

#3 Gain Strength



Discover and experience the power of God's Word!

The Third Foundation

"I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and **the word of God abides in you**, and you have overcome the evil one" (1 John 2:14).

- **Point:** "The Word of God abides in you!"
- **Purpose:** Build up endurance.
- **Problem:** We do not believe it makes a difference (we don't know how to use it).
- **Product:** We feel helpless and do not sense the power of God's Word.
- D2 describes how to discover and experience the power of God's Word which makes the 'young man' strong – like Gideon.

STRENGTH
FROM
GOD'S
WORD

Word of
God
Never fight
alone

The Need for God's Strength

"And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets" (Hebrews 11:32).

- What makes these men so significant? (Hebrews 11:32).
- Gideon's transformation (Judges 6)
 - "But the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man" (Judges 6:16).
- How do you get God's Word to work in you actively?
 - "And in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2).



God's special design for spiritual growth (2 Peter 1:3-11)

- Awesomely equipped! (2 Peter 1:3) - "_____ pertaining to godliness"
- Magnificent promises (2 Peter 1:4a) - "precious and magnificent _____"
- Liberating purpose (2 Peter 1:4b) - "in order that _____ you might..."
 - * Share His holy divine nature and
 - * Don't be controlled by your lusts
- Wonderful action plan (2 Peter 1:5-8) - "applying all _____, in your faith..."

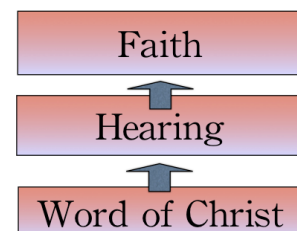
Growing Pains

- How do I use God's Word to _____?
- How can God's Word help me overcome a specific problem?
- How come God's Word does not seem to help me?
- Why is reading God's Word so dull at times?
- Summary: Learn to cooperate with the Lord!

God's work through His Word

- "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). - (Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Peter 2:2)

Romans 10:17



The Word of God and Faith

“Been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23).

- Seed (word of God) brings faith (1 Peter 1:23)
- Purpose of God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- Rightly using God’s Word (John 12:49)
- Questioning God’s Word

Satan tries hard to keep God’s people from being impacted by God’s Word.

- Keeps us unaware
- The Bible untranslated
- Too poor to own
- Causes us to doubt
- Too busy to read
- Distracted with ...

Faith Destroyers

- Doubt Bible’s veracity => “Too many interpretations!”
- Doubt Bible’s relevance => “Bible seems dry, boring”
- Doubt Bible’s power => “I don’t need God’s Word”
- Parable of Sower (Mark 4:1-20) - Compare purposes of God with Satan

God Speaks

- Expect that the Lord will regularly speak to you.
- Examples: Judges 7-8 (Gideon); Book of Ruth
- 2 Peter 3:18 “Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus”



The Battle for Your Mind

- There is an existing battle for your mind and control of your life.
- Eve’s example (Word of God versus Satan)
- We often trust and believe those we listen to!

Life Application: The Breakthrough

- God’s design and plan for our growth is impressive!
- Need to work along with God (3-legged)
- God builds faith primarily through times in His Word
- Beware of doubts that keep the power of God’s Word from us - the same as unbelief
- Discern the voices giving you advice.

➔**Key: We vitally need God’s Word!**

Exercises & Life Sharing

- Exercise ST4-1: “Growing Through Psalm 1” helps you gain faith through properly understanding God’s Word. Home Assignment: Finish Psalm 1 study.



1. Would you say that you work closely with God (3-legged race)? Why or why not?
2. Which is the biggest doubt producer for you with the Bible: True, Helpful, Trusty, Relevant, Powerful, or Other (identify)? What might help you overcome your doubt?
3. Are you able to note when God or Satan whispers thoughts into your mind? Try to give examples.

Growing through Psalm 1
Paul J. Buckwalter

Purpose: Train yourself in how to grow in faith through God’s Word.

Answer the questions on the lines on the right. Write the verse on the left. Through the exercises we are getting a deeper insight into what we really believe, which often differs from what we say we believe. What we really believe is in our decisions in life.

PSALM 1	OBSERVATION	APPLICATION
(Psalm 1:1) How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!	What does the word blessing mean?	Do you really think God’s blessing is dependent on how you feel? (John 1:9)
	What does the person quoted do differently than you are doing in listening to the speaker?	In this what are you doing to come like them or be like them?

***“There is a living God. He has spoken His word.
He means just what He says, and
will do all that He has promised.” - Hudson Taylor***