in the word of a man to do what it says. Whatever may be the man's ability to accomplish what he says, there is no power in the man's word itself to accomplish what he says. A man's word may express the easiest possible thing for him to accomplish, and you may thoroughly believe it, yet it is altogether dependent upon the man himself to accomplish it apart from his word. It is not his word that does it. It is he himself that must do it; and this just as really as though he had spoken no word at all. Such is the word of men.

**It is not so with the Word of God** (ref: John 15:7). When the Word is spoken by the Lord, there is at that moment in that Word the Living power to accomplish what the Word expresses. It is not needed that the Lord employ any shadow of any other means than that Word itself to accomplish what the Word says. The Bible is full of illustrations of this, and they are written to teach us this very thing, -that we shall look upon the Word as **the Word of God**, and not as the word of men; and that we may receive it thus as it is in Truth (Verity), the Word of God, that **It may work** effectually in us the will and good pleasure of God.

“By the Word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.... For He spake, and it was !” “**Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**” At first there were no worlds at all. More than this, there was none of the materials of which the worlds are made. There was nothing. Then God spoke, and all the worlds were in their places.

**From whence came the worlds, then ?**

Before He spoke, there were none; after He spoke, there they were !

**Whence, then, did they come?** What produced them? What produced the material of which they are composed? What caused them to exist? It was the Word which was spoken that did it all ! And this Word did it all, because it was the Word of God. There was in that Word the divinity of Life and Spirit, **the** creative power, to do all that the Word expressed. Such is the Word of God !

“**And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you.**” The Word of God in the Bible is the

same, -the same in Life, in Spirit, in Creative Power, -precisely the same, as that Word that made the heavens and all the host of them.

It was Jesus Christ Who spoke the Word at creation; **it is He Who speaks the Word in the Bible**. At creation the Word which He spoke made the worlds; in the Bible the Word which He speaks saves and sanctifies the soul. In the beginning the Word which He spoke created the heavens and the earth; in the Bible the Word which He speaks creates in Christ Jesus the man who receives that Word. In both places, and everywhere in the work of God, it is the Word that does it. *ref: John 14:10.*

**Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly**. Receive it, not as the word of men, but as **it is in Truth**, the Word of God, which effectually (efficient, mightily, full of power) worketh also in you. Then, “as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and **maketh it bring forth and bud**, that it may give Seed to the sower, and bread to the eater . . .

So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: It shall not return unto Me void, but It shall accomplish that which I please, and It shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” **“To you is the Word of this Salvation sent.”** Acts 13:26.

“And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which **is able** [literally, ‘full of power’] to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” John 1:14, Acts 20:32.

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## **The Power of the Word-II**

We have seen that the power abiding in the Word of God is sufficient, only upon the speaking of that Word, (ref: Romans 10:8-10) to create worlds. It is likewise sufficient, now that It is spoken to men, **to create anew**, in Christ Jesus, every one who receives It !

In the eighth chapter of Matthew it is related that a centurion came to Jesus, “beseeching Him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, **Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed.** . . ! And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.”

Now what was it that the centurion expected would heal His servant? It was **“the Word only,”** which Jesus would speak. And after the Word was spoken, what did the centurion depend upon--to what did he look for the healing power? It was “the Word only.” He did not look for the Lord to do it in some ways apart from the Word. No. He heard the Word, **“So be it done unto thee.”** He accepted that Word as it is **in Truth** (Verity) the Word of God and expected It, depended upon It, to accomplish that which It said.

**And it was so!** And that Word is the Word of God today as certainly as in the day that it was originally spoken. It has lost none of It’s power, for that Word **“Liveth and abideth forever !”** I Peter 1:23-25

Again in John 4:46-52 it is related how a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum came to Jesus at Cana of Galilee and “besought Him that He would come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death. Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. The nobleman saith unto Him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth! **And the man believed the Word that Jesus had spoken unto him**, and he went his way. And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. So the father knew that it was at the same hour in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth.” (ref: Luke 4:32).

