

Message Four

THE SPOKEN WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Matt. 4:4; John 6:63, 68; 15:7; Num. 11:29; Acts 8:4; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Cor. 14:1, 3-4, 31

I. In New Testament Greek, both *logos* and *rhema* are translated as “word”:

- A. *Logos* refers to the constant word, whereas *rhema* refers to the instant word—Matt. 24:35; Luke 1:38.
- B. The written word in the Bible is the *logos*; the present word, the word that is spoken to us by the Lord for a particular purpose at that very moment, is the *rhema*—Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; Acts 13:2.
- C. *Logos* is the written word as the expression of the living Christ; *rhema* is the word spoken within us by the Spirit of Christ just at the time we need it—John 1:1, 14; 6:63.
- D. The inner *rhema* always corresponds with the outer *logos*; the Spirit speaking the *rhema* within never speaks differently from the written *logos*—Matt. 4:4; 22:31-32.
- E. We need to exercise our spirit to receive God’s written word so that it may become the present, spoken word to us—Eph. 6:17-18.

II. We need to attend to the living *rhema* within, allowing it to have its full way within us—John 15:7; cf. 14:21, 23:

- A. If we keep ourselves in the fellowship of the Lord, we will have *rhema* within from the Lord all the time—1 John 1:3, 6.
- B. In order to allow the living word to have its free way within us, we must go along with it—John 15:7.
- C. The Lord speaks mainly one word to us—no; when He speaks the instant *rhema*, we must listen to it and keep it—cf. Acts 16:6-7.

III. Since we are members of Christ, and Christ is the Word of God, we are members of the Word of God; as such, we must be the speaking ones—1 Cor. 12:12-13; John 1:1:

- A. Christians must be a speaking people; we should not be dumb, or silent, for the God we worship is the speaking God—Heb. 1:1-2; cf. 1 Cor. 12:2-3.
- B. We all have the qualification, the right, the ability, and also the responsibility to speak the word of God—Num. 11:29; 1 Cor. 9:16-17; 14:31.
- C. In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul charged Timothy to “proclaim the word; be ready in season and out of season”—cf. Mark 13:11:
 1. We must preach the word that we have learned from the word of God; this is what the early believers did in Acts 5:42 when they met from house to house “teaching and announcing the gospel of Jesus as the Christ.”
 2. We are the Lord’s witnesses; therefore, we need to speak the word of God everywhere and at all times—Acts 1:8; 8:4.
- D. In the meetings of the church the highest function is to prophesy—1 Cor. 14:1, 3-4:
 1. To prophesy is not mainly to predict or to foretell the future; it mainly means to speak for God and to speak forth God—v. 3.
 2. All prophesying one by one reveals the universality of prophesying—v. 31a; Acts 2:17-18.
 3. Prophesying fulfills the greatest prophecy in the Bible, which is to build up the church—Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 14:4b.

Focus: *We must go along with the rhema, the living word of the Lord within us, and speak the word of Christ in season and out of season, especially in the meetings of the church for the building up of the church.*