

The Word of Life

*In him was **life** and the **life** was the light of men.*

John 1.4

Word of Life

Cars require maintenance

Physical lives require maintenance



Relationships require maintenance

Spiritual life requires maintenance

The greatest enemy to the Word of Life
being transformational:

Familiarity



Bringing three children into
the world...

Dr. Smith's wonder...and mine

Word of Life

Why?

Who?

Word of Life

John 1.1-5

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness **has not** [**can not** and **will not** ever] overcome it.

Word of Life

John 1.9,14

The true light, which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the
only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Word of Life

John 1.16-18

For from his fullness we have all received,

grace upon grace.

For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at
the Father's side, he has made him known.

Word of Life

Hebrews 1.3

He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe
by the word of his power.

Word of Life

John 6.53, 57

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

Word of Life

John 6.60, 61, 63

When many of his disciples heard it, they said,
“This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples
were grumbling about this, said to them,

“It is the Spirit who gives life;
the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have
spoken to you are spirit and life.”

Word of Life

John 6.66-67

After this many of his disciples turned back
and no longer walked with him.

So Jesus said to the twelve,

“Do you want to go away as well?”

Word of Life

John 6.68

“Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.”

Peter is right of course, but doesn't go far enough.

It's not just that Jesus has the words of life...

He is the Word of Life.

Word of Life

“Do you want to go away as well?”

Word of Life

Jesus is asking about the
hidden motives of the heart...

Why are you walking with me?

Word of Life

Why?

Word of Life

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said,
“**Why** do you think evil in your hearts?” (*Mt 9.4*)

“O you of little faith, **why** did you doubt?” (*Mt 14.31*)

“**Why** put me to the test, you hypocrites?” (*Mt 22.18*)

“**Why** do you trouble the woman?
For she has done a beautiful thing to me.” (*Mt 26.10*)

“My God, my God, **why** have you forsaken me?” (*Mt. 27.46*)

Word of Life

Why does Jesus ask why so often?
(After all, it's not as if He doesn't know the answer)

Jesus is asking about the hidden
motives of the heart...

So that we might become more aware of
why we do what we do.

Word of Life

Moralism – not Christianity

Wrong

Right

One – Dimensional Living:

The axis of “ought to”

Word of Life

Right

Wrong

Right

Two – Dimensional

Living:

The axis of “ought to”
and “why I want to”

Why do I do what I do

and

Why don't I do what

I don't do

Wrong

Word of Life

Placing truth
above love...

Right

“You’ve heard it said,
but I say unto you...”

Wrong

Right

For they cannot sleep unless
they have done wrong; they are
robbed of sleep unless they
have made someone stumble.

“that they may be
seen by others...”

Wrong

Word of Life

Lord, help me get to the place where
what I ought to do
is also
what I want to do.

Word of Life

And just as importantly...

what I want to do

is also

what I ought to do.

Word of Life

Why do you want to get married?

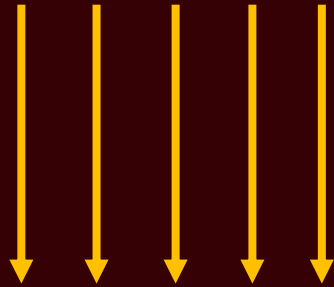
Why did you get married?

Checklist

Neighbor

Our Story

Word of Life



Bad

Good

Best

Why do you read the Word of Life?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book (Ex 20.1-21)

1. *You shall have no other gods before me.*
2. *You shall not make for yourself a carved image.*
3. *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
5. *Honor your father and your mother.*
6. *You shall not murder.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet.*

Word of Life

How are you doing with
keeping the rules?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book (Ex 20.1-21)

Luke 18.18-21...And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.”

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book (Ex 20.1-21)

1. *You shall have no other gods before me.*
2. *You shall not make for yourself a carved image.*
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9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet.*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Owner's Manual (2 Chron 7.14)

2 Chron 7.14...if my people who are called by my name
humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn
from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and
heal their land.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

To do List (Gal 5.22-24)

Gal 5.22-24... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Evidence (John 20.30-31)

John 20.30-31...Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Love Letter *(Jer 31.2-3)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Love Letter (1 John 4.7-11)

1 John 4.7-11 ...Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
In this the love of God was made manifest among us,

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Love Letter (1 John 4.7-11)

1 John 4.7-11...that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Power Source *(Rom 15.13)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Love Letter *(1 John 4.7-11)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Power Source (Rom 15.13)

Romans 15.13...May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Power Source *(Rom 15.13)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

Tool Box *(Prov 1.1-7)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Love Letter *(1 John 4.7-11)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Tool Box (Prov 1.2-7)

Prov 1.2-7... To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight, to receive instruction
in wise dealing in righteousness, justice, and equity;
to give prudence to the simple, knowledge
and discretion to the youth -

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Tool Box (Prov 1.2-7)

Prov 1.2-7...Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance, to
understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise
and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Power Source *(Rom 15.13)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

Tool Box *(Prov 1.2-7)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Wisdom *(2 Chron 1.7-12)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Love Letter *(1 John 4.7-11)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Wisdom (2 Chron 1.7-12)

2 Chron 1.7-12...In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said to God, “You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place. O LORD God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Wisdom (2 Chron 1.7-12)

2 Chron 1.7-12... Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?” God answered Solomon, “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you,

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Wisdom (2 Chron 1.7-12)

2 Chron 1.7-12...and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like.”

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Power Source *(Rom 15.13)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

Tool Box *(Prov 1.2-7)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Wisdom *(2 Chron 1.7-12)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Confessional *(Ps 51.1-3)*

Love Letter *(1 John 4.7-11)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Confessional (Ps 51.1-3)

Psalm 51.1-3...Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Power Source *(Rom 15.13)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

Tool Box *(Prov 1.2-7)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Wisdom *(2 Chron 1.7-12)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Confessional *(Ps 51.1-3)*

Love Letter *(1 John 4.7-11)*

Anchor *(1 Pet 2.2-3)*

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Anchor (Hebrews 6.17-19)

Hebrews 6.17-19...when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to you?

Rule Book *(Ex 20.1-21)*

Power Source *(Rom 15.13)*

Owner's Manual *(2 Chron 7.14)*

Tool Box *(Prov 1.2-7)*

To Do List *(Gal 5.22-24)*

Wisdom *(2 Chron 1.7-12)*

Evidence *(Jn 20.30-31)*

Confessional *(Ps 51.1-3)*

Love Letter *(1 John 4.7-11)*

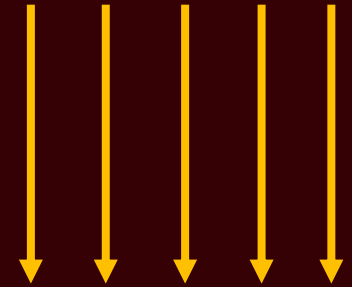
Anchor *(1 Pet 2.2-3)*

Word of Life

Bad

Good

Best



Why should you read the Word of Life?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Sword (*Eph 6.17, Heb 4.12-13*)

Shield (*Ps 119.114, Prov 30.5*)

Water (*Ps 1.2-3, Eph 5.26*)

Rock (*Lk 6.46-49*)

Seed (*Mt 13.18-23, 1 Pet 1.23*)

Food (*Ps 119.103, 1 Pet 2.2-3, Jn 6.47-69*)

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Sword

Eph 6.16-17... In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Sword

Heb 4.12-13... For the word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the
division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and
discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And
no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and
exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Sword

*To **what** do we most need to
wield the sword?*

...and why don't we?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Shield

Psalm 119.114... You are my hiding place and my shield;
I hope in your word.

Proverbs 30.5... Every word of God proves true;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Shield

*When do we most need to
use our shield?*

...and why don't we?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Water

Psalm 1.1-3...Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked nor stands in the way of sinners nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Water

Tim Keller: The Songs of Jesus

“To know how to meditate on and delight in the Bible is the secret to a relationship with God and to life itself.

Views contrary to God’s Word are no anchor in time of need. God’s Word gives us the resilience of a tree with a source of living water that will never dry up.” (p.1)



Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Water

Eph 5.25-26...Husbands, love your wives,
as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for
her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her
by the washing of water with the word.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Water

When do we most need to

drink deeply?

...and why don't we?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Rock

Lk 6.46-49... “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.”

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Rock

Lk 6.46-49... And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Rock

*How do we go about building
our foundation on the rock?*

...and why don't we?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Seed

Mt 13.18-23... “Hear then the parable of the sower:

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom
and does not understand it, the evil one comes
and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.

This is what was sown along the path.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Seed

Mt 13.18-23... As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Seed

Mt 13.18-23... As for what was sown among thorns,
this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the
world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word,
and it proves unfruitful.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Seed

Mt 13.18-23... As for what was sown on good soil,
this is the one who hears the word and understands it.

He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case
a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Seed

1 Peter 1.23...since you have been born again,
not of perishable seed but of imperishable,
through the living and abiding word of God.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Seed

*How do we go about amending
the soil of our hearts?*

...and why don't we?

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Food

Ps 119.103...How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

1 Pet 2.2-3...Like newborn infants, long for the pure
spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation —
if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Word of Life

What is the **Word of Life** to God?

Food

Why must we feed on the Bread of Life?

...and why don't we?

Word of Life

Question for discussion:

How have you been viewing the
Word of Life and how might a
possible change impact your life?