This is the power of the Word of God to the man who receives it as it is in Truth the **Word of God**. This is the power that “**effectually worketh also in you that believe.**” (I Thessalonians 2:13). This is the way that the Word of God accomplishes that which He pleases, in those who will receive it and let it dwell in them. Notice that in both instances the thing was accomplished at the very time when the Word was spoken. Notice also that the sick ones were not in the immediate presence of Jesus but some distance away--the latter was at least a day's journey away from where Jesus was spoken to by the nobleman. **Yet he was healed at once when the Word was spoken!**

And **that Word** is living and full of power today, as certainly as it was that day, to every one who receives it (I Peter 1:23-25) as was done that day. **It is faith** to accept that Word as the Word of God and to depend upon it to accomplish the thing that it says.

For of the centurion when he said, “**Speak the Word only and my servant shall be healed,**” Jesus said to them that stood around, “I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Let Him find it now everywhere in Israel.

Jesus says to every one of us, “**Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.**” It is through the Word that this cleansing is wrought. (also ref: Ephesians 5:26).

The Lord does not propose to cleanse you in any way apart from His Word, but through the Word which He has spoken. There and there alone are you to look for the cleansing power, receiving it as It is in Truth the Word of God which effectually worketh in you and accomplishes that which He pleases. He does not propose to make you pure except by the power and indwelling of His pure (Life giving) Words.

A leper said to Jesus, “**Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.**” And Jesus answered Him, “I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” Are you mourning under the leprosy of sin? Have you said or will you now say, “Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean?” The answer is now to you, “**I will; be thou clean !**” (ref: Hebrews 9:13-14, Revelation 1:4-5, Colossians 1:14-15). And “immediately” you are cleansed as certainly as was that other leper.

Believe the Word, and praise the Lord for It's cleansing power. Do not believe for that leper away back there; believe it for yourself here, **Now**, immediately. For the Word is to you now, “**Be thou clean !**”

Accept It as did those of old and **immediately** It worketh effectually in you the good pleasure of the Father. Let all who have named the name of Christ receive His Word today as it is in Truth the Word of God, depending upon that Word to do what the Word says.

Then as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it, “**that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word**, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish,” even so it will be now to the glory of God.  
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## Living by the Word

“Now the righteousness (character) of God without (aside from) the law is manifested, **being witnessed by the law and the prophets**; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:21-22.

The righteousness of God is that which every man is to seek first of all. **“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.”** (Matthew 6:33 & Jeremiah 23:5-6). **“And in the way of righteousness there is life.”** Proverbs 12:28. It is impossible to separate the Life of God from the Righteousness of God. As certainly as you have the Righteousness of God, so certainly you have the Life of God.

And **“now the righteousness of God is made known.”** Now is at this time, at this very moment, even while you read. At this very moment, then, the righteousness of God is manifested **“unto all, and upon all them that believe.”** Romans 3:22 and 4:11. Do you believe in Jesus Christ now, at this moment? **Do you?** If you say, Yes, then **“now,”** at this very moment, the righteousness (character) of God is made known to you and upon you (John 3:16-17, II Corinthians 4:6). **Do you believe it?**

The Word of God says that it is; **do you say that it is?** And if you do not say that it is, then do you believe the Word? When the Lord says plainly to you that His righteousness is **“Now”** manifested unto you and upon you and you do not say that it is now manifested unto you and upon you, then **do you really believe the Lord?**

When He plainly says a thing to you and you will not say that that thing is true to you, then do you really believe Him?

The Lord wants you to say that what He says is so; that it is so **“Now,”** at this moment, and that it is so to you and in you. **“A new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in Him and in you.”** When the Lord says a thing, it is True, even though nobody in the world ever believes it. It would be true in Him, but not in them. But He wants it to be true in you as well as in Himself. And when you acknowledge that what He says is true to you **“now,”** at this moment, then that thing is true in Him and in you. This is believing God. **It is believing His Word.**

This is having His Word abiding in you. And, **“If ye abide in Me and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”** John 15:4-7.

