

A “Now” Word

Romans 10:8-17 ⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. ¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

In the New Testament, there are two major words that refer to the WORD OF GOD. The Greek words **LOGOS** and **RHEMA** are not merely synonyms for the same idea, but both have precise Biblical meanings, as do all words in Scripture.

LOGOS is a broad term, often used in a technical theological sense (over 300X in the NT). It generally refers to the totality of the Word of God, and to Jesus Christ, who is not only “God in flesh” but the living LOGOS, or “the Word made flesh.”

RHEMA, on the other hand, focuses attention on a specific word – a precise direction of Scripture for a particular person or circumstance (70X in the NT). A “Rhema word” is not separate from Scripture, but a part of the whole of God’s Word. It is the Holy Spirit that brings specific verses to us, since God is the Author of all Scripture.

The Word of God, whether referred to as Logos or Rhema, is inspired, eternal, dynamic, and miraculous. Whether the Word is written or spoken, general or specific, does not alter its essential character.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

It is in the Word that we meet God, and our response to the Word is our response to Him!

God’s Word brought the universe into existence and is what keeps it going until God’s appointed time of destruction.

2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The Word of God is a living and active power. It is both recorded truth and our moment of truth – both truth about God and the place where we meet God personally.

Some say that LOGOS is the written Word, while RHEMA is the spoken Word – but this can lead to error and extremism. It is better said that LOGOS is the **TOTAL** revelation, while RHEMA is a **SPECIFIC** revelation. **Not only do they work together, they cannot work apart!**

Many churches pride themselves in teaching from the Bible, and in having their theology (“LOGOS”) correct ... but often, they ignore the “NOW WORD” (“RHEMA”) of God. Churches are indeed supposed to PREACH the Word, but they are also supposed to PRACTICE the Word!

It is the responsibility of the fivefold ministry to encourage the release of the Rhema word and firmly ground it in the Logos word so that the congregation is truly Apostolic and the Holy Spirit is in full control.

If there is no “NOW WORD” from God ... then the Bible is misinterpreted and misrepresented ... churches fall into confusion, legalism and extremism ... ignorance, prejudice and self-righteousness run rampant ... and false doctrine is the ultimate result.

This is why there is so much division in denominational Christianity and why churches have so many different teachings. The devil can quote scripture too! We must believe in the Bible and obviously teach the Bible, but it must be believed and taught in the power of the Holy Spirit!

The problem is that the logos word hasn’t become a rhema word!

ILLUSTRATION: Liberal theologian Dr. Paul Tillich was invited to speak at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He lectured for two and a half hours, quoting numerous scholars and books, and proposed that there was no such thing as the historical resurrection of Jesus Christ. He then opened the floor for questions, and an old preacher stood up, pulling an apple from his sack lunch and taking a bite. “Doctor Tillich,” he said as he crunched, “is my apple bitter or sweet?” Tillich answered, “I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven’t tasted your apple.” The old man replied, “Neither have you tasted my Jesus!” The 1000-plus crowd erupted with applause and cheers, and Dr. Tillich left the platform.

Studying an apple and tasting an apple are two very different things!

Psalm 34:8 – “Oh taste and see that the Lord is good!”

John 1:1 In the beginning was the **Word** (LOGOS), and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God.

John 1:14 And the **Word** (LOGOS) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ is the TOTAL revelation of God – that’s a theological fact!

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the **Word** (LOGOS) of life;

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The **Word** (LOGOS) of God.

But what does that have to do with me? Just this – Jesus holds my entire life, and this entire world, together by His word. He has a SPECIFIC will and a SPECIFIC word for my situation!

Hebrews 1:1-3 ¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the **word** (RHEMA) of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

LOGOS (TOTAL REVELATION) ...

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the **word** with signs following. Amen.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy **word**,

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the **word** of God with boldness.

Acts 6:7 And the **word** of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 12:24 But the **word** of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 13:49 And the **word** of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Acts 19:20 So mightily grew the **word** of God and prevailed.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the **word** of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the **word**.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the **word** of truth.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the **word**; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Hebrews 4:12 For the **word** of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2 Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, *even* unto bonds; but the **word** of God is not bound.

THE “LOGOS” WORD IS POWERFUL, BUT IT WILL NOT WORK IN OUR LIVES WITHOUT THE “RHEMA” WORD ...

Mark 7:13 Making the **word** (LOGOS) of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the **word** (LOGOS) preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in **word** (LOGOS) only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

WE ALMOST ALWAYS THINK OF THE WORD OF GOD IN TERMS OF “LOGOS” ... BUT EVERYTHING WE RECEIVE FROM GOD (INCLUDING SALVATION) IS ALSO DEPENDENT ON A “NOW” WORD FROM GOD. LOOK AT OUR TEXT AGAIN ...

Romans 10:8-17 ⁸ But what saith it? The **word** is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the **word** of faith, which we preach; ⁹ That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth **confession (HOMOLOGEO – outward action to match inward belief)** is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ¹² For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. ¹³ For whosoever shall **call (EPIKALEO – to invoke, to be surnamed)** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ¹⁶ But they have not all **obeyed (HYPAKOUO – to submit or conform to)** the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the **word (RHEMA – a specific word)** of God.

RHEMA (SPECIFIC REVELATION) ...

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

Jesus used the Sword of the Spirit in resisting Satan in the wilderness, responding to each of the temptations by quoting Scripture. The verses he chose revealed and destroyed the lies of each temptation. In the same way, we can use Scripture to destroy the lies that tempt us.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every **word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the **words** that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the **words** of eternal life.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my **words** abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these **words**, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the **word** of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 11:1-3 ¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good report. ³ Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the **word** of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Luke 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy **word** I will let down the net.