

19-86-01-A WORD from God

quiet time, God's Word, worship, obedience, rest, deliverance

Ps.86:11

God can use a very small word to teach us how to live.

INTRODUCTION:

–Our **text** is a great prayer to begin a *quiet-time* with God– **Psa 86:11**, *Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.* (This prayer assumes 3 things: 1) that God can instruct the human mind (He can speak to us individually) ; 2) that humans can choose to obey God (we can hear from God and do what He says) ; and 3) that we need help staying on track in our relationship with God (Our hearts get *divided by distractions* and need to re-focus) .
–[**At CFO camp**, in a creative writing session, I was waiting on some “word” from the Lord before writing. He gave me the word “W-O-R-D”.] **HOM.idea**, and He did this with me, using each letter of WORD, starting with “W” . . .

I. W - Worship [*Worship is love* at its highest level: *adoration*]

- A. We can show our *adoration* of **God's personality** through *praise* [**examples– Psa 117**, Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD. – **Psa 108:3-5**, I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth.]
- B. We can show our *adoration* of **God's presence** through *prayer* [**Praying Hyde** always made a long silent pause as he came to God in prayer.]
- C. We can show our *adoration* of **God's provision for humanity** through *proclaiming it to others*– **1Cor 1:21**, For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

TRANS: Christ's Cross proves that God's love for us is immense. Our *adoration* or *worship* in return is the proper response to such a loving God, and that *worship* will keep our heart focused in reverent faith.

II. O - Obedience [*Obedience means harkening or listening* in both OT & NT.]

- A. We *listen* with **our intellect** by *studying* God's Word: *adopting* it as **our world-view** (how we see *everything in life* fitting together).

- B. We listen with our heart by meditating on God's Word: letting it mold our attitudes and passions with the mind and heart of God.
- C. We listen with our will by practicing God's Word: embracing it not just in our thoughts and feelings but in our words and actions.

TRANS: If obedience means listening, then we can't just mechanically "go through the motions" of right behavior. God calls us **not** to follow a list of rules, but to live out holiness from the heart.

III. R - Rest [*Rest is manifested in a peaceful relaxing, trusting, and waiting*]

- A. We rest in God by remembering His care— **Psa 116:7**, Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you. (When our peace is disrupted by upsetting circumstances, we can regain it by recalling God's blessings from the past [There's **psychological therapy** in the **song "Count Your Blessings"**: Count your blessings \ Name them one by one . . . Count your many blessings, \ See what God has done.])
- B. We rest in God by trusting Him to faithfully keep His promises [**C.Spurgeon**: "The same God who directs the earth in its orbit, who feeds the burning furnace of the sun, and trims the lamps of heaven, has promised to supply thee with daily strength. While He is able to uphold the universe, dream not that He will prove unable to fulfil His own promises."]
- C. We rest in God by waiting on His timing—
1. **Isa 30:18** (NLT), So the Lord must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help. [**Milton**: "They also serve who only stand and wait."] (Waiting isn't easy if we are anxious about something; in this sense, we may have to work at resting in God.)
 2. [In **Emily Steele's allegory**, *Expectation Corner*, Adam Slowman finds the "Delayed Blessings Office" where God keeps certain things prayed for until the right time to send them. We must learn to wait on the Lord, realizing that delays aren't always denials. There are unknown mysteries of love and wisdom in God's timing. We often want to pick God's mercies green when He wants to send them when they're ripe.] (God's *timing* is perfect!)

TRANS: [**Poem:** "Wait on the Lord"— Not so in haste, my heart; / Have faith in God and wait; / Although He linger long, / He never comes too late. // He never comes too late; / He knoweth what is best; / Vex not thyself in vain; / Until He cometh, rest. // Until He cometh, rest; / Nor grudge the hours that roll; / The feet that wait for God / Are soonest at the goal.] W-O-R, and now the last letter...

IV. D - Deliverance [*deliverance is salvation, freedom, rescue— Psa 116:8*, For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from **death**, my eyes from **tears**, my feet from **stumbling**.]

- A. God's deliverance saves us from "death" (our spiritual death is Satan's primary objective— **Rom.3:23** shows us a crucial contrast:
1. (**Yes**), "the wages of sin is death," (that's a *reality* we can't ignore)
 2. (**But**), "the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." (that's the *reality* of the "Good News" for us and for all humanity!)
- B. God's deliverance sets us free from "tears" (When Satan can't keep us *dead* in sin, he has a back-up plan: "*If God gives them life, I'll make it so they can't enjoy it!*" **But Jesus says [John16:33]**, These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.)
- C. God's deliverance rescues us from "stumbling" (Satan trips us up; his specialty is deceptive darkness.... But God's specialty is guiding light— Psa119:105, Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.)

CONCLUSION:

—**God can use a very small word to teach us....** "W-O-R-D" could be an acrostic for many other spiritual lessons. But these four areas I've mentioned help to fulfill the latter part of our text— Psa 86:11b, *give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.*

—Worship, obedience, rest and deliverance each contribute to uniting our hearts with reverent faith in God. Satan tries to conquer us by dividing our hearts. **BUT** by adoring our Creator, absorbing His truth, anticipating His watch care, and accessing His deliverance, we build into our lives a united front against the world, the flesh and the devil.

—By teaching us His truth, God plants a garden in the soil of our heart, and it leaves Satan no ground in our lives. **SO**, in view of this W-O-R-D of spend time daily in your heart's garden, cultivating it with the Word of God. It will be a blessing to you, and inevitably a blessing to all those with whom you come into contact.