



Teaching Letter 8

## The Power of God's Word

*“. . . and upholding all things by the word of his power . . . .” Hebrews 1:3, KJV).*

**G**od's Word is powerful. Our verse points out that all things are upheld by His Word. Look around where you are. Everything you see is upheld by God's Word. I'm looking out my window and I see trees and sky and hills. I see cars and people and birds. Imagine. All these things and much more—everything—would fly into oblivion if it were not for God's Word upholding.

In Genesis 1, we read how God spoke light, the firmament (heaven), the moon, the stars, the sun and much more into existence. He said, "Let there be . . ." and next we read, "And it was so." That's the creative power of His Word.

**I**n the New Testament, in John 1:1-3, we read: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." In verse 14 John tells us, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." This speaks of Jesus who is called the Word of God. He is the living Word—the living demonstration of God's power. He is the Son of God who was and is God and who was present with the Father and the Holy Spirit in creation.

Nothing was made without the Word (Jesus). Paul wrote about this in Colossians 1:16, 17: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible. . . . and by him all things consist {hold together}." There was once a television commercial in which someone said, "When E.F. Hutton speaks, people listen." Well, when Jesus speaks, things happen!

**W**e've looked very briefly at God's spoken Word and at Jesus, the living Word. Next we have the written Word of God. We read in Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is quick {living and active}, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner {judge or revealer} of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

In this verse from Hebrews we see the written Word of God focused on us as we read it. It is not just words on a page nor is it merely words written by men. It is living. It searches our hearts so we may know our hearts. It has power to change the heart in anyone who will open their hearts to it, receive it and believe it. The written Word is inspired by the Holy Spirit who is always present whenever someone reads the Word. God said to Jeremiah, ". . . for I am watching over my word to perform it" (Jeremiah 1:12, RSV).

**T**he written Word has power as it is spoken. God said, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10, 11, NIV). Not only does God speak and accomplish His purposes, but also when a child of God speaks the right Word into a situation, that Word will be effective. It will accomplish God's purpose, whether or not that effect can be immediately known.

Jesus, the Living Word, demonstrated the use of the written Word against the devil in His temptation experience with Satan. To each of

Satan's temptations Jesus responded with Scripture. You can read the account in Matthew 4 if you like. At each approach by Satan, Jesus said, "It is written . . . ." One might think Jesus would have called angels to help Him defeat Satan. He could have—but He didn't. Or maybe He might have performed some miracle that would render Satan incapacitated or bound. But He didn't. Instead, without hesitation He chose the powerful weapon of the Word of God to defeat Satan at every turn.

**I**f Jesus used Scripture as His weapon of choice, don't you think we need the power of God's Word working in our lives? It is available to us. The question is—will we use it? It is Word. It has to be spoken. God designed us to speak *our* words, and He has granted His children the right to speak His Word. We need God's Word to accomplish God's purposes in our lives and to help in our times of need.

Our words have power—His have all power. Other elements often are factors when we speak God's Word, such as faith, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. Growth can occur in all of these. However, we must begin. Find Scriptures that speak to the areas of need in your life and begin to speak them. Meditate on them and memorize them. God's Word will work in your behalf.

**W**e haven't discussed the power of God's Word to save, to heal, to deliver. Nor have we addressed the Word's power to establish, settle, strengthen and protect. It can do all this and much more. Remember, it is God's Word and it upholds everything. Maybe you need it to uphold you today. If that's the case, try personalizing our verse for today. Say something like the following. Say it several times and anytime you need it:

God upholds all things by the word of His power and He is upholding me! **SH**

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

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