

## **Building A Strong Word-Life (Part 1)**

*By Pastor Daniel Foo (BBTC)*

Why build a strong word-life? Are you aware that your thinking affects your living? As Proverbs 23:7 says, *“For as a man thinks in his heart, so he is!”* You become what you think. You become what is in your mind. Hence we are to watch our lives and our doctrines, beliefs and convictions very carefully. As a Christian the one thing we must do is to ensure that our lives are based upon, firmly established and rooted in the Word of God. Therefore it is imperative for us to fill our lives with the Word of God. In this I am referring not to the accumulation of bible knowledge per se for this Word of God is more than knowledge of the bible. This Word of God is a person, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (John 1:1). We are exhorted in Ephesians 5:1 to be *“imitators of God”* and the only way we can imitate God is to *“be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph.5:18). When we are filled with the Spirit of God, we are filled with the Word of God. When we are filled with the Word of God, we are filled with the Spirit of God. In Colossians 3:16-17 Paul says, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...And whatever you do in word or deed, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus...”* When we have the Word of God, the Spirit of God operative in our lives, there will be life change.

How does building a strong Word life result in life change?

There are 6 areas I like us to consider:-

1. The Word strengthens my spirit-man;
2. The Word makes my way prosperous;
3. The Word is power to restrain me from sin;
4. The Word is wisdom and revelation to me;
5. The Word is my spiritual weapon;
6. The Word is the key to answered prayers.

### **1. The Word strengthens my spirit-man.**

When God created man, we were created to be like Him, having His *“image”* and *“likeness”* (Genesis 1:26). He made man to be spirit, just as He is Spirit. But we are not just spirit-beings. We are spirit-beings that have a soul which dwells in a body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). We take care of our physical bodies by eating well, having the right amounts and types of nutrition as well as by having sufficient rest and exercise. We take care of our soul (comprising of our mind, will and emotions) through education, through learning and interactions. The unbeliever devotes his entire life nurturing only his body and his soul because his spirit-man is dead. However, when we receive the Lord Jesus into our lives, our spirit-man or inner-man (Eph.3:16) is *“quickened”* and made

alive to God. Henceforth we must take care to nurture and strengthen our spirit-man in order to live a life pleasing to God, an overcoming life and a victorious life.

How do we nurture our spirit-man? We nurture our spirit-man through the hearing and doing of God's word. Jesus says in Matthew 4:4 – *"It is written, 'Man shall not live but bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"* The Word of God is life. God's Word is my life. Furthermore John 6:63 adds – *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."* It is through the word of God that our spirit-man is nourished, nurtured and strengthened. When your spirit-man is strong, it means that your walk with God is close; it means that you are a man or woman of faith. This is God's desire for every believer because when you are strong in your spirit-man, with just that little faith and armed with the Word of God, you will be able to exercise dominion over your environment; your sphere of influence. You will have the power and authority to cast out demons, unclean spirits, the spirit of fear etc. For example – Having committed to God the evangelistic cell meeting at your home scheduled for that evening, you can then exercise your God-given dominion and authority by commanding the rain clouds to go in Jesus' name. You can do the same when doing house-cleansing and when you find yourself gripped by fear. As we grew in faith in this area over the past few years this has also been our experience as a church.

Question – Who knows whether your spirit-man is strong? God knows; the devil knows and you need to know. The incident involving the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19:11-17 illustrates this. When some itinerant Jewish exorcists together with the seven sons of Sceva and a Jewish chief priest tried to use Paul's "method" to call on the name of the Lord Jesus to exorcise those who had evil spirits, the evil spirit answered and said in Acts 19:15 – *"Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"* The evil spirit knew these people did not have the spirit of God. Is your spirit-man strong? Your spirit-man can only be strong as you nurture it by spending time hearing and doing the Word of God. As a child of God you need to hear what God has spoken in His word. What has God spoken to you from His word?

