

# *Passion for the New Testament*

- Sam Laing

## *Ancient Words*

by Michael W. Smith

*Holy words long preserved  
For our walk in this world,  
They resound with god's own heart  
Oh, let the ancient words impart.*

*Words of life, words of hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, where e'er we roam  
Ancient words will guide us home.*

### *Chorus:*

*Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

*Holy words of our faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.*

*Holy words long preserved  
For our walk in this world.  
They resound with god's own heart  
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

*We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

## **I. THE WORD CAME TO *DEFINE* YOUR LIFE**

**Luke 24:27** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

**Luke 24:32** They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

**Luke 24:45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

When we became disciples the Word of God radically changed us. It was alive and made us alive. It changed us so much! We read and learned it on our own.

*Does God's word still have that same power to transform, inspire, encourage, convict?*

When is the last time you:

- Learned something new and exciting?
- Couldn't put your Bible down? Pushed for more time to study?
- Had an "aha" experience in your bible study?
- Studied yourself out of a period of discouragement, stagnation, a bad attitude, a sin, a problem, a weakness?

If we are not engaged in our Bible Study, here are the results:

**Hosea 4:6** *my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.*

- Empty/up and down/ dull/drifting
- Feel phony & shallow
- Unable to muster the motivation to maintain the true commitment of a disciple or change our character, experience growth, deal with besetting sins.
- Our weaknesses begin to dominate and reassert themselves
- We assume only young disciples are fired up
- Bitter and disappointed/not excited or joyful
- Overly affected by how others are doing
- Faith suffers/expectations are lowered/excitement of walk with the Lord wanes
- Disappointment, cynicism, bitterness can take over

IDEALIST>REALIST>CYNIC

## **2. FROM DEFINING TO DAILY DEPENDENCY**

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- Spoon fed – never learned to feed ourselves
- Or we just became lazy, stopped working and expecting – like a marriage that goes stale
- Got away from the Word, more into the world, other books

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

**1 Peter 2:2-3**

- Like a newborn – can't live without it
- Pure spiritual milk – the Bible itself – no substitutes
- Crave – desperate desire, for survival
- That you may grow up – then we grow, we don't stay immature, we can lose our salvation

- We have tasted, we have not craved. Tasting is not feasting.
- God is good, but there is so much there!!
- A generation that does not love the Bible or Bible study.

**Matt. 7: 24-27, Jn. 15:7-8**

**Heb. 5:11-6:3** – Babies are cute, but they must grow up!

- Train ourselves
- When storms come, those who are grounded in the Word survive and prosper
- We do more talking than listening. We need a balance in our walk with God
- A relationship where you do all the talking is one where you feel empty and alone
- **Jer. 20:9**

### **3. PROGRESS FROM DEPENDENCY TO *DELIGHT***

Psa 1

Let us rekindle our passion for the Word! Psa. 119:10-16

**Matthew 4:3-4** The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

#### **My Personal History as a Bible Student**

I decided long ago I would be a man of the Word.

It had to come from the inside out.

I had to understand it for myself

Greatest joy of my life, sitting in front of my bible with my journal and pen

1. John
2. Letters of Paul
3. Pastorals
4. Lord's Prayer
5. Life of David & Psalms
7. OT in general
7. Isaiah
8. Ecclesiastes

Memