



UCJC REFLECTION QUESTIONS

SUNDAY, May 15, 2022 | SERIES: THE WORD OUR FOUNDATION

Title: ESSENTIAL - Pastor Ephraim McKenzie

Key Scriptures: I Samuel 8, Acts 17:24-29, Titus 1:1, Psalm 138, Job 23:12, Psalm 119:130, Hebrews 4:12

See pages 2-4 below for a more extensive list of scriptures outlining what the Word is

Reflection Questions:

1. Much like the Athenians In Acts 17, it can be easy to create and present an image of God based on what we feel is good and acceptable instead of submitting to who He has already revealed Himself to be. Are there any areas where you are taking away or adding to who God has revealed Himself to be in His Word?
2. How can a casual attitude toward the Word lead to being a “casualty”?
3. Pastor Ephraim painted the picture of the necessity of the Word in our lives using food and fasting. Our spirit needs the Word for nourishment. How long do we go without reading the Word and what steps can we take to build an essential desire for the Word?
4. Referencing Job 23:12, how do we treasure the Word of God in our daily lives?
5. Identifying the Bible as an expression of LOVE not law and the boundaries as pleasant places, how does this reframe our mindset and our approach to obedience?
6. We know that the Word is a weapon. However, when considering the attacks of the enemy, or when faced with temptations, why is it most powerful and effective when we use the weapon on ourselves?

Answers & Notes: You can use the space below to write in, or type in on the pdf electronically:

THE WORD - WHAT IS IT?

This is not necessarily an exhaustive list, so feel free to search, study and add to this list.

A person: Jesus, The Word Personified/Made Flesh. We can't truly accept Jesus without accepting the Word

- [John 1:1](#) - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- [John 1:14](#) - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Truth - The Authority

- [John 17:17](#) - Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth,
- [Psalm 119:160 \(AMP\)](#) Your words all add up to the sum total: Truth.
- **Objective - But Not Impervious To Our Twisting**
 - [2PETER 3:16](#) - He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.
 - [2 Timothy 2:15](#) - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Eternal

- [Matt 24:35](#) - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
- [Is 40:8](#) - The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”
- [1 Peter 1:24-25](#) - “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

Light/Lamp

- [Psalm 119:105](#) - Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
- [Psalm 119:130](#) - The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Practical & Useful - if we use it

- [Prov 2:6](#) - For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- [Psalm 19:7](#) - The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
- [Joshua 1:8](#) - Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. **Then you will be prosperous and successful.**
- [James 1:22-25](#) - ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—**they will be blessed in what they do.**

Hope giving

- [Psalm 119:114](#) - You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

- [Romans 15:4](#) - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

A Powerful Weapon

- [Jeremiah 23:29](#) - “Is not My word like fire [that consumes all that cannot endure the test]?” says the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks the [most stubborn] rock [in pieces]?”
- [1 Cor 1:18](#) - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Power Over Sin

- [1 Peter 1:22-23](#) (NIV) - 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
- [Romans 1:16](#) - 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
- **One Of People’s Main Issues With The Bible Is It’s Standard - But It Is The Standard & The Power To Meet The Standard**
 - [James 1:21](#) - ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.
 - [Psalm 119:9, 11](#) (NIV) 9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Water That Washes

- [John 15:3](#) - You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you (Jesus)
- [Ephesians 5:25-26](#) - 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He (Christ) might sanctify her (us), having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word

A Weapon

- [Ephesians 6:17](#) - Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- [Hebrews 4:12](#) - **The Only Offensive Part of The Armor, But Also The Only Part Pointed At Us** For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged [a]sword, penetrating as far as the division of the [b]soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Food - Life giving

- [Matthew 4:4](#) - Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
- [John 6:63](#) - The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life

- [1 Peter 2:2](#) - Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation
- [Jeremiah 15:16](#) - When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.

Alive & Active/Mobile

- [Hebrews 4:12a](#) - For the word of God is alive and active.
- [2 Tim 3:15-17](#) - 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- [Is 55:11](#) - 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.
- [Psalm 107:20](#) - He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.
- [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#) - 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 a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

The PRIMARY catalyst for change

- [Genesis 1:2-3](#) - 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- When God wanted to move on from temporal solutions and change the course of humanity **forever**, though they are good and Godly things, he didn't send a prayer or command worship - He sent Jesus, the Word, into the earth.
- When Jesus, the Word made flesh, was on earth, He would walk among people, so God's "presence" was there but often nothing would change, no one would be healed etc. until He spoke - or released a word. And the change was not universal, it was also only applied specifically to whom He released the Word to.