

1. LifeLines on 6/26 will be Colossians 1:25-26.
2. We'll break during July & August, & resume September 11, after Labor Day.

LifeLines June 19, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Isaiah 55:11

**So shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth;
it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish
that which I purpose, & succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

In Isaiah 40-55, Isaiah comforts God's people – probably those returning from exile in Babylon. He assures them of God's help, His promise of a servant of light to the nations (the Messiah), promises of restoration & protection, that God will not forget Israel, that He has blessings in store for His people, that He'll offer an eternal covenant of peace & an invitation to abundant life. God's promises of hope weren't just for the nation of Israel. They are for *us*, too.

Our LifeLine verse closely follows two familiar & powerful verses in which God reminds us His thoughts & ways are higher than ours. Our verse not only accentuates the power of God's & Word, thoughts, & ways, it also alludes to the power of our own.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

AMP

So will My Word be which goes out of My mouth; it will not return to Me void (useless, without result), without accomplishing what I desire, & without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

That's how it is with My words. They don't return to Me without doing everything I send them to do.

CJB (Complete Jewish Bible)

So is My Word that goes out from My mouth – it will not return to Me empty. Instead, it will accomplish what I intend, & cause to succeed what I sent it to do.

ERV (Easy to Read Version)

In the same way, My words leave My mouth, & they don't come back without results. My words make the things happen that I want to happen. They succeed in doing what I send them to do.

GNT

So also will be the word that I speak – it will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do.

GW (God's Word Translation)

My Word, which comes from My mouth, is like rain & snow. It will not come back to Me without results. It will accomplish whatever I want & achieve whatever I send it to do.

KJV

So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth; It shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, & it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

NCV

The same thing is true of the words that I speak. They will not return to Me empty. They make the things happen that I want to happen, & they succeed in doing what I send them to do.

NirV (New International Reader's Version)

The words I speak are like that. They will not return to Me without producing results. They will accomplish what I want them to. They will do exactly what I sent them to do.

NLT (New Living Translation)

It is the same with My Word. I send it out, & it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, & it will prosper everywhere I send it.

NLV

So My Word which goes from My mouth will not return to Me empty. It will do what I want it to do, & will carry out My plan well.

TLB

So also is My Word. I send it out, & it always produces fruit. It shall accomplish all I want it to & prosper everywhere I send it.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

So shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth... Like the rain & snow that comes from above to nourish the earth & produce all good things, God's Word comes to nourish us, give us life, energize & empower us. He wants us to be fruitful for His kingdom on earth, & share the Word through the springs of living water inside us. His Word is to be used for the salvation of others & for building His kingdom. His Word is blessings, peace, grace, life, salvation, sanctification, redemption, mercy. Our words should be the same.

it shall not return to Me empty... To return empty is the same as returning void which would mean to have had no value or to be a useless transaction. His Word is divine energy. It is His power unto salvation.

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose... His Word is for the conversion of sinners & the comfort & sanctification of the saints (believers).

& succeed in the thing for which I sent it... God's plan *will* not, *can* not be thwarted. His Word is mighty & powerful, giving us life today. At the right time, He will bring about the end of this earth, & a new heaven & a new earth will come. At that time He will make all things new.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

Genesis 1:3, Then God said, “Let there be light”; & there was light.

Genesis 9:13 & 15, (God speaking to Noah), “I have set my bow in the clouds, & it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me & the earth...I will remember My covenant...& the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

Genesis 28:15 (God speaking to Jacob), “Know that I am with you & will keep you wherever you go, & will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Numbers 23:19, God is not a human being, that He should lie, or a mortal, that He should change His mind. Has He promised, & will He not do it? Has He spoken, & will He not fulfill it?

Deuteronomy 30:19-20, I call heaven & earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life & death, blessings & curses. Choose life so that you & your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying Him, & holding fast to Him; for that means life to you & length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, & to Jacob.

Deuteronomy 32:1-3 (From A Song of Moses), Give ear, O heavens, & I will speak; let the earth hear the words of my mouth. May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to His work.

Joshua 1:8, This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day & night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, & then you shall be successful.

Job 42:1-2, Then Job answered the Lord, “I know that You can do all things, & that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”

Psalms 1:2-3, But their delight is in the law of the Lord, & on His law they meditate day & night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, & their leaves do not wither. In all they do they prosper.

Psalms 19:2, Day to day pours forth speech, & night to night declares knowledge.

Psalms 19:14, Let the words of my mouth & the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O Lord, my rock & my redeemer.

Psalms 119:105, Your Word is a lamp to my feet & a light to my path.

Psalms 138:2, I bow down to Your holy temple & give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love & Your faithfulness; for You have exalted Your name & Your Word above everything.

