



Contending for a Focused Life - The Word of God

Teacher: Steve Holt

Series: Contending for the Focused Life

Contending for a Focused Life: The Word of God

- It is amazing what happens in our lives when we focus our schedule toward time in the Word and prayer.
- You must have a vision or you will be unrestrained, lethargic, and become oppressed.
- You were created to have a focused life .
- You need a life vision. We talked about that on Monday.
- What is your life vision? Everything in your life should fall under that life vision:
 - o “Be Vision:” a vision for your heart, for your character, for your relationships.
 - o “Do Mission:” a vocation, a calling to do something with your life.
- You must have an action plan for each area—this is critical—and this is where the vision doesn’t get any feet to it.
- Most people don’t have a focused life because they don’t have an action plan and schedule.

Focused Life and the Word of God: My conviction is that all areas of the Christian flow out of a tender intimate relationship with Jesus through the Word of God.

Why we must have a Focused Life centered in God’s Word—Three Convictions

1. Until you develop a focused life centered around God’s Word, you will not be able to maintain an intimate relationship with Christ.
2. Until you develop a focused life centered around God’s Word, you will not see your prayers consistently answered.

3. Until you develop a focused life centered around God's Word, you will not bear powerful fruit in your life.

Read John 15 for clarity on what I've just said.

- Campus Crusade helped me and gave me the whole concept of a "quiet time."
- The Word of God began to seep into my heart. After a 7:00 am class, I would come back to my dorm and open the Word and just read and read and read.
 - o It was consistent—almost everyday.
 - o It was scheduled—same place, same time.
 - o It was systematic—I had a method I used.
 - o It was Spirit empowered—the Spirit was changing my heart.
- In Paul's last words to the Ephesian elders he said,

Acts 20:32

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- He is saying, "Stay in the Word of God!" The Word of God will build you up!!
- It has supernatural abilities in your soul when the written Word of God touches your heart under the anointing of the Spirit.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1. **The Word of God is Alive and Builds up your Heart.**

- The Word of God fires up your heart—the Word of God is the significant component for building up and firing up your heart.
- **Jeremiah said, “*His word was in my heart like a burning fire.*”**
- It is powerful! Sharper than any sword! It cuts into your selfishness, bitterness, anger, lust, and starts to reveal and discern your heart.
- Most believers don’t really build up their heart with the Word of God—they think they have but they haven’t and they become lethargic and compromising.
- The Word of God is living and active and imparts into us those things we used to not like to do—this is righteousness—we begin to hate the things of the flesh—this is supernatural.
- We encounter the Living Word (Jesus) through the Written Word (Bible) and you experience godly emotions, life, and a transformed soul.
- **In the parable of the sower, Jesus says, (Luke 8:11)**
“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.” NKJV
- The written word is the seed—and it has life—the life is in the seed. Have you ever seen what a small seed can do?
- Ex. One kernel of corn that produces one corn plant that has between 2 and 4 ears of corn that each contain 600-800 kernels! That’s around 3000 kernels of corn from one seed.
- God’s Word has that kind of multiplication in your heart. God will give you a truth, a promise and it multiplies exponentially in your heart.
- Power to transform our emotions! If you don’t believe this you will not spend time in God’s Word.

- Your soul will dry up if you don't stay in the Word.
- It is easy to begin to live in ministry and the Word of God time is less and less and we begin to lose the encounter of Jesus and our river just dries up.
- It gives you godly emotions and renews your mind.
 - o Struggling with anger? Pray for patience from God's Word.
 - o Struggling with bitterness? Pray over the Word for love.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2. The Word of God Uncovers and Reveals your Inheritance.

- You discover your destiny if you are regularly and passionately going after God in His Word.
- You can't experience your destiny because you are not experiencing God.
- God has marvelous promises from His Word just for you and me. But you have to be in the Word to receive and believe the promises of God.
- You will not enter into your inheritance if you don't enter into the Word—your inheritance has conditions!
- There is nothing more important than times spent in God's Word—this is where the fullness of the Spirit is found.
- It awakens your spirit, it powerfully touches your mind, it births new desires—this is the inward activity of the Spirit through the Word.
- Get back to life! It is yours if you want it. If you're too busy to encounter the life of God, then you will live with a diminished

experience with God instead of loving God and His people, feeling joy in your spirit and energy in your heart.

- **James 1:21**

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. NKJV

- This word is able to save your spirit and soul.
- Let the Word of God get implanted in your soul and it will deliver you from negative emotions and let the Word take root. Let a root system take over your soul and it has supernatural power to change you.
- This is really boring at first, but if you are serious and focused and want God to live His life through you, you must go after God.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

- It effectively works in you!
- Energy for this? You must radically committed to reading the Word and praying it back to God—spiritual vitality is a work of the Spirit and has nothing to do with personality.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3. The Word of God Equips us for Life

- Making time to be in God’s Word everyday will thoroughly equip you for life—not just spiritually, but emotionally, vocationally, and relationally.
- God’s Word is still inspiring us! Yes, it was through the “God-breathed” inspiration of the Holy Spirit that caused men to write the Word of God down, but it still inspires us, speaks to us.
- We hear from God when we read, study, and spend time in God’s Word.
- Two words used in the NT for Word of God: *logos* (the spoken word of God) and *rhema* (the speaking word specifically for you).
- We hear God’s voice—He is still breathing life into His saints as they spend time in the Word.

Action Plan

- **This will take energy on your part. You must settle on a time and place and begin doing it. Everything of value in this life will be a battle.**
- **Contend for it.**
- **You can use our PB&J bookmark. Get a journal and a pen and just do it.**
- **10 minutes and watch out!**

Matt. 13 seeds on the soul.

Matthew 13:20-23

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he who received

seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

- So many people just don't have a root structure that can sustain the troubles of life.
- They just can't handle the pressure of life.
- I can't develop a root structure for you—you start with 10 minutes a day, you will get hooked and want more—start with a little bit and water it everyday, and your soul will demand more.
- Vs. 21, you will grow a root structure and a new anointing will come—we all have bad seasons financially, flat ministry, seasons of pruning, etc.—and you will be able to grow even during those times.
- Choke the Word! Riches will deceive you—this is not about finances—some of the poorest people are being choked by a desire for riches.
- “Desires for other things” (Mk 4:19) will choke out the vitality of the Word of God—ask the Lord what this means for you.
- “The pleasures of this life:” (Luke 8:14) you will choke out the Word of God.
- You don't want the other things of your life to so occupy your life that the Word of God is choked out.
- Your heart is like a garden that you have to weed from these other things.
- You have to water the Word: Word of God, fasting, prayer, worship, giving, witnessing, fellowship.
- You have to weed the garden: sin, repentance, etc.
- If you want 100% fruitfulness you must have a radical commitment to God's Word! If you want anointed ministry.

- When I get too busy to spend time in God's Word, then I am just too busy.

How Do we Study God's Word?

Inductive Bible study is an approach to God's Word focusing on three basic steps that move from a general overview to specifics. Through these three steps, we apply inductive reasoning, which is defined as the attempt to use information about a specific situation to draw a conclusion. The steps are:

- 1) Observation (What does it say?)
- 2) Interpretation (What does it mean?)
- 3) Application (What does it mean for my life?)

Inductive Bible study is a valuable tool in understanding and applying the principles of God's Word. Inductive Bible study can be done on many different levels. The shorter version is good for a brief devotional. The more extensive study is wonderful for digging deeper into the mind and heart of God.