

The Living Word

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 2:24-25.

B. Man is constantly searching for something beyond himself.

II. God can only be discovered and known as a Father through Jesus Christ.

A. Man cannot be helped apart from Jesus because his spirit is dead.

B. In Jesus is life, so only by the touch of the Son of God is a person given life.

III. To have the Father is different from knowing the Father. There is a process to knowing the Father.

A. The Word of God must be acknowledged as the teachings of Jesus.

1. One cannot distinguish between Christ and the Bible.

2. The one who rejects Jesus and His sayings will be judged by his words because the Father is the source. (John 12)

B. The Word must possess a believer.

1. The Word must be meditated upon until it grips one.

2. If the Word is allowed to possess a believer, he will be possessed by God. (John 14)

3. To the degree that a believer gives himself to God, to that degree God will give Himself to him. (John 15, Philippians 3)

a. One can have all that Christ is if he is ready to take Him.

b. One has all that one really wants from God because one can have all that one is ready to take.

C. Eternal life is given to the believer as a reality that can be experienced in the presence.

1. It refers to fullness of life.

2. It goes on forever.

3. It is daily experiencing God's solutions instead of our own.

4. Those that wait upon the Lord exchange their strength for God's strength.

Application questions:

1. What is the difference between knowing the Lord and having the Lord according to the speaker?

2. How would you counsel someone wanting to know more about meditating on God's Word?

3. Why is it important to realize that eternal life has a present aspect to it?
