

Reading: Philippians 4:7-9

*“Your principles have been the music of my life  
throughout the years of my pilgrimage” (Psa 119:54)*

Spiritual warfare intensifies as this age comes to a close. “For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time” (Rev 12:12). The “Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God” is the only offensive weapon in the Christian’s armour (Eph 6:17).

Making God’s people doubt His Word has been the devil’s constant attempt since time immemorial (Gen 3:1). With the increase of knowledge he uses science and technology to shake up the simple faith of folks in the Bible. The Bible is not a science book but all true science agrees with it. Man-made theories come and go but the Word of God abides forever (1 Pet 1:24,25).

Young and old everywhere complain of “tension,” a word scarcely known earlier when life was simple. Tranquillity comes through the Word of God. The Word is “true...noble...just...pure...lovely...of good report...virtuous...praiseworthy.” When we soak our minds in it, the “peace of God” and the “God of peace” are ours! (Phil 4:7-9).

Problems and worries multiply in alarming proportions in all spheres of life. Days are becoming gloomier and gloomier — even before the sun has turned into darkness and the moon into blood! (Acts 2:20). The Psalmist comes with a time-tested remedy for our malady: “Unless Your Law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction...Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage” (Psa 119:92,54).

The floods come and the winds blow. Yet once more God is shaking the earth and the heaven that “the things which cannot be shaken may remain.” Unless our life and work are founded on the solid rock of God’s Word, great will be the fall (Mt 7:24-27; Heb 12:25-27).

The serpent is pouring forth a flood of false doctrines on the earth. The counterattack is by the “Word of God and Prayer” (1 Tim 4:1-5). The time has come when men do not endure sound doctrine but prefer fables to facts (2 Tim 4:1-4). We are to keep on practising and preaching the Word.

The solution to all our problems—spiritual, social or political—is in the Bible. The Bible never grows old. The Bible among books is what Christ is among men. The Bible is not only the Book of God but also the god of books!

*Oh! may I love Thy precious Word, may I explore its mine!  
May I its fragrant flowers glean, may light upon me shine!  
(Edwin Hodder, 1837-1904)*

Our Father who is in heaven, we worship You as the living God. We worship You as the one who hears us and speaks to us. We thank You for your longing to fellowship with us. We thank You for the Holy Scriptures which tell us of Your eternal purposes. We thank You for Your Holy Son who has revealed You to us. We thank You for the Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth. We thank You for the complete Bible that's in our hands which teaches us all that we need to know on earth to prepare ourselves for eternity. Your Word is unchanging and all-powerful. Not one word will fail. It will not return to You void without fulfilling the purpose for which You have sent it.

Father God, we cannot survive the attacks of Satan without Your Word. Thank You for Your Word which is a Rock on which we stand lest the enemy destabilizes us. Thank You for Your Word which is Fire to burn all the chaff and trash the enemy brings into our life. Thank You for Your Word which is a Sword to fight against the powers in the wicked places. Thank You for Your Word which has become our Song lest the enemy sinks us in depression. Thank You for Your Word which is Light to us so we may not be misled by the enemy into his evil ways. Thank You for Your Word which as milk and meat strengthens our spiritual muscles for the non-stop battle against the devil.

Dear Lord, we confess our irregularity in meditating Your Word. Sorry, Lord, for allowing mundane things of life to crowd out Bible meditation from our daily schedule. We spend too much time in acquiring worldly wisdom not realizing that it is foolishness with You. Forgive us our intellectual pride which blocks our growth in spiritual knowledge of You and Your ways. Forgive us for allowing the pleasures of life to kill our delight in Bible study. Father God, help us overcome all these competitors so we might lift Your Word high in our lives to make it number one.

Gracious Lord, we pray for those of us who are Your servants as Evangelists or Pastors or Teachers. We confess that our spiritual potential has gone so low that we are not able to adequately impart Your wisdom to those under our care. We are caught up in secondary things. Bring us back to Your Word, O God, so we may become saturated with it in order to share Your treasures with our audience and congregations. We pray, Lord, that Your doctrine will descend like dew on people whenever we open our mouth to speak to them. Let our testimony after every sermon be, "While I was preaching, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the Word!" In Jesus' Name, Amen!

*(1 Thess 1:10; Psa 1:1,2; 65:2; 119:54,105; 2 Tim 3:16,17; Jn 1:18; 16:13; Mt 24:35; Isa 55:10,11; Jer 23:28,29; Eph 6:17; 1 Pet 2:1,2; Heb 5:12-14; 2 Pet 1:19; Dt 32:2; Acts 10:44)*