## **2. The Word makes my way prosperous.**

Joshua 1:8 has this command – *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; 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."* As we focus and meditate on God's Word we will make our way prosperous. It means that in every situation, circumstance and relationship we will know what to do, how to do and when to do. When we live like that the Bible says that we are always the head, not the tail. We will always be above our circumstances, not below, not double-minded tossed about by every wind or wave. This is how we make our way prosperous; this is how we succeed; this is how we overcome.

### **3. The Word is power to restrain me from sin.**

Psalm 119:11 reads, *"Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."* When we hide or store God's word in our hearts, we will sense the strong conviction of the Holy Spirit. For example when you are tempted to enter into a certain website, you feel a restraint from the word of God which reminds you to flee from youthful lust; to flee from the lust of your flesh, your eyes. This easy access to pornography on the web remains an area that continues to trip and entangle many Christians and leaders are not spared. At the moment of temptation, you have the choice to heed the prompting of the Holy Spirit reminding you of God's word to flee from lust. So unless you have spent time reading, studying and storing God's word in your heart, you will be powerless to overcome these temptations and sin. That power to turn from temptation and sin cannot come from our own self-will because our will, like our flesh is just too weak. We need the word of God and the power of the Spirit of God to keep us from falling into sin.

### **4. The Word is wisdom and revelation to me.**

There is another piece of gem found in Psalm 119. Look at verses 98-100 which promise that when you have the word of God in you, you will be *"wiser than your enemies"* (v.98); you will have *"more understanding than all your teachers"* (v.99); and you will *"understand more than the ancients"* (v.100). As you meditate, ponder, reflect and apply what God has spoken to you from His word, you will have more insight and understanding than the elder or leader who does not get into God's word.

Proverbs 9:10 tells us that *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* God desires to pour His wisdom on us. There are levels and depths of wisdom. Assuming we can quantify wisdom on a scale of 1 to 10, we are to progress in wisdom from level 1 to level 2 to level 3 and so on as we learn and apply God's word continually and consistently. There is the danger that we can make mistakes in certain decisions because of a lack of wisdom for that particular issue. The absence of wisdom is foolishness. As in wisdom there are also levels of foolishness, from the fool who says *"there is no God"* to the fool who says *"tonight I am building some more barns to accumulate my money"*, the Bible says *"you fool; tonight your soul will be required of you."*

The Lord wants each of us to press in, to be skilled in His word and to use it continually, regularly so that we are able to discern, perceive and make correct analysis (Hebrews 5:14). It comes from continual exercise and application of His Word. Do not let the things in your life just slip you by. Nothing in our lives happens by chance. In every situation ask the Lord, "What is Your wisdom or Your word for this circumstance, this situation or this relationship?" You gain

wisdom by paying careful attention to what God is speaking to you from His word concerning your life, your marriage, your relationships and your feelings.

## **5. The Word is my spiritual weapon.**

Revelations 12:11 says *“And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”* I wish to focus on the second aspect, that of the *“word of their testimony.”* What do we testify? We testify the Word of God. Ephesians 6:17 says, *“Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* The weapon given by God to us to overcome Satan and his demonic forces is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Notice that out of the six pieces of the armour of God, the sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon. All the other pieces, the helmet, breastplate, shield and shoes are for our protection. When the enemy comes at you, what do you have to whack him with? Isn't it the sword! The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God although unseen, is powerful.

When Satan came against the Lord Jesus in the wilderness after the Lord Jesus had fasted 40 days and nights, the Lord Jesus used only one weapon to counteract Satan was the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Matt.4:1-11). The powers of darkness are very real and as people of God we cannot afford to be complacent about the evil in this world that continually contaminates, pollutes and defiles us. That is why Scripture warns us at all times to discern and be able to differentiate the “clean” from the “unclean,” the holy and the common (Leviticus 10:10) so that we can *“cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit”* (2 Corinthians 7:1). The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. It is a powerful offensive weapon given to us. Be vigilant against “intruders” that may enter your home or come near you or your loved ones.

