The Word Made Flesh

by John Robert Stevens

LIVING WORD PUBLICATIONS

Copyright © 2006 by The Living Word, a California nonprofit corporation. All rights reserved. This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, in any way, or by any means electronic or otherwise, including but not limited to, photocopying, electronic transmission, or scanning, without written permission from the publisher.

Unless otherwise designated, all Scripture is taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Printed in the U.S.A.

2006-10-24-01R

Living Word Publications
The Living Word
P.O. Box 958
North Hollywood, CA 91603



"The Word of God is living and powerful" logo is a registered trademark of The Living Word, a California nonprofit corporation, and may not be used without permission.

The Word Made Flesh

God Speaks Through Human Vessels

When God wants to speak to the world, He does it through human flesh. Is that a new concept to you? If it is, think about it for a moment. The Bible is the definitive work of God speaking through human vessels to the world. It was spoken and written by men moved by the Holy Spirit, and it is the Word of God manifest in and through human vessels (II Peter 1:21).

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

This Scripture makes clear that it was God speaking in the prophets, and it was God speaking in Christ, to the world. God has something to say to His people, so He speaks through His Son. Most people today do not know how to hear God's voice because they have not discovered the Man behind the Book—they haven't found the living Word in the Lord Jesus Himself. Christ is the Word of God made flesh. This is explained clearly in the first chapter of the Gospel of John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-4,14)

Do you see it? The Man Jesus was the Word of God. I'm not being a heretic when I tell you that the world will not discover Jesus Christ through the Bible. It's the other way around. The world will discover the Bible through Jesus Christ! God speaks to us through His Son, so it is only when the Lord Jesus comes alive in the pages of the Bible that you will hear the Word of God.

The Man Behind the Book

Without Christ, the Scriptures are meaningless to us. Christ is the Word of God itself. People have tried to make a mystical and elusive interpretation of this truth, saying that Jesus is the Bible. However, if you search the Scriptures, you realize that they testify of the Lord (John 5:39).

This truth is illustrated by a story about a difficult jigsaw puzzle that was put together by a little girl. Her mother was amazed when she completed it in a very short time, but the little girl explained, "On the back side of the puzzle there is a picture of a man, so I put that simple picture together; then I turned it upside down and the puzzle was all solved."

The Bible is a puzzle; people have difficulty putting it together. But if you know the Lord Jesus Christ, He puts the Bible together for you and gives the Word its sense and meaning. Do you see now that you must have a revelation of Jesus Christ? If you have a revelation of Christ, then you will have a revelation of the Bible. If you don't have that, then the Scriptures won't mean anything to you.

When Paul says in II Corinthians 3:6 that "...the letter

kills, but the Spirit gives life," in effect, that means the Bible without the Spirit is dead. This is a little shocking, isn't it? Let me give you an example of this. In the name of fundamentalism, many people become idolaters of the Bible, "bibliolaters," worshiping the Book rather than the Lord. They worship their own technical explanations of the Scriptures. They enjoy quoting the Scriptures, not as the sword of the Spirit, but as daggers to jab one another with. They relate to the Scriptures as points of an argument, not as the Word of God to the world. They relate to the letter that kills, not to the Spirit that gives life.

Paul speaks about this in his second epistle to the Corinthians. "For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ" (II Corinthians 2:17, ESV). Just as in Paul's day, there are still those who preach the Scriptures deceitfully to prove their doctrine and establish their agenda. It is so easy for people to corrupt the Word of God and turn it into a human argument when they don't have Christ.

Take a moment to see if you have built up a bibliolatry. Without the Holy Spirit, the letter kills. The Bible says that about itself! But remember, the Spirit gives life, and that's why you must read the Word with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is only when the Word comes alive under the anointing of the Spirit that the words and sentences and paragraphs in the Bible leap off the page and become a living Word.

In John 14:9, Philip asked Christ to show them the Father. Jesus answered, "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father." Christ became an expression of the Father to the earth. In John 17:14, Jesus lifted up His voice and said, "Father, I have given them Your Word." God spoke to the world in His Son. Christ has given you the Word. Christ is the Word made flesh.

Living Letters: The Word Made Flesh Once Again

Jesus Christ was the Word made flesh. However, He was but the firstfruits of God's intention; God intends that you, too, should be the Word made flesh.

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

God is to dwell within you, speaking and manifesting Himself through you. Paul tells us that we are to be living letters written by God, having the Word written upon our hearts.

You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. (II Corinthians 3:2-3)

You are a letter, written to the earth from God, and you will be read and known by all men. Just as God spoke to the world in Christ, He now wants to speak to the world in you. God is writing His Word on your heart; therefore, God is in you by His Word. Rejoice over this! God has been writing on your heart with the Spirit of the living Word. When His Word has been written on your heart, it becomes something that everyone can read. And it will speak of only one person: Jesus Christ.

Someone must make the Words of the Bible live within their heart. Someone has to make the cold pages of black ink on white paper come alive, and then proclaim it to the earth. Living epistles must bring the Word of God to the world in this generation. That's the way the world is going to hear the Word. God will speak to this age through His

Son, Jesus Christ, in a many-membered Body.

You are going to do this as a living epistle. You are the expression of God in the earth. Haven't you heard? You are the Body of Jesus Christ, and members one of another (I Corinthians 12:27). Do you believe that you are a part of the Body of Christ? Then become His expression! Become His hands, His feet, His mouth. If you have received Jesus Christ, the Word, then the next step is to be that living epistle who brings the Word to the people. A letter must be read to be effective, so speak the Word. Proclaim it!

Able Ministers of the Spirit

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (II Corinthians 3:4-6)

The process is never about what you are, it's about what God said you are. In this Scripture He says that you are an able minister of the New Testament! God has taken the poor of this world and made them rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom. He's making you a living edition of the Word of God. You may look at yourself and think you're just an old, cheap notebook, but God is writing a marvelous Word on your heart. The quality of the paper doesn't matter. What matters is the content of the message. The old nature is being crucified—that earthly, fleshly nature. In its place I see that glorious golden glow of the new Spirit coming forth—the nature of the Lord. His Word is being woven into the very fabric of your spirit and your life.

Put your focus on the Word made flesh.

In this hour, the Word of God will come forth from your mouth. You will speak by the Spirit, because your sufficiency is of God, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament...." Look in the mirror and you will see that God is writing a living book! You are a Kingdom Bible, with the gospel of the Kingdom written on your heart. God is making you a channel of the Word. Every time you've listened to His Word with an attentive heart, something important has been taking place within you. Your ways of thinking are changing by the Word. No matter what circumstances you may see, one thing is happening to you: the Word is being written on your heart. Soon you will be thinking God's thoughts after Him because they're indelibly written on the tablets of your heart. You're going to speak the Word by the Holy Spirit.

John the Beloved said that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us; now we know it is happening again today. Isn't that beautiful? Give glory to God! Oh, you living letters of Jesus Christ, read and known by all men, be ready to be a Kingdom special edition of the Word of God that goes out to the ends of the earth. There are many marvelous things written on the tablets of your heart and upon your spirit. The Word is being made flesh, and once again it dwells here among us.