

Nourished by His Word

Psalm 119:103 **How sweet are Your words to my taste! / Sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

Jeremiah 15:16a **Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart...**

The concept which most of us have of the Bible is that it is a kind of teaching, a book full of doctrines. Thus, we come to the Word with the intention of understanding and knowing something. In all of our Christian life, how much of the Word have we taken in as food to our spirit? We must not come to the Bible only to learn and to understand. The Bible is not the tree of knowledge; it is the tree of life! If we take the Word of God as the tree of knowledge, we misuse the Bible, because 2 Corinthians 3:6 tells us that the letter kills. We must never take the Bible as a book of letters, but as a book of life.

In Ephesians 6:17 and 18 we see the way to take in the Word: receive the Word of God by means of all prayer and petition. When we receive the Word by prayer and petition, the Word gets into us and becomes the Spirit who fills our spirit and spreads into our mind, becoming the Spirit of the mind and renewing the mind. Furthermore, the Word washes us inwardly and, by spreading into the inward parts of our being, makes a home for Christ within us.

To be a praying people, every day we have to read the Word, but we have to pray more than read. This kind of prayer is not to pray for affairs, business, husbands and wives, school, jobs, or even for help. This is simply to pray about what we read and to pray with what we read in order to contact the Lord. It is not a business-doing prayer but a God-contacting prayer. We must learn to pray to feed on Christ and drink of Christ. We have Matthew 6:33 as a promise: If we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, He will add to us whatever we need.

We need to pray with what we read and pray about what we read. Then the word which we receive will become the Spirit in our spirit, and when the word becomes the Spirit, it is life to us. “The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life” (John 6:63). How can the word become Spirit to us? There is no way other than by our prayer.

Suggested Hymn #812 (I Come to Thee, Dear Lord)

Lord, I would linger here,
Still seeking after Thee,
Continue in the Word and prayer
Till Thou dost flow thru me.