

“Feast on God’s word”

If I’ve learnt nothing else on this journey, it’s this: *“Don’t just believe what you’ve been told!”*

What have you been taught to think when you hear “Feast on God’s word”?

Or “Let’s get into the word”?

Or the much quoted “The word of God is living and active”?

Can you avoid making the equation: **the word of God = the Bible?**

I tried last time to suggest that it would be more biblical to make this equation:

the word of God = the gospel = Jesus

Now read that Hebrews passage again:

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb 4:12)

So it’s the **person of Jesus** that is living and active, **not** the Bible. I can get really excited about that! I really believe it. I’ve experienced it. And I’ve never, ever studied the Bible more than I have this past wonderful six months, having met **the** word of God.

But don’t take my word for it. Read the scriptures and decide for yourself.

The Old Testament uses the expression over 200 times, and it’s almost always about God speaking. I’ll just quote one example:

*The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days **the word of the LORD** was rare; there were not many visions. (1 Sam 3:1)*

So here below are the New Testament uses that I’ve found. **Feast on these scriptures**, and as you do, my prayer for you is that your faith will be enlivened, and that these scriptures will inspire you and thrill you and draw you closer to our wonderful Saviour, Jesus – **the Word of God**.

Paul Bev. 2.3.19

Matthew 15:1 Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honour your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,’ he is not to ‘honour his father [or his mother]’ with it. Thus you **nullify the word of God** for the sake of your tradition.

Luke 5:1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding round him and **listening to the word of God**, he saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

Luke 8:9 His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “‘though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is **the word of God**.

Luke 11:28 He replied, “Blessed rather are those who **hear the word of God** and obey it.”

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **spoke the word of God** boldly.

Acts 6:2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the **ministry of the word of God** in order to wait on tables. ... They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So **the word of God** spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had **accepted the word of God**, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. ... 25 When they had testified and proclaimed the **word of the Lord**, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

Acts 11:1 The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received **the word of God**.

Acts 12:24 But **the word of God** continued to increase and spread.

Acts 13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed **the word of God** in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper. ... The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear **the word of God**.

Acts 13:44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the **word of the Lord**. 45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak **the word of**

God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the **word of the Lord**; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The **word of the Lord** spread through the whole region.

Acts 16:35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the **word of the Lord**. Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the **word of the Lord** and see how they are doing.”

30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” Then they spoke the **word of the Lord** to him and to all the others in his house.

Acts 17 13 When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching **the word of God** at Berea, they went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.

Acts 18:11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them **the word of God**.

Acts 19:10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the **word of the Lord**. ... In this way the **word of the Lord** spread widely and grew in power.

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? “The **word is near you; it is in your mouth** and in your heart,” that is, **the word of faith we are proclaiming**: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”... 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is **heard through the word of Christ**.

2 Corinthians 2:17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle **the word of God** for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

2Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort **the word of God**. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

Eph 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you **heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**.

Phil 1:14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak **the word of God** more courageously and fearlessly.

Phil 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you **hold out the word of life** – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour for nothing.

Col 1:5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already **heard about in the word of truth, the gospel** that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ... 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you **the word of God** in its fulness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.

Col 3:16 **Let the word of Christ dwell** in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thess 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received **the word of God**, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, **the word of God**, which is at work in you who believe.

1 Tim 4:4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by **the word of God** and prayer.

2 Tim 2:14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against **quarrelling about words**; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly **handles the word of truth**.

Titus 2:5 [Teach them] to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no-one will malign **the word of God**.

Heb 4:12 For **the word of God** is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Heb 6:4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of **the word of God** and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke **the word of God** to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through **the word of truth**, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

1 Peter 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through **the living and enduring word of God**. For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the **word of the Lord** stands for ever.” And this is **the word that was preached** to you.

2 Peter 1:18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. And we have **the word of the prophets** made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this **we proclaim concerning the Word of life**.

1 John 2:14 I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and **the word of God lives in you**, and you have overcome the evil one.

Revelation 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw – that is, **the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ**. ... 9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of **the word of God and the testimony of Jesus**.

Rev 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of **the word of God and the testimony** they had maintained.

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no-one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and **his name is the Word of God**.

Rev 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of **the word of God**.