## **6. The Word is key to answered prayer.**

John 15:7 reads *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”* The key to answered prayer is the alignment of our thinking and our desires with the Word of God. As we abide in God and allow our minds and hearts to be aligned with God's word we will know how and what to pray and God will answer those prayers because God always honors His word and purposes. Praying is a function that we must learn to do aright. Even the disciples asked Jesus in Luke 11:1 *“Lord teach us to pray!”* Over the years I have observed how godly men and women pray; how they connect with the Lord God Most High and function as effective priests and kings. Learn to pray. Prayer is the means by which we, as God's children, God's people and God's church, execute God's divine purposes on earth.

Matthew 16:19 says *“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* God wills to work through the church and prayer is our mandate. We must learn to pray the Word because when we pray the Word, our prayers are always answered. In any and every situation pray. When we pray we will not be stumbled or easily offended and we will be able to experience the peace of God enveloping us at all times. We will remain calm and trusting, not flustered and harassed.

## **How To Build A Strong Word-Life?**

Psalm 39:3 reads, *“My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue.”* The 3 principles derived from this passage are:- 1) revelation; 2) meditation; and 3) confession.

1) **Revelation** – the first portion of this Psalm say *“my heart grew hot within me.”* The word *“hot”* suggests “fire” and “light”. Do you remember the incident in Luke 24:32 where two disciples travelling on the road to Emmaus met the Lord Jesus after his resurrection? As the Lord Jesus walked with them he expounded the Scriptures to them, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets. Afterwards they said to one another *“Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”* They were listening to the Word of God, the Word of Life and their hearts burned! They had a physical sensation. Jeremiah 23:29 gives us the explanation. It says, *“Is not My word like a fire?”* The word of God has the ability to warm our hearts and that is why the two disciples on the road to Emmaus felt being ministered by the Word of God. The word of God is also light. It speaks of revelation. It enables our inner man or spirit man or as the Bible puts it *“the eyes of our hearts to be opened,”* to receive revelation and understanding.

2) **Meditation** – the next part of Psalm 39:3 says *“and as I meditated, the fire burned...”* Meditating on the Word fans revelation. It’s like building a BBQ fire. You put the fire-starter and light it up on a bed of charcoal. As the charcoal starts to burn a little, you would fan the flames. Similarly meditation fans the light and life of the word of God. It fans the revelation that we have because revelation burns upon revelation; and wisdom upon wisdom. When you find yourself stuck in a situation, meditate on God’s Word, seek God, rely upon Him and as you continue in this posture you will have a breakthrough. The Psalmist says in Psalm 19:14 *“may the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord...”* Meditation of God’s Word helps to align our thinking with God’s thinking.

3) **Confession** – the verse ends with *“then I spoke with my tongue.”* We need to speak forth the revelation. God wants us to confess with our mouths the revelation, the nuggets of truth, the wisdom that we have gleaned from His word. The prophet Jeremiah says this in Jeremiah 15:16 – *“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.”* The word “found” connotes revelation. Eating connotes chewing. Jeremiah literally “ate” God’s word as it were. He chewed the scroll and the result was “joy and rejoicing.” He had found the keys. When you are full of joy and rejoicing, such joy will flow naturally through your mouth, as the confessions of your lips. Matthew 12:34 tells us that *“the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.”*

## **How To Receive Revelation**

### **1. We Must Develop A Seeking-Open Heart.**

In John 5:39-40 Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, *“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”* The Pharisees were diligently studying the Scriptures, attending bible studies, conferences, seminars and copying the Torah, yet they refused to go to the Lord Jesus to receive life. They did not have an open-seeking heart for God.

I came across a group of theologians in Atlanta but they were not “born again.” They were studying in theological colleges in the main stream Presbyterian and the United-Methodist churches in the USA. They professed to be Christians and could analyze Scriptures, have an explanation of the crossing of the Red Sea by Moses and the Israelites but they denied the virgin birth and bore no evidence that they were “born-again.” They have the letter of the word but they were not experiencing the living Word. This is part of the Babylonian church in the end-times. Many will have a form of religion but there is no power in this religion because they refused to come to God.

