

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. - 1 Peter 2:2

THE SINCERE MILK OF GOD'S WORD

The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... - Hebrews 4:12

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Wonderful Words of Life

The hymn *Wonderful Words of Life* expresses the beauty of the Word God has revealed to us. With all of the disappointing things one may hear, it is refreshing to meditate on the remarkable truths taught in the Bible. Consider some of the specific reasons God's Word is so wonderful.

First, consider that the Bible contains wonderful words *from the Creator*.

It is startling how many want God to speak to them, yet rarely pick up the book through which He does. God Almighty *has* spoken to you and me, and this should be appreciated.

To go a step further, though, what God has spoken to us are wonderful words *of life*.

God's Word is not just intended to satisfy a person's curiosity about certain questions man has. The truths God gives us have a much deeper significance than this. As Peter said to Jesus in **John 6:68**, "*You have the words of eternal life.*"

Through His Word, God teaches us about the spiritual death we have earned because of our choice to sin (**Rom. 6:23a**). Such death involves separation from God. One who dies physically being separated from God will face eternity in Hell, away from God's presence (**2 Thes. 1:7-9**).

God's Word teaches us about what God has done to allow us reconciliation (i.e. restored fellowship with Him) (**Rom. 5:10**). He teaches us about what He's done so that we can receive spiritual, and ultimately eternal, *life* (**Rom. 6:23b**).

Further, He provides perfect guidance about what we must do to *receive* this life. In

this sense, God's Word is the perfect guide book for how to live. The Bible's value far surpasses that of all manmade self-help books. Not only does the Bible's Author guarantee its perfect accuracy, but its *content* is of utmost significance.

By explaining His plan of salvation to us, God provides us wonderful words *about redemption*.

Any time we have chosen to sin, we have chosen to enslave ourselves to the worst imaginable master (**John 8:34**). The debt that is owed to be released from this bondage is too high for you or me to pay.

Were it not for Jesus, we would forever be enslaved to sin. Through His death on the cross, though, Jesus paid the debt we cannot pay, and as a result, we need only accept the freedom from sin He offers. This is in many ways the central theme of God's wonderful Word – His plan to redeem the faithful through His Son Jesus (**Eph. 1:7**).

This message of redemption tells us wonderful words *of God's love*.

Romans 5:8 says "*God commends His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" Though we have mistreated Him by sinning, He desires our salvation. Through His Word, God teaches us that He so loved the world that He sent His Son to die for us. This is the greatest extent of love ever seen.

Additionally, inspired Scripture provides wonderful words *about God's providential care*.

While "*the face of the Lord is against those who do evil*" (**1 Pet. 3:12b**), "*the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears open to their prayer*" (**1 Pet. 3:12a**).

God not only *permits* His children to approach Him in prayer, but He *wants* us to cast our anxiety on Him, because of His care for us (**1 Pet. 5:7**).

God's Word teaches us about One who is all-powerful, lovingly cares for His followers, and is thus available to be approached anytime, from anywhere.

The truth of Scripture also contains wonderful words *that give purpose*.

Like the **Ecclesiastes** writer, many spend life "*under the sun*" searching for meaning. Like the **Ecclesiastes** writer, many seek fulfillment of purpose through possessions, popularity, power, hobbies, education, etc. Many seek to fill the God-shaped void in our lives with anything but God.

Solomon's conclusion after searching for purpose in life was: "*This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man*" (**Eccl. 12:13**). Learning and submitting to God's instruction provides depth of meaning and purpose in life that cannot be found through worldly endeavors. Throughout Scripture, God shows us what a beautiful privilege it is to be able to serve and please Him (cf. **2 Cor. 5:9**).

In addition to leading us to fulfillment of purpose, Scripture contains wonderful words *that give joy*. Understanding, appreciating, and obeying God's Word provides a basis for lasting, permanent joy.

This is seen in the exhortation given in **Philippians 4:4**, which says, "*Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, 'Rejoice!'*" The word "*always*" indicates that such rejoicing is not contingent on temporal circumstances going our way all the time. The phrase "*in the Lord*" explains how one whose temporal circumstances are not ideal can still be filled with joy.

Through God's Word, we can understand that God's faithful children have reason for unending gratitude. We can understand that no matter how poor temporal circumstances may be, we have been blessed far *better* than we deserve, not worse. One who is spiritually-minded and thinks about the *unmerited* blessings God offers us will have a hard time *not* being filled with gratitude and joy.

In addition to giving *joy* to the faithful, the Bible contains wonderful words *that give hope*.

The biblical concept of hope involves both a *desire* for something to happen in the future, and a confident *expectation* that what is desired will be realized. Scripture provides certainty that the righteous will be raised to eternal life in heaven with God.

This assurance is given through Christ's resurrection (**1 Pet. 1:3-5**). Such truth provides a real basis upon which the righteous can look forward to something that far outweighs anything the world can offer.

This leads to a final point to consider about the truth God has given us: He has provided us wonderful words *that can be trusted*.

God's Word is infallible truth (**John 17:17**; **Titus 1:2**). His Word is the one source of information so perfect that no part of it need ever be doubted.

God's faithfulness gives us reason for deep conviction, as the apostle Paul exemplified when he said, "*I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day*" (**2 Tim. 1:12**).

In consideration of His trustworthiness and the beauty of what He has given us, there is great reason for each of us to value, meditate on, and be grateful for, these wonderful words of life.

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The Sincere Milk of God's Word

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