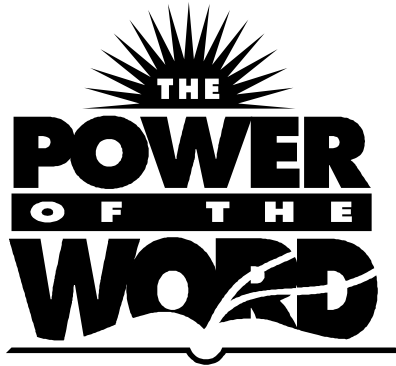


**SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS**  
**LESSON 11**



**THE BIBLE HAS POWER AND AUTHORITY**

*Scripture Texts: Isaiah 55:11; Luke 16:17; John 15:7;  
Hebrews 4:12; Acts 20:32*

The Bible bears the sovereign authority of God. It is true. It is powerful. The Word of God is living and is active. It is the Book into which the all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving God has breathed the breath of spiritual life. When Jesus came, this powerful Word was made flesh, which dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

The whole world is sinking deeper every day into a lower level of spiritual illiteracy. Only the power and authority of the Bible can lift it to a higher plain. But only as mankind reads and obeys its teachings will it have a leveling effect upon a world that is sinking to tragic destruction.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.—Ephesians 6:17*

**DAILY READINGS:**

Mon.—**Jeremiah 23:18-32** — God's Word versus false prophecies.

Tue.—**Matthew 8:5-13** — The power of Christ's Words.

Wed.—**Mark 7:1-13** — Human tradition is wrong.

Thu.—**John 8:23-32** — Jesus spoke as His Father taught Him.

Fri.—**Psalms 119:113-128** — David's hope in God's Word.

**Devotional Reading: Isaiah 55** — God's Word shall fulfill His will.

**God's Word Has Power to Succeed**

**Isaiah 55:11** My word . . . shall not return unto me void— not be without result—shall accomplish . . . shall prosper. God put power into His Word. He links His Word with His purpose. **I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it (Isaiah 46:11).**

**Luke 16:17** Jesus expressed the certainty of God's Word to succeed. **It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.** It cannot, for the authority of God is in it. Power comes from authority. God has authority because He is Author of all things, so, greater than they. Read **Mark 1:22**. Not all who hear the Word will accept it, but some will (**Mark 4:14-20**). **His word was with power (Luke 4:32)**. Power to do what? To carry out each Word. His power and authority came from God, His Father. Jesus was the Word which became flesh and dwelt among them.

**God's Word Gives Power in Prayer**

**John 15:7** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you. Here is the power to unite man with God and to bring into our lives all the power which God's Word affords us. For **if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us (1 John 5:14)**. Every promise in the Bible is ours. What unites them? (1) **If ye abide in me**—in Christ, yielded to Him, dead to self, and alive in Christ (**Colossians 3:3; Galatians 2:20**). (2) **If my words abide in you**—if you believe, obey, and love His Words until they are **spirit and life** in you (**John 6:63**), until they lead to the living Word, Christ Jesus. The connection being made, God's Word is set in motion to answer the prayer. Power comes from authority. The authority of God is in His Word.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 11

### God's Word Has Power to Penetrate Hard Hearts

**Hebrews 4:12** The word of God is quick—living. Powerful— can do God's will. Sharper than any two-edged sword—no dull or ineffective edge. It divides between soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow—pairs very nearly alike and hard to separate. They are used figuratively to express the power of the Bible to penetrate. As a living thing, it is a discerner. It puts the finger on the very point where guilt or virtue has its center in the heart. It sees through words to thoughts, past acts to intents. It points them out to us, convicting and directing. For instance, it tells us hatred is murder (**1 John 3:15**), all sins begin in the heart (**Mark 7:21-23**), and the Kingdom of God is entered only by spiritual birth (**John 3:5**).

This sharp, two-edged sword cuts to pieces our selfishness and sin. The Bible says no to many of our cherished plans. It cuts deep into the customs of men. It puts a roadblock in front of fleshly passions. It bids us to be merciful if we would receive mercy.

Praise God when it cuts down into your life, separating those things which tend to hold us back and take away our liberty and freedom. Let the Bible criticize you before your conscience and the world get a chance to do so.

### God's Word Has Power to Save

**Acts 20:32** I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace—the Bible, which ministers God's grace, or a supply of His life. The Word is able to build you up—to give you knowledge, spiritual strength, faith. And an inheritance among the sanctified—to give possessions which sanctified ones have— life, holiness, power, love, faith, fruit of the Spirit, and a home in Heaven. One does not get these by having a Bible only, or reading it only, or going through forms, or performing outward works. No, only by hearing, believing, and obeying is one led to Christ Who saves (**James 1:21-25**). We must do the will of the Father (**Matthew 7:21**). The Bible shows us His will.

In God's Word is the authority of God. For effective work that accomplishes God's will, we must use it. When a child inquires, read with him the answer from the Bible. To lead the unsaved to Christ, use Scripture. People need instructing, the church needs reviving, lives need changing, and problems need solving. There is only one way to do this, and that is to stand in God's counsel and cause the people to hear His Words, seasoned with prayer (**Jeremiah 23:22**).

All this power is unleashed by faith in God's Word. It is all rendered powerless by unbelief. Enemies of God have always tried to take authority away from His Word, the Bible. Unbelief has taken various forms from the time of Eden until now. Some are: (1) Atheism—denial of the existence of God. (2) Agnosticism— the doctrine that one cannot know as to the nature of God, a future life, etc. (3) Infidelity—lack of faith, unbelief. It denies the truth of the Bible and Christian teachings. (4) Higher Criticism— critical study of the Bible, aimed to find faults within. The writers of the Bible were not its authors; the Holy Spirit was. The writers were put in trust with the gospel (**1 Thessalonians 2:3-4**).

### JUST A THOUGHT

**Unbelievers are not convinced by factual evidence,  
but by the Spirit's power working in a life.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.  
It is revised and posted here with written permission from  
(c) Bible Paths Publications, PO Box 299, Keithville, LA 71047