Revelation doesn’t just happen instantaneously. To receive revelation we must be seekers of God and doers of God’s word. Ezra 7:10 tells us that *“Ezra prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it.”* Proverbs 4:20-21 instructs - *“My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart.”* The instruction given here is that seeking God involves our total being. We are to use all our faculties, and our senses in seeking God. We must will to pay attention. We are to use our ears to listen carefully. Even our eyes are involved for we are not to let it out of sight. Finally our attitude must be to treasure God’s instructions by hiding the revelation in our hearts. God has given wisdom and revelation to His children but He is not about to throw pearls to swine. Those who love Him, who seek Him and who hunger after Him will be greatly rewarded. 1 Corinthians 2:9



promises *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."* What are the issues bothering you? Will you seek God earnestly?

## **2. Ask the Father for the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation.**

Before the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven to His father, he told his disciples in John 14:16 *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever."* The word *"another"* means this Person is exactly like Him. In his bodily form the Lord Jesus is constrained by space and time. In this form, he can only be in one place at one time; he cannot be everywhere with everyone. But after he ascends to heaven he will send us His Spirit, this is the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:19) who is the Holy Spirit. This Spirit dwells in all believers. In Ephesians 1:17-18 the Holy Spirit is also known as the Spirit of wisdom and revelation - *"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened..."* Why is He called the Spirit of wisdom and revelation? It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to know God better. He is the One who enlightens or illuminates or gives light, spiritual understanding and revelation. Therefore it is imperative for you to PRAY always before you read the word of God, as you come to church, as you attend cell group meetings and even as you go about the daily routines of your life.

## **3. We must Believe and Obey.**

James 1:22 have this warning, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* Knowing the word of God but failing to do, to obey, to apply it is tantamount to knowledge accumulation and 1 Corinthians 8:1 tells us that head knowledge puffs up. When our heads puff up, it becomes a stronghold and blocks the true knowledge of God. This is how we can become deceived. The prophet Ezra is our role model. Ezra 7:10 tells us that Ezra not only prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD but he intends *"to do it"* as well as to teach, to share or to tell others about it.

## **4. We Must Deal with The Flesh.**

### **a) My Negative Personality Traits.**

I have said earlier that we are a tripartite being; we are spirit, soul and body. As children of God we are guided by the Holy Spirit who dwells in our spirit and He governs the faculties of our soul and we live our lives out in our bodies. Our soul (comprises of our mind, emotions and will) must never be dominant. Let me illustrate with these two extreme examples. The first example concerns persons who tend to be highly emotional and hence they are

“feelings-oriented.” Such a person’s ability to discern, sense and receive revelation can be distorted. What do I mean? On Sundays when such a person feels good he may feel that God is near and everything seems well. However on Sundays when this person does not feel so good, it is very likely he will sense that God is far from him, angry with him and he may even feel condemned, unable to worship.

The second example concerns those who tend to be highly intellectual or cerebral. These rely solely on reason and until everything can be explained they will not respond. People in this group will find it hard to grow in faith or to understand the deep things of the Spirit because the mind and the intellect can act as a stronghold (2 Cor.10:4-5) that stand against the knowledge of God. Not everything can be explained logically. How do we explain when the Lord Jesus chose to heal by spitting into mud and placing it on the eyes of the blind man and yet at other times he simply spoke forth the word of God to heal? 1 Cor.1:27-29 says that God has chosen the foolish, the weak things to confound the wisdom of this world. God’s ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:9) and He desires that we move by faith believing in His Word.

So what do you do if you are a highly emotional person? Or the cerebral or intellectual types? If you are the feeling and emotional type, you need to learn to surrender your emotions to the Lord so that the feelings of the flesh can be tempered, brought under control by the Holy Spirit to produce the emotions of the fruit of the Spirit. If you are the cerebral type of person, you must learn to take captive or submit your mind, thinking and bring it in conformity to God’s word and allow your mind to be renewed (2 Cor.10:5). Our natural thinking is of no value to God; *it profits nothing* (John 6:63).

