

➤ The Beginning of the Word

The power of the spoken Word of God, and what it can accomplish!

there is power in words

- **illus.:** declaration of independence - with and without signatures
- **illus.:** girl who warned about a tsunami - on desktop
- **illus.:** Power of the Spoken Word - on desktop - shows that parents' words are powerful
 - **P - Deut. 11:19** command for Israel to teach their children — **talking**

➤ there is power in God's word — **illus.:** Heb. 1:3; Heb. 1:2-3 Creator, Sustainer, word

- **R - Rom. 1:16-17** "power of God unto salvation" (ASV, 1901) / "to salvation" (NKJ)
 - **eis:** define and exemplify with other passages — unto, into salvation (not just to the point of bap.)
 - **illus.:** walk from the car into the building

➤ - **R - 1 Th. 2:13** performs its work in those who believe

- **illus.:** Acts 17:11 Bereans: when word is studied diligently, many believe
- **illus.:** word is seed - Matthew 13:3-8,18-23,37,38; Mark 4:3-20,26-32; Luke 8:5-15 — **mustard seed 10-15' feet tall**
 - those who did not grow to mature Christians: not because word failed, but because of bad soil (heart)
 - planted, grows through whole life
 - **P - 1 Pet. 2:2** word / grow

➤ how much power does God's word have? — **illus.:** creation

- **R - Is. 55:11** at least as much as it needs to do everything God has declared — word not return void
- **illus.:** Jesus, creation, "and upholds R11 F5 all things by the word of His power" (Heb. 1:3)

➤ - **R - Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:10-11, 13, 17** two-edged / empowers us with everything we need to win the battles we must fight

- power related in Eph. 6: strength, sword is offensive and defensive

➤ how does God's word empower us?

- **knowledge:** through it we obtain knowledge (epignosis) - top knowledge, true knowledge, understanding
 - **illus.:** knowledge is power (Sir Francis Bacon)

➤ - **R - 1 Cor. 2:10-11** God's word reveals His mind - knowledge — **1 Cor. 2:16b** mind of Christ

- **P - Is. 55:8-9** God's ways and thoughts higher - true knowledge

➤ empowerment from God's word results in strength, inner man (spiritual)

- **R - Eph. 3:14-20** strengthened with power through His Spirit, inner man, to know, surpasses knowledge, able
 - know, knowledge is *gnosis*, know love of Christ that surpasses knowledge results in the *pleorma* (fullness) — strength

➤ - **R - Col. 1:9-12** knowledge, spiritual wisdom, understanding, walk, strengthened with all power, saved

- both times knowledge appears is *epignosis* - top knowledge, knowledge of God's will put in practice that results in spiritual maturity and strength

➤ - **R - 2 Pet. 1:2-3, 8-11** everything pertaining to life and godliness

- vs. 3 = *epignosis*, vs. 5 = *gnosis*, vs. 8 = *epignosis* - knowledge and maturity when all 8 Christian graces work simultaneously — result spiritual maturity and salvation

➤ - **illus.:** Chris Osborne snowball of 8 graces - spiritual growth is the snowball getting larger

➤ Summary / inv.:

- **word:** study, learn, know, empowered to do all God commands, stand strong, against all adversaries
- **Inv.:** experience God's power through His word — know it, understand it, grow, saved