

A Sermon by Anthony Kwaw

The Word of God and its Power

Dear friends,

In the first reading, God calls Isaiah to go and preach his Word. In the second reading, St Paul refers to the same Word as “a message to which if we hold firmly, has the power to save us.” In the gospel, Jesus, the Word that became flesh, spoke to Peter saying, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch,” and the results were amazing. In Nazareth, the Word himself, despite his power, could not accomplish any miracles. What does this mean to us? It means that whether the Word will have a transforming and healing effect on us depends on who we are on the receiving end.

The same Word is referred to in the book of Revelation as a two-edged sword; it heals as it cuts. How does the Word do this? The Word cuts through us when it reveals to us who and what we are, and then challenges us to become who and what God wants us to become. And that is why it sometimes creates a lot of pain and disturbances within us whenever we hear or read it. Therefore, if we open up to it and receive it faithfully, it will give us the power and strength to remove from within all habits that displease God, to break down our pride, destroy any evil intentions that we might have, and overthrow any malicious plans we may be entertaining. Once the Word has completed this spiritual surgery, it will start to build within our innermost being the kingdom of God by planting the seeds of faith, hope, and love.

However, if we remain closed to the Word, we will remain who and what we are, and we will not be able to progress spiritually and morally. The most fascinating property or quality of God is that He never interferes with our free will; He does not impose his Word on anyone. In addition, the Word acts as our spiritual mirror. Thus, just as a woman cannot get her make-up on properly without a mirror, just as a carpenter cannot cut a piece of wood into two equal parts without using a guide or ruler, so can none of us lead a Christian life, a righteous life that pleases God without looking in the spiritual mirror, and allowing it to reflect to us the current state of our soul, so that we can see the areas that need improvement in our life. Sometimes, we do not like to see what the spiritual mirror reveals to us. However, if we want to follow Christ faithfully, then we have no choice but make improvements in our soul.

Fellow Christians, we should count ourselves extremely blessed to have the Bible, the Word of God, among us. It was given to us to reveal the mind of God, the state of mankind, the way of salvation, the path to repentance and the happiness of believers. If we read it faithfully, we will be wise; if we believe it, we will be safe; if we live it, we will be holy. It contains light for our direction, food to support us, and comfort to cheer us. It is a road map for our spiritual journey back to God. It is the pilgrim’s staff and guide. Many have ignored the Word, and despite their financial and economic success, their spiritual life has fallen into pieces. Without it, no spirituality can be cultivated. Let us, therefore, like Peter, say to the Lord, **“Oh Lord, to whom shall we go; you alone have the words of eternal life, you are our Saviour, and without your word, we cannot bear any spiritual fruit, for thou hast said, ‘Without me thou canst**

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do nothing.” May today’s message inspire us to pay more attention to our spiritual life.
Amen.