### **b) My Personal Baggage**

Hebrews 12:1 urges us to “...*lay aside every weight (baggage), and the sin which so easily ensnares us...*” What are these weights or baggage?

There are four personal baggage that each of us must deal with. These are:-

- i) unhealed hurts
- ii) unmet needs
- iii) unresolved issues
- iv) certain relationships, activities and possessions

All of us have some if not all of these baggages. Some of us have emotional baggage, mind-sets, bad experiences and negativism concerning the church, certain persons or leaders, cell groups and these baggages if allowed to remain unresolved will lead us away from fellowship in the church. These things have to be dealt with and we do this by surrendering it to God asking Him to heal, to deliver, to reconcile, to resolve, to take it from us so that the life of God can be released to flow into our lives. God wants broken, yielded and total openness



from us. To the degree you do not deal with these weights or baggage in your life is the extent to which you are not able to receive wisdom and revelation from God. May I urge you to get out of these entanglements so as to experience victory and effectiveness in your life, in your marriage, your family and finances; and also in your relationship with the Body of Christ, the church? If you do not deal with these entanglements, it will hinder you and you will continue to suffer its consequences.

## **How To Meditate The Revelation**

### **1) What does it mean to meditate?**

To meditate means to think deeply; to ponder; to reflect; to consider over and over again; to muse over; to sit on it; to contemplate; and it involves the active use of our hearts and minds. Christian meditation involves the active use of our minds. This is contrary to the world's forms of meditation - alpha meditation, Qigong, Yoga, Taichi and Reiki meditation, all of which requires one to empty or to blank out the mind. The Lord has given us a mind to think through and to ponder over and over His Word. It is like the cow chewing grass. A cow has three stomachs and it chews the grass in one and then the grass goes into the second stomach where the grass is broken down further and finally to the third stomach where all the nutrients are extracted. The idea of contemplating the Word of God is to know and to understand it so thoroughly as to know how to apply it effectively.

### **2) The Process**

Isaiah 28:10 has this to say, *"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little."* Meditation is a slow, unhurried process and it takes time. The idea here is learning and meditating consistently but it is to be done a little at a time. Just as a baby takes time before he can be weaned from milk to solid food; his digestive system has to mature to be able to handle solid food so it is with believers. Some of us are still drinking the milk of the Word while others have matured to handle the meat of the Word of God.

Isaiah 28:10 says we are to begin meditating a precept at a time. What is a precept? The dictionary defines precept as a rule, a principle on which a way of thinking or behaving is based. For example you have chosen to meditate on the precept of the sovereignty of God. If God is sovereign it means that nothing in our lives happens by chance. But something unpleasant had occurred and since then you realize that you seem to be fearful over many things. You search Scriptures to see what God has to say about fear and the sovereignty of God in

this. You begin to think deeper about this precept and how it applies to your current frame of mind.

From Scripture you find that God has this to say about fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 says *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear..."*

Romans 8:15 says *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear.."* From these two verses we learn that fear does not come from God. Fear is not only an emotion or a feeling of being scared but it is also a spirit. If it is a spirit what shall we do? We apply the Word of God and cast this spirit out in the Lord Jesus' name.

Proverbs 29:25 says *"The fear of man brings a snare..."*

Philippians 4:6-7 says *"Do not be anxious about anything..."*

Perhaps the company you are working for has being acquired by another company and you are afraid of losing your job. If you have this constant nagging fear, think through why you are afraid of losing your job. Is it the lost of income, a fear of lack? Is it because you fear "losing face," losing status and perks? Is there a fear of man because now your standing with your superior may be weakened? Why has this happened to you especially since you have just joined this company? Identify, ponder deeply and accurately the anxiety that has caused this fear. Question if this fear is legitimate and take the appropriate action. One action will be to pray with thanksgiving and telling God your concerns and requests and allowing His peace to guard your heart and mind (Phil.4:6-7). Another is to literally cast, throw off all your care upon God knowing that He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