Many people are ready to admit, in a general way, that what the Lord says is so; they will admit that it may be so to other people, but that it is so to themselves, **just now**, they will not say. Such people do not really know that the Word of God is true. **“Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God.”**

If you do not have faith for yourself, faith of your own, you do not have faith at all. If you do not believe the Word of the Lord as being true to you personally and now, you do not believe It at all; for as you are not living yesterday nor tomorrow but just now, **while it is now**, (Today, if ye will hear His voice . . .) so if you do not believe now, you do not believe at all!

**Therefore the Word of God is that “Now is the accepted time; Now is the day of Salvation !”** (deliverance, rescue, safety, health, healing), II Corinthians 6:2. And, **“Now the righteousness of God . . . is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.”**

**Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour now?**

You can answer that in one moment; you know that you do. Then this moment thank the Lord that His righteousness is manifested unto you and upon you.

He not only says it but He gives you witnesses to the fact--it is witnessed by the law and the prophets. That

law which you have transgressed, **that law** that has shown you guilty before God, that very law “**now**,” in view of the manifestation of the righteousness of God, witnesses that you have a just claim to this righteous-ness and that you are thereby justified through the faith of Jesus Christ !

The prophets likewise witness to this blessed fact. “The moment the sinner believes in Christ, he stands in the sight of God uncondemned; for the righteousness of Christ is his; Christ's perfect obedience is imputed to him.” Is not this, then, sufficient to cause you to say now, at this moment if never before, that “now the righteousness of God is manifested” unto you and upon you who now do believe in Jesus?

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (reconciliation, atoning Victim, expiatory, specifically the lid of the Ark, Mercy Seat) **through faith in His blood**, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.” Romans 3:24-25.

Would you rather have the righteousness of God now than to have your sins? You say, Yes. Very good. God has “now” set forth Christ Jesus “to declare” to you “His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past.”

**Will you let the sins go now**, this moment; and take the righteousness which He is set forth purposely to give and which He now, this moment, freely gives? “**Being justified freely**.” “Being” is present tense. “was” is past; “shall be” is future; but “**Being**” is present. Therefore the Lord says to you and of you **who believe in Jesus**, “Being [now, at this moment] justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus . . . through the forbearance of God.”

But the Lord does not drop the subject yet. He emphasizes the present power and blessing of this infinite fact. “**To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness** !”

First He says that it is “**Now**” that the righteousness of God is manifested **unto all and upon all them that believe**; then He speaks of all such as “being justified freely,” and next He emphasizes it all thus: “**To declare, I say at this time His righteousness** !”

O poor, trembling, doubting soul, is not this assurance enough that now, at this moment, the righteousness of God is yours?

That now you are being justified (declared innocent) freely by His grace? that Now, “at this time,” righteousness is declared to you for the remission of all your sins that are past? **Is not this enough?** It is enough to satisfy the Lord, for He says, “To declare, I say, at this time, His righteousness,” that He is enough to satisfy you? Will you now take the fullness of this blessed “gift of righteousness,” which is Life, so that the Lord, by seeing the fruit of the travail of His soul, shall be satisfied again, and so, by your rejoicing, be doubly satisfied?

This is all He asks of you. For “to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

**Here is the Word of God**, the Word of Righteousness, **the Word of Life**, to you “now,” “at this time.” Will you be made righteous by it now? Will you live by it now?

This is justification by faith. This is righteousness by faith. It is the simplest thing in the world. It is simply whether the Word of God shall be true in you “**Now**” or not. God spoke to Abraham, “Tell the stars, if thou be able to number them. . . . So shall thy seed be.” And “**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness !**”

“Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed (reckoned, estimated, accounted to, as in inventory) to him; but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, **if we believe on Him** that raised up our Lord Jesus from the dead; Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification.

. . . Therefore being justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“**Now**,” “at this time,” it is true; It is true in Him !  
**Now, at this time, let it be true in you.**

A.T. Jones  
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