Proverbs 18:21, Death & life are in the power of the tongue, & those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 19:21, The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.

Isaiah 40:8, The grass withers, the flower fades; but the Word of our God will stand firm.

Isaiah 43:19, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness & rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 45:23, By Myself I have sworn, from My mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: “To Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.”

Isaiah 54:9, This is like the days of Noah to Me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you & will not rebuke you.

Isaiah 55:10, For as the rain & the snow come down from heaven, & do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth & sprout, giving seed to the sower & bread to the eater, (so shall My Word be...)

Jeremiah 15:16, Your words were found, & I ate them, & Your words became to me a joy & the delight of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

Ezekiel 2:8 & 3:3, But you, mortal, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth & eat what I give you...He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you & fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; & in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.

Ezekiel 12:25, But I the Lord will speak the Word that I speak, & it will be fulfilled. It will no longer be delayed; but in your days, O rebellious house, I will speak the Word & fulfill it, says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 37:4, Then He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, & say to them: O dry bones hear the Word of the Lord.”

Matthew 24:35, “Heaven & earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

Mark 11:22-23, Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up & thrown into the sea,’ & if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.”

Luke 4:20-21, And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, & sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. Then He began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 8:11, “Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.”

Luke 24:44, Then He said to them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets & the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

John 1:1-3c, In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, & without Him not one thing came into being.

John 6:63, “It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit & life.

John 19:36-37, These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of His bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

Romans 10:9, Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:17, So faith comes from what is heard, & what is heard comes through the Word of Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:18, For the message (Word) about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2 Corinthians 1:20, For in Him every one of God's promises is a "Yes." For this reason it is through Him that we say the "Amen," to the glory of God.

Philippians 1:6, I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:13, We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the Word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's Word, which is also at work in you believers.

Hebrews 4:12, Indeed, the Word of God is living & active, sharper than any 2-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts & intentions of the heart.

James 1:18, In fulfillment of His own purposes He gave us birth by the Word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

James 3:10, From the same mouth come blessing & cursing. My brothers & sisters, this ought not to be so.

1 Peter 1:23, You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living & enduring Word of God.

Revelation 21:5-7, And the One who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also He said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy & true." Then He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha & the Omega, the beginning & the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, & I will be their God & they will be My children."

SUMMARY

We refer to the Bible as *the Word of God*, & we refer to His Son as *the Word made visible* or *the Word made flesh*. God has given us His Word as a gift. Through His Word *in us*, our faith becomes voice activated - released through words. Our words, spoken in His name & with His blessing & through His power at work in us, will not return empty or void either. God released His power through words. He spoke, & it was so. Each time *we* quote scripture, it's like little capsules of God's power being dropped in to & extended through us. The power comes through & in His Word. It comes out of our mouths for others to hear & learn so both of us can grow & be blessed. Just as His Word brings faith, so can ours.

God's Word never returns without accomplishing His purpose. Has His Word accomplished its purpose in us? Has it penetrated? Are we "in His Word" enough for it to accomplish all He wants it to accomplish in us? What are our words doing?

God's Word & His promises may take longer to come to pass than we would like. We may not like waiting, but His promises are worth waiting for because God is always righteous & true. His Word

is living & active. We benefit from eating it, reading it, pondering it, memorizing it & speaking it to exhort ourselves – to encourage, urge & build ourselves up in the truth of God’s Word & keep the devil at bay.

CONCLUSION

Every word God has spoken has an assignment, a duty to perform. He has a reason for every word. Each one carries His power. People may say things they don’t mean or make commitments they won’t keep, but God keeps every promise. His promises are for us. If He speaks it, He will make it happen. His warnings to the ungodly or to those who spurn His Word will also come to pass. Those who rebel & resist the work of His Holy Spirit or who call evil good – woe to them all.

What God has promised He *will* deliver, & He wants us to be the beneficiaries of everything He promises. The only way to know His promises, His will & desire for us is to stay in God’s Word. As Joshua & the psalmist said, “meditate on it day & night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, & then you shall be successful.”

In Rick Warren’s “Daily Hope,” 6/17/23, Warren referenced the Joshua 1:8 verse as he discussed types of Bible teaching & study. He specifically addressed meditating & ruminating on God’s Word. He said, “Rumination is what a cow does when she chews her cud. She rolls her cud over & over in her mouth...Cows repeat this several times. They get every ounce of nutrition out of the grass. Biblical meditation is kind of like that; it’s thought digestion. God wants you to get every ounce of spiritual nutrition out of His Word. He wants you to chew on it, digest it, & then chew on it some more.”

*“Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you & fill your stomach with it.
Then I ate it; & in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.”*

Let this verse be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!