



September Bible Tidbits--The Power of the Word

A selection of facts and information to help you discover more of the riches about Sacred Scripture.

Each month we'll offer you several new tidbits in print and on-line: In print on the reverse side of the OLV Activities Calendar; On-line on OLV's Web Page (ourladyofvictorytallmadge.parishesonline.com). The Tidbits are on the Home Page—below the Question of the Week!

The Word of God that we read in Scripture is no ordinary word. It is a word with power, a word with the power to change us. If we read the Bible correctly, we will come into contact with God who desires to speak to us, and his words will change us.

The world around us is full of words. Few of them have much impact on us. We swim through the day in a sea of words—words spoken to us, words we read in newspapers and magazines, words from the TV, words from a radio blaring somewhere in the background. We have learned to ignore most of these words; we have become good at listening without hearing. How many times have we had to ask someone to repeat what they said because our mind wandered and we didn't hear what they were saying to us? How many times have we come home from Church on Sunday and when asked what the homily was about, we could not remember.

It's all too easy to miss God's words in this deluge of words. It is all too easy to read the Bible as if it were a book like any other book. It is almost natural to put God's words on a par with the other words we read and hear each day.

God has assured us that his word is unlike any other word. It may be spoken to us in our everyday language; it may be printed with the same kind of type on the same kind of paper that we use to print other words. But the Word of God is different. It has a power that no other words have. It has the ability to affect our lives as no other words do. It addresses us with an authority that no other words can claim.

The Word of God is not magical. It is a word that has power because of the one who speaks it. The ability of the Word of God to change us stems from God's desire to save us. The Word of God is not a disposable word, but a word that lasts forever. The word of God uttered at creation still echoes throughout the vastness of the universe, holding it in being. The Word of God spoken at the beginning to the first man and the first woman is valid still for every man and woman. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God remains forever" (*Isaiah 40:8*).

The word that God speaks is not a superficial word, a word that only grazes the surface. It is rather a word that speaks to our innermost being, a word that knows the secrets of our hearts and reveals them to us. The Word of God is more personal than any other word we will ever hear.

God's words are not idle; God does not speak to amuse himself. What God speaks he intends, and what he intends to bring to fulfillment. God assured Jeremiah, "I watch over my word to see it fulfilled" (*Jeremiah 1:12*).

Our reading of the Word of God in Scripture is one privileged access we have to the word of God. We need to read and revere the Bible as God's word to us, as a book unlike any other book. God's word is not a condemnation for us. It is a word that will guide and correct us, but foremost, it is a word of love and word of life. The first truth that God reveals to us is that he loves us. If we read the words of the Scriptures that speak of God's love as being personally addressed to us, we will experience their impact on our lives. God's Word has great Power!