

Pastor Doug Wilson • BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS  
July 25, 2021 • Second in a new summer series of messages

### WHAT IS GOD'S WORD LIKE?



#### 1. God's Word is like a \_\_\_\_\_.

JEREMIAH 23:29 (CEB)

Isn't my word like **fire**  
and like a **hammer** that shatters rock?  
declares the Lord.

A Hammer \_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_ (our hard hearts)



#### 2. God's Word is like \_\_\_\_\_.

JEREMIAH 20:9 (NET)

Sometimes I think,  
"I will make no mention of his message.  
I will not speak as his messenger anymore."  
But then **his message becomes like a fire**  
**locked up inside of me,**  
**burning in my heart and soul.**  
**I grow weary of trying to hold it in;**  
**I cannot contain it.**

Fire cleanses; \_\_\_\_\_; comforts;  
\_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_.



#### 3. God's Word is like a \_\_\_\_\_.

PSALM 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.

PSALM 119:130 (NASB)

The unfolding of Your words gives light;  
It gives understanding to the simple.

A Light \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; clarifies.



#### 4. God's Word is like \_\_\_\_\_.

DEUTERONOMY 8:3 (The Voice)

He humbled you by making you hungry  
when **there was no food in the desert.**

**Then He fed you with manna,**  
a food you and your ancestors  
had never heard of.

He did this because

He wanted you to understand  
that **what makes you truly alive**

is not the **BREAD** you eat

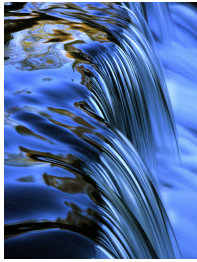
**but following every word that comes**  
**from the mouth of the Eternal One.**

JEREMIAH 15:16 (NLT)

When I **discovered** your words,  
I **DEVoured** them.

**They are my joy**  
**and my heart's DELIGHT...**

Bread \_\_\_\_\_ us; fills us up;  
brings \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_;  
helps us grow \_\_\_\_\_.



## 5. God's Word is like \_\_\_\_\_.

DEUTERONOMY 32:2 (CSB)

Let my teaching fall *like rain*  
and my word settle *like dew*,  
*like gentle rain on new grass*  
and *showers* on tender plants.

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 (TNIV)

<sup>25</sup> Christ loved the church  
and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy,  
*cleansing her by the washing*  
*with water through the Word,* <sup>27</sup> and  
to present her to himself as a radiant church,  
without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish,  
but holy and blameless.

PSALM 1:1-3 (TNIV)

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those...  
<sup>2</sup> who **delight in the law of the LORD**  
and **meditate on his law day and night.**  
<sup>3</sup> *They are like a tree*  
*planted by streams of water,*  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.

**Water cleanses; \_\_\_\_\_; quenches \_\_\_\_\_;**  
**softens hardened soil of our heart; helps things \_\_\_\_\_.**



## 6. God's Word is like "\_\_\_\_\_."

ECCLESIASTES 3 (TNIV)

<sup>11</sup> The words of **THE WISE** are *like* **GOADS**,  
their collected sayings  
*like* **FIRMLY EMBEDDED NAILS —**  
**GIVEN BY ONE SHEPHERD.**

<sup>12</sup> *Be warned, my child,*  
*of anything in addition to them.*

**Goads \_\_\_\_\_ our attention; \_\_\_\_\_ us up;**  
**\_\_\_\_\_ when we've lost your way; get us**  
**on track; keep us growing & moving \_\_\_\_\_.** "They  
spur the will" (Derek Kidner), giving us motivation to press on.



## 7. God's Word is like "\_\_\_\_\_ Nails."

**Firmly Embedded Nails provide a \_\_\_\_\_; hold**  
**things together; remind us of our \_\_\_\_\_.** "They  
stick in the memory" (Kidner), giving us a framework to build on.

**Also, these "Goads" & "Nails" are:**

- **"GIVEN BY ONE SHEPHERD" —**  
*so remember, wisdom comes from the Lord (Proverbs 2:5-6)*
- **"SO BE WARNED" —**  
*so keep in mind, the words of God and the Word of God are reliable and*  
*trustworthy, so be selective in your sources of input. Filter carefully.*

**Why not pick a Scripture verse or passage to serve as Goads to keep us**  
**on the right \_\_\_\_\_, or as Firmly Embedded Nails to give shape,**  
**structure and focus to our lives — to help us grow and flourish?**

MATTHEW 7:24, 28-29 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> "...everyone who *hears these words of mine*  
and **PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE**  
is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.  
<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things,  
*the crowds were amazed at his teaching,*  
<sup>29</sup> because **he taught as one who had *authority*,**  
and not as their teachers of the law.

JOHN 6:68 (NIV)

**"Lord, to whom shall we go?**  
**YOU have the words of eternal life.**

### FOR FURTHER READING:

M. ROBERT MULHOLLAND, JR., *Shaped by the Word: The Power of Scripture in Spiritual Formation.*  
EUGENE H. PETERSON, *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading.*  
RICHARD J. FOSTER, *Life with God: Reading the Bible for Spiritual Transformation.*