

The Power of the Word of God, Part 2

The Supernatural Origin of the Word

In the previous lesson, we looked at Psalm 138:2, which tells us how much God reveres His Word and how much we should revere God's Word. We saw that God's Word is the Source from which we learn the truth about God and His character. Since it deals with such a high and lofty subject, it must be completely and thoroughly reliable. As you begin this study, open your heart to God. Pray that He would reveal to you why His Word is so powerful and reliable. Ask Him to teach you, to build within you a deep reverence for His Word, and to enable you to trust it fully.

By way of review, what 2 things does the psalmist say in Psalm 138:2 he praises God for?

His _____ and His _____

These two themes are reiterated throughout the Bible.

And what 2 things has God exalted above all things? His _____ and His _____

With that as our backdrop, let's look at what the Bible says about where the Word comes from.

Read II Timothy 3:16-17.

The "Scriptures" are another word for the Bible. How were the Scriptures given to us according to verse 16? _____

The Greek word for "inspiration of God" is a compound word made up of *theos*, meaning God, and *pneuma*, meaning spirit or breath. Perhaps some of your translations say, "All Scripture is God-breathed." That is a very literal translation of a word that was likely coined by Paul to explain how the Scriptures were written. They were breathed out by God or given through the Spirit-breath of God.

Look at Genesis 2:7. How was Adam transformed from a clay model to a living being?

In the same way, God has breathed out His Word. Read John 3:3-8. To what does Jesus compare the Spirit of God? (vs. 8) _____

Or we could say, the Holy Spirit is the breath of God—just as we say someone is "winded" when he or she is out of breath.

Notice in these verses that Jesus is telling Nicodemus about 2 different births: physical birth and spiritual birth.

What does Jesus call the 2 births in verse 5? born of _____ and the _____

What does Jesus call the 2 births in verse 6? born of the _____ and born of the _____

Why do we have to be born twice according to verse 3?

to be able to _____

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Why according to verse 5? to be able to _____

Meditate for a few minutes on this metaphor of wind as a picture of the Spirit or breath of God.

What does Jesus say about wind? Read John 3:8 and answer the following questions:

Can we control it? _____. The wind blows _____.

Though we can't actually see the wind, we do know it's there. What *can* we see about the wind? _____

We can't see it, but Jesus says we can _____ it.

What else does Jesus say we can't tell about the wind? where it _____ and where _____

Yet there is another of our senses that alerts us to the wind. We can *feel* it. In this way we can determine its direction.

So through our senses of seeing, hearing, and feeling, we know when wind is present.

Think about what wind can do. List a few things that come to mind:

From II Timothy 3:16, we've seen that the breath of God is the Spirit of God who wrote the Scriptures or the Word of God. And in John 3:5-8, we are told that the Spirit of God acts in a similar way to wind. With that in mind, read II Peter 1:21.

How did the prophets of old speak the words of God and write the Scriptures?

They were _____.

Wind moves things. Psalm 29 is a psalm that focuses on the "voice of the Lord." As you read through the psalm, picture the voice of the Lord as the wind of the Holy Spirit, the Author of the Word, the Person of the Trinity who spoke God's Word to those who wrote it down. In that sense, He is the voice of the Lord. On the lines below, list what Psalm 29 tells us the voice of the Lord does:

vs. 3: The voice of the Lord is _____

vs. 3: The God of glory _____

vs. 4: The voice of the Lord is _____

vs. 4: The voice of the Lord is _____

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vs. 5: The voice of the Lord _____
and _____

vs. 7: The voice of the Lord _____

vs. 8: The voice of the Lord _____

vs. 9: The voice of the Lord _____
and _____

Can you *hear* and *feel* and *see* the wind in those verses? There is power, authority, and sovereignty in the voice of the Lord! I remember a 70-mile-an-hour wind storm that came through the valley where we were living one fall. It took out our power and we huddled in the basement, fearful that the huge trees in the front yard would come crashing down onto the house. Mercifully, they didn't. After the storm had passed, we went outside to assess the damage. We tried to drive down our logging road and didn't get very far. I remember thinking that it looked like some majestic dignitary from another world had passed through our valley and all the trees had bowed low in homage. Splintered and uprooted trees were everywhere.

When we lived in Texas, a tornado came through our town. It touched down about one block from where we lived. The houses in its direct path were completely demolished; one home had only the brick chimney left standing on the concrete foundation. Our property had some damage, and we had debris in our yard from miles away. That is the power of wind.

But wind can also be refreshing and gentle, making limpid leaves dance merrily and cooling us on a hot day. This is the metaphor God's Word gives us of both the power and the subtle tenderness of the Holy Spirit and His Spirit-breathed Word.

Psalm 29:3 is an echoing reminder of Genesis 1:2. What does that verse say the Spirit of God was doing? _____

Then God begins to speak, and all kinds of wonderful things begin to take place. The voice of the Lord calls things into being that were not there before. Out of nothing God creates—with His word alone: The voice of the Lord. God connects this physical creative power of God with His spiritual creative power in Romans 4:17. If you read the whole passage from verse 13 to 25, you find that Paul, the author of Romans (with the Holy Spirit moving upon him!), tells us about the miraculous birth of Isaac. Abraham and Sarah's ability to have children was long gone, or as verse 19 says, their physical procreative ability at that point was as good as if they were dead. But, going back to verse 17, Abraham believed in a God who gives life to the dead and . . .

Write out the rest of the verse:

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God can call things into existence out of *nothing*. He does not need any pre-made materials to work with as we do. This is the power of God and His Word. If He has spoken, He has the power to bring it to pass. Read verse 21. This is one of the best definitions of faith ever written. Write it out: Faith is _____

To finish out this study, let's return to II Timothy 3:16-17. List the 4 things verse 16 says the Word of God does for us. "It is profitable for . . .

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Think of these 4 abilities of God's Word as the process a teacher of a skill goes through with a new student. First, the instructor lays down some foundational knowledge. Then the teacher observes the student's current work and points out the student's bad habits that hinder progress and need to be cleared out. Next, the teacher works with the student to establish new patterns and new habits, coaching and correcting as they work together. As time goes on, the teacher continues to work with the student adding skill upon skill until mastery is achieved.

What is the end product of the work of God's Word in our lives according to verse 17?

"that _____"

This is the power of the Word of God. God has recreated our spirit and is teaching our soul new patterns of thinking, of feeling, of decision-making, and of behavior. The spiritual re-creation inside of us is as mighty and monumental a task as the creation of the physical world. Yet for God, it is no problem! He simply speaks His powerful Word into our hearts and lives. He is making us complete, mature, fully capable for all He calls us to do—those good works He had in mind for us to do when He was knitting us together in our mother's womb (see Ephesians 2:10 and Psalm 139:13-16). This is why it is so important to spend time reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on the Bible. His Word does the work in our hearts.

In closing, spend a few minutes meditating on the verses in this lesson. Pray your way through them. As you read the Word of God—and whenever you read it—ask Him to breathe that Word into your own soul, to blow through your life, and to let that Spirit-breathed Word have its transforming effect within you.