1 John 4:18 says *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."*

Ephesians 3:17-19 says *"...being rooted and established in love...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge..."*

Fear involves torment. It results in you being greatly troubled. There is the weight of anxiety, disturbance, strife and even punishment. The person who fears has not been made "perfect" or "complete" in love. The picture is like that of a jig-saw puzzle, there is a missing or misplaced piece and the picture is incomplete. The other illustration is that of a screw not fitting perfectly into the bolt but when the screw is adjusted it will glide smoothly and snugly into the bolt. The bible says that we fear because we are misplaced, incomplete or not properly fitted in the love of God. When we are rooted and firmly established in

the love of God then we will be able to grasp a little of the height, depth and extent of His love. Are you secure? Many people are insecure. They go after and hold very tightly the things of this world, the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. The Bible says if we are secure in the Father's love we will be able to hold the things of this world very loosely. 1 John 2:15 confirms this, *"...if anyone loves the world the love of the Father God is not in him."* Do you need to correct your priorities?

Isaiah 28:10 also says we are to meditate line upon line. For example we are exhorted in Mark 11:22 to *"have faith in God."* We search Scriptures; we contemplate, think and muse over why we need to have faith in God. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that *"without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him."* This is the most important reason and therefore all of us, as individuals, as families and as a church need to grow in faith. Over the years we have developed faith in God to grant us wonderful weather for all our open-air outreach programs and He has never failed us as we trust in Him. Do you have the conviction that your home will not be broken into? Some of you are not so sure. Meditate Proverbs 30:5 which reads *"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in Him"* and Psalm 127:1 *"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."*

How can you ensure that you get continued protection? Proverbs 30:5 says we must take refuge. Put our trust in Him. If you do not trust Him, how can he protect you? You can install all the alarms, own half a dozen Alsatian dogs but it will be in vain; and if the thief targets your home, you will still be robbed. How can you develop faith in God with regard to this area of protection? We hear, we read, study and memorize verses in the Bible where God promises protection (Romans 10:17) and then we use these verses to pray to God asking for continued protection over our lives, our families, our homes and our church. While we are in this physical world God desires for each of us to walk by faith in Him and not be ruled by our senses (2 Cor.5:7).

## **Conclusion**

You cannot meditate on God's Word unless you make it a point to be where you can hear it being preached or taught. Then you must read and study it regularly. But that is insufficient if you desire to build a strong word life. You need to memorize it and especially to meditate on it. Therefore to build a strong word-life you need to hear; read; study; memorize and meditate on the Word of God. What is your exposure to God's word? I encourage all of you to read the Bible at least once through. If you read a chapter a day you would have finish reading the entire Bible within 3 years. However some of you need to progress

and do more, perhaps set a goal to cover the Bible in a year. Reading 3 to 4 chapters daily will enable you to reach your goal. If you are not familiar with the Bible and not spending time to expose your senses to God's word you will not grow strong spiritually. You will not grow in your faith. We all need to grow, to mature from an infant believer to a young man and then onto maturity as fathers. Isaiah 61:3 has this to say *"...that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."*

God desires each of us to grow to maturity and to obtain the strength of the giant oak trees. We are the planting of the Lord. The Word of God is like a mustard seed which is very small which can be easily destroyed using a hammer. The devil knows this and that is why the Lord Jesus, in the parable of the Sower and the Seed, warns that the devil tries by various ways to prevent the seed of God's word taking root in our lives. He wants to crush and steal the seed away. He does this by doing all he can to prevent you from coming to church. Even when you are in church he may distract you, flood your mind with anxieties, worries and day-dreams so that you do not pay attention to the Word being preached. He does it because he knows that once the seed of God's word is allowed to grow in you, it becomes like that of an oak tree, big and strong, almost indestructible. God wants all of us to be giant oak trees, men and women of faith, filled with His Spirit and His Word.