

We at 5:17 church are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this through getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible. This is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services, and why studying the Bible is a core component of our weekly Community Groups.

What follows is a highly selective set of texts, but the purpose of highlighting these verses is to show that there is hardly a chapter in the New Testament that does not bear witness in some way to this basic thought: that all of our experience as a Christian is to be shaped by the reality of the word of God.¹

- *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matt 4:4)*
- *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (Jn 15:7)*
- *Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)*
- *Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32)*
- *But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming. (Rom 10:8)*
- *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:17)*
- *... as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour for nothing. (Phil 2:16)*
- *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16)*
- *And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1 Thess 2:13)*
- *For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith... Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb 4:2, 11-12)*
- *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created... Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:18, 21-22.)*

¹ John Woodhouse, *The Christian Experience of God – Part 2*, (Matthias Media; The Briefing #86; www.matthiasmedia.com.au/briefing).

- For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, 'All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.' (1 Pet 1:23-25)
- But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. (1 Jn 2:5a)
- I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. (Rev 3:8)