

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD  
PART 5—THE POWER TO BUILD UP!  
ACTS 20:32; 2 PETER 1:5-7**

**INTRODUCTION**

For the last four weeks now we've been looking at "*The Power Of The Word Of God!*".

**WE'VE SEEN HOW THAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS...  
THE POWER TO CONVICT MEN OF SIN (both Sinner and Saint)...  
THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE...  
THE POWER TO PRODUCE FAITH...(Saving Faith, Prevailing Faith,  
and Victorious Faith!)  
THE POWER TO CLEANSE! (Initial cleansing and daily cleansing of  
our way)**

**Today I want us to see a fifth power of the Word of God:**

**THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO BUILD UP!  
(Acts 20:32)**

**I. THE WORD OF GOD BUILDS US LIKE GOOD FOOD  
BUILDS THE BODY!**

I think we've all seen and heard the commercial from the milk industry that says: "**Milk...it does a body good!**"  
The idea is that *milk is a food that is good for your body!*

**The Word Of God Grows Us Like Good Food Grows Things!**  
In order for anything to grow, it MUST have proper nourishment!  
Right?

Whatever you are trying to grow determines what kind of food is involved to produce that growth!

**A. Take Plants For An Example.**  
Some of you know I was raised on a small farm!  
When my dad was alive, he loved a good garden!  
He was known to grow a variety of garden vegetables on a regular basis!

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Whatever was in season, we were planting it and then  
NOURISHING it and then reaping it and eating it so  
that WE could grow!

If you've ever grown plants of ANY kind, and you were wise, you started out with some soil that was rich in organic nutrients that plants like! (We planted where cows had been out to pasture and that made the soil rich!)

If you don't have soil that is already rich in nutrients, you have to add some sort of fertilizer— natural or otherwise— into the mix at some point! (You folks who grow things in pots probably use a good potting soil and Miracle Grow or something like it!)

**Rich soil and fertilizer are FOOD that helps plants to grow strong—both the body and fruit of the plant!**

**B. Take Animals For An Example.**  
My dad also loved to raise animals—Cows, hogs, goats, — and he loved for his animals to multiply!

He wanted them to be fruitful and multiply and to replenish the bacon, and ham, and pork chops, and steak, and roast, and hamburger—I'm gonna stop there...its making me hungry!

When babies of most ANY animal are born, one thing they come right out of the womb looking for is that mother's nourishment! Right?

**They come out of the womb desiring that milk!**

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- C. Well What About A Newborn Christian?**  
*1 Peter 2:2—“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”*

When someone is BORN AGAIN, they should BY NATURE desire the sincere milk of the Word!

Just like a human infant, or a calf, or a piglet!

Milk helps the body develop to such a point that it can then eat and digest other forms of food!

There comes a point where the child is weaned from off the milk as more solid food is introduced into his or her diet!

At that point milk may still be part of the diet, but in order to help the growing body DEVELOP there must be something more substantial!

- D. Without Adequate And Proper Food, Growth Is Stunted!**  
We’ve all seen the pitiful pictures of people, especially children, who are in famine stricken areas of the world!

Its hard to look at them because they aren’t growing right and you can tell they are weak and sickly!

Just as a body grows weak and sickly without proper food and can’t grow right, even so the spirit of a child of God becomes weak and can’t grow right without the proper nourishment of the Word of God!

If you want to grow as a Christian, you have to spend time in God's Word everyday.

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If people ate food the way some Christians feed their spirit on the Bible, they'd soon die of malnutrition!

*THE WORD OF GOD BUILDS US LIKE FOOD BUILDS THE BODY!*

**II. THE WORD OF GOD BUILDS US LIKE A BUILDER BUILDS A BUILDING! (1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-15)**

- A. True Gospel Believers Are God’s Building! (Vs 9)**  
I know the truth being taught here is that the local Church is God’s building! But I want you to think about this on a personal level!

Individually we are also God’s building!  
Think about it! God wants to build you up!  
**God is building a Church by building the members that make up the Church!**

- B. True Gospel Believers Have The One True Foundation! (Vs 10-11)**  
And, by the way there is only ONE TRUE FOUNDATION! Whether we are talking about the Church or the individual members that make up the Church—there is only ONE TRUE FOUNDATION!—The Lord Jesus Christ!

“On Christ the solid Rock I stand!  
All other ground is sinking sand!”

- C. True Gospel Believers Are Helping Build God’s Building Along With God And With Others Upon That One True Foundation In Their Lives! (Vs 9-10)**  
As believers we have been given “*Spiritual gifts*” whereby we are to “*edify*” one another!

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*Romans 14:19—“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”*

*1 Corinthians 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

(In fact verses 3-26 of that chapter talk about how all things in the Church are to be done for **the edification of the saints!**)

*1 Corinthians 14:26—“How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”*

*Ephesians 4:11-12—“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”*

*Ephesians 4:29—“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11-12—“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

*12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;”*

**D. Breaking News! Or Rather News Flash!**

You can't be EDIFIED or BUILT UP as you should if you don't come into contact with those who minister the EDIFYING WORD whether it be a PASTOR or other FELLOW BELIEVERS!

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**E. Consider The Admonition From Peter In 2 Peter 1:4-6**  
I like to call this, “*A Seven Story Christian Built On The Foundation Of Faith!*”

R.A. Torrey once said, “*The great trouble today is that we have too many one-story Christians because of their neglect of the Word.*”

Look at these stories:

- 1. Virtue** – Is The Desire To Do The Right Thing!
- 2. Knowledge** – Teaches Us What Is The Right Thing!
- 3. Temperance** – The Self-Control Or Determination To Do The Right Thing!
- 4. Patience** – The Spiritual Endurance To Keep Doing Right!
- 5. Godliness** – The Habitual Doing Of The Right Thing Because Of A Fervent Love For Christ!  
(The life of a Bond-servant!)
- 6. Brotherly Kindness** – An Unfeigned Or Genuine Love For The Brethren!
- 7. Charity** – “Agape Love” A Seeking Of The Highest Good For Another!

How do you add these “*stories*” to your building?

You won't get them by forsaking the assembly and sitting in front of the boob tube watching T.V. or doing something else when you should be in Church as a part of the Church!

You won't get it by allowing your life to be so full of distractions that it keeps you from the house of God, the people of God, and the Word of God!

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**Conclusion**

I want to close with this illustration:

*Consider the difference between a strong and a weak cup of tea (or for us Southerners a strong GLASS of tea and weak GLASS of tea.)*

*The same ingredients water and tea are used for both.*

*The difference is that the strong cup of tea results from the tealeaves' immersion in the **water** longer, allowing the **water** more time to get into the tea and the tea into the water. The longer the steeping process, the stronger the cup of tea.*

*In the same way, the length of time we spend in God's Word determines how deeply we get into it and it gets into us. Just like the tea, the longer we are in the Word, the "stronger" we become.*

Are you weak or are you strong?

Someone here today may not have a clue as to what I'm talking about because you need to be born again and get the Foundation of Jesus Christ in your life!

Some here may be fooling yourselves into thinking you're special and that all this building and edifying is something you don't need! But it is something every one of us needs!