

## Born of the Eternal Word

*1 Peter 1:22-25*

### **I. Scripture reading: 1 Peter 5**

**II. Born of the Eternal Word:** Why should the disciples of Jesus Christ love one another deeply from the heart? Peter reasoned it was because they had obeyed the truth and had been born again of imperishable seed through the living and enduring word of God. The word, the truth – these are the immediate reasons for all that we are called and compelled to do as the people of God. The Word of God is the reality of God expressed to his creation. The Word of God contains commands, promises and warnings. The Word of God is the communication of himself to all who hear it/read it. The Word of God is not a book, but the sum total of all God has said of himself and of his creation. We find that Word in the Bible, and so it is to the Bible that we turn as we consider together the amazing gift of the word of God has delivered to the saints...

**III. Imperishable:** Just as he did earlier in chapter one, Peter here contrasts the incorruptible things of God with the temporal and unreliable things of the world's way. If the birth we experience comes from an imperishable seed, what do you think the nature of our new life is? It is imperishable! James, the early church elder, wrote these words in agreement with the apostle Peter (**read James 1:8-21**). He too had learned from Jesus that our new birth comes through the Word of God. He too compared that word to a seed ("planted in you"). Jesus taught the parable of the sower in which he compared the word of God to seed being scattered (Luke 8). Because the word that brings life is imperishable, so is the life it brings. Hallelujah!

**IV. The Living Word:** [reference **John 5:24; John 6:63; Hebrews 4:12**] How is it that the Word is living? It is of God, of course! God is the source of life, and his truth brings life because it brings us to him. Just as Adam and Eve's foolish trust in the lies of the evil one led to their separation from the tree of life, so our wise trust in the truth of the Righteous One leads us to receive the promise of life from the tree of life. Jesus, said in no uncertain terms, that his word is life and brings life to those who believe it. Why? It is because his word was directly from the Father of life himself. The word of God is 'living and active,' meaning that it is not just an ancient collection of wise and noble ideals. No, it is the most powerful active force on the face of the earth because it is empowered by the living Spirit of God! It is no wonder, then, that we read: "man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" (Deut. 8:3).

**V. The Enduring Word:** [reference **Matthew 24:35**] If it is true (and it is) that the word we have received is from God Himself, then it only makes sense that this word endures forever. Who can undo the reality of God? Who can decide that what God has declared is no longer true or relevant? No one has that authority or power. What God says goes – forever! What is so important for us to realize is that the word of Christ is just as authoritative, powerful, final and enduring as the word of God himself. Why is this so? It is because Jesus is from God and is of God's very essence. As the apostle John wrote (John chapter 1), Jesus is the Word of God incarnate! When the whole world seems to be changing, failing, and falling apart, this we can know and never doubt: God's Word endures, and it endures forever.

### **VI. Conclusion: The Eternal Word of Life**

If the word of God endures forever (i.e. is eternal) and gives us life, then we can only conclude that eternal life is ours by God's kindness when we embrace and obey that word. The promises of God are fulfilled only for those who trust and obey. The warnings of God are for those who disobey and despise his word. Consider the words of Moses to the nation of Israel (Deut 11): "I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse..." This is the same offer extended to all of us today. Choose the blessing of eternal life through the eternal word of life!