



## Devoted - The Word of God

### Key idea:

God feeds and forms His people as the Spirit works through the Word — in the worship of the gathered church and in personal daily devotion — so that their hearts flourish in ever-deepening delight in Christ.

### Key text:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

### Key points:

1. The Church is Built on Apostolic Teaching - The early church devoted itself to the apostles' teaching, which is preserved for us in the New Testament.
2. God Gives Teachers to His Church - Jesus provides shepherds and teachers to teach the apostles' doctrine contained in the Scripture to protect believers from false teaching and equip them for spiritual maturity.
3. Personal Devotion Matters - Beyond corporate worship, we need daily personal engagement with Scripture. We are promised blessing if we meditate on the Scripture day and night.
4. Benefits of Devotion to God's Word:
  - It is our spiritual food
  - It defends us from Satan and temptation
  - It protects us from false teaching and ideas

- It forms our hearts to love and delight in God
  - It causes us to prosper in all of life
5. Five Ways to Engage Scripture (The Hand Illustration):
- Hear the Word (pinky - least effort, broad base)
  - Read the Word (requires more attention)
  - Study the Word (digging deeper into meaning)
  - Memorize the Word (storing it in your heart)
  - Meditate on the Word (thumb - gives the firmest grip)

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Luke emphasize "the apostles' teaching" rather than just "the Word of God" in Acts 2:42? What does this tell us about the foundation of the church?
2. How does the concept of devotion to the apostles' teaching in Acts 2:42 challenge our modern approach to Scripture, where we have unprecedented access to multiple Bible translations and study tools?
3. In what ways might our church gatherings reflect or fall short of the early church's practice of centering worship around the reading, singing, praying, and teaching of God's Word?
4. Bret emphasized that elders must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught rather than creating new ideas. How does this principle protect the church from false teaching in our current cultural climate?
5. Bret warns against churches that read Scripture but then undermine it through their teaching. What specific markers should we look for to discern whether a church is truly devoted to apostolic teaching?
6. If the preached Word is truly the Word of God to us, as stated in the Second Helvetic Confession, how should that truth transform the way we prepare for and engage with weekly sermons?
7. Reflecting on the benefits of Scripture listed in the sermon (food, defense from Satan, protection from false teaching, heart formation, and prosperity), which benefit do you most desperately need in your current season of life?
8. How does the reality that many languages still lack a complete Bible translation affect your perspective on the privilege and responsibility you have with easy access to Scripture?
9. Considering the hand illustration of five ways to engage Scripture (hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating), which finger represents your strongest grip on God's Word and which represents your weakest?

10. Jesus responded to Satan's temptations by quoting Scripture from memory. What specific temptations or struggles in your life would benefit from having relevant Scripture memorized and ready?
11. The psalmist in Psalm 1 describes the blessed life as meditating on God's law day and night. What practical changes would need to happen in your daily routine to move toward this kind of continual meditation?

### **For Further Study:**

For other teachings and resources to grow in your devotion to the Word of God, take a look at the following:

The Hand Illustration Handout given out with the teaching (and available on the website)

The “Practical Tips To Learn the Word of God” handout that was given out with the teaching (and available on the website)

For a deep dive into how to study and apply God’s Word, look at the day-long seminar [“Exploring God’s Word”](#).

You can also look at the [website](#) to view teachings organized by teaching series, by Scripture, or by topic to begin a deeper study on your own.