



# 40 DAYS IN THE WORD

Learning, Loving, and Living God's Word

January 29, 2012

*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

Volume 11, Issue 5



## Mining for Gold



**We must learn the Word, love the Word, and live the Word.**

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God's mission

"The gold of godliness isn't found on the surface of Christianity" writes Donald Whitney. Rather, it has to be dug from the depths as we pursue God with our whole being. As our church begins 40 Days in the Word many will begin to experience the "gold" of God's Word for the first time. Together we will all learn how to mine for this true gold in a very simple, time-tested way. Using the devotional method of Bible study we will all learn how to take a short verse or passage and discover God's timeless truths for our lives and we will learn to apply them. This is the very thing of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 7:24-27 as He wrapped up His famous Sermon on the Mount. He said that those who heard His words and obeyed them were like those who built their house on a

solid foundation. When the storms of life rocked their houses they would stand firm because their foundation had been laid by obeying the Word of God. Conversely, those who had only heard His word but hadn't obeyed would fall when life came against them. The point is that we must not only be in God's Word; it must be in us and lived out in our lives. James 1:19-25 makes a similar point. Simply living the same old way, taking matters into our hands through anger will not achieve the right life that God desires. It is not enough to just hear the Word; we must be doers of it as well. Otherwise we are like people who see a problem in a mirror and when we leave we forget all about it, failing to remedy the very problem we saw. The key to this kind of life is to first be in the Word,

though; we must take it in, think about it over and over, and then make a serious commitment to apply it each time we understand it. As the Lord told Joshua, when we meditate on the Word and obey it, we will then be successful by God's standards and achieve spiritual prosperity in all we do. This is because the Word of God is His revelation of truth, the way life really works. It also equips His followers to be effective in serving Him and, as Colossians 3 tells us it allows us to have relationships that truly encourage us for everyday life. Thus, we should let God's Word abundantly abide in us; as we dig down deep in it we are mining for spiritual gold.

## Study Questions for Mining for Gold

(For answers go to <http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study-questions>)

1. Read Matthew 7:24-25. What 2 key things are to be done here (v24) and why are both important? What are people like who do this (v24) and what is the practical result (v25)?	
2. In Matt 7:26-27 what is different from the preceding 2 verses (v26) and how is the result different (v27)? In your own words what is Jesus trying to teach us in Matt 7:24-27?	
3. Read James 1:19-21. What 3 things are we told to do in v19-20 and why? Do you think the order is important? Explain. What does v21 tell us to do, and with what attitude? What will happen if we do?	

(Continued on Next Page)

## Mining for Gold - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using James 1:22-25 what is the goal of Bible study (v22) and what is it like if we don't apply the Word to our lives (v23-24)? How are we to relate to the Word instead, and what will be the result (v25)?	
5. Read Joshua 1:5-9. As Joshua got ready to lead Israel into battle what promises did God make to him (v5, 6, 7-8, 9)? Which ones were unconditional (v5, 6, 9) and which were conditional (v7-8)?	
6. What was Joshua's "part" to be able to successfully lead Israel (v8)? Upon what are we to meditate (v8) and for what purpose (v7, 8)? What attitude will this lead to if we meditate on and obey God's Word (v7, 9)	
7. Looking at 2 Timothy 3:15-17 what do the sacred writings (the Bible) provide to us and to what does this lead (v15)? How do we receive salvation according to this verse? Explain.	
8. Using 3:16-17 describe the source (v16) and value (v17) of the Scriptures (the Bible). In what 4 ways are the Scriptures profitable for us and how can you apply each aspect to your own life?	
9. Read Colossians 3:12-17. From 3:12-15 how should we who are chosen of God treat each other (v12, 13, 14)? What overall objective will lead to this (v15) and what mindset should accompany it (v15)?	
10. What commands are given in 3:16-17? What do you think letting the "Word of Christ dwell in you richly" looks like in your life? What is the point of letting the Word dwell or abide in you (v17)?	
11. Based on Micah 6:8 what does "good" look like to God? What do you think it means for you to do each of these 3 things on a practical level? Give examples.	
12. Look back over this week's passages. What result should God's Word have in our lives and what is our part in bringing that to pass? Evaluate how well God's Word gets into your life and how that can improve.	

### Scripture to Remember

**"This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success."**

**Joshua 1:8 (NASB)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

### Life Group Questions—Building Your Life on God's Word (*James 1:19-25*)

*(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)*

1. When someone says "Bible study" what pops into your mind (Be honest)? Share about a time when studying the Bible has been most meaningful to you.
2. Read James 1:19-25. In v21 the picture of receiving God's Word is like planting seed. How can we prepare the soil well? What are some ways to sow the seed into our hearts?
3. Using 1:19-20 why is it important to have a "quiet" heart and "clean" heart to receive God's Word? What gets in the way of that in your life and what can you do about it?
4. Based on 1:23-24 how is taking in the Word like looking in a mirror? What is the point of looking at a mirror—when we look at it intently, what should happen? Does it?
5. Why is "remember the Word" such an important encouragement for us? What are some of the ways we can remember it as we go through our day?
6. Discuss the difference between simply doing what the Word says and responding to it. When you read or study the Word do you see it as coming from God personally? Why or why not?
7. Share with the group what you hope to get from your participation in 40 Days in the Word. Pray with each other for God to truly bless this experience.