

## WHY WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

Brethren, we have heard and read many times that we are to meditate on God's Word, but how are we do that? We know the scriptures tell us to hear the Word, to take our Bibles and read and study, but is that enough? Listen to Malachi 3:16-17," Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Do we verbalize our faith with one another, with our families, our friends, or strangers?

God spoke to Joshua in Joshua 1:8, and He said," This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Notice that God said the" book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth." Joshua was to speak, to verbalize the scriptures. Why? If Joshua spoke on the scriptures, they were in his mind, his heart. He was thinking about them, he was thinking about Godly things, not worldly things. What would that lead to? It would lead to "that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein." What would the result be? The result would be "then thou shalt make thou way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Brethren, how often in a normal day do we speak about the scriptures to others?

The Hebrew word for "meditate" in Joshua 1:8 carries the meaning of utter, mutter, speak. The Greek for "meditate" in 1 Timothy 4:15 where Paul tells Timothy to "meditate upon these things" carries the meaning, not only of pondering meaning, but of the practice of orators as well, which gets back to speaking those things we ponder over. Psalm 119:172-175 says, "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me."

Brethren, let us understand this, if we speak on God's Word, then it is in our hearts (minds). We are actually concentrating on God's revealed mind, His will for us. Why would we not want to do this on a continual basis? Let us do what Paul told Timothy to do in 1 Timothy 4:15," Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." Let us go back and read Malachi 3:16-17, again, and let us speak often to one another those things that are of God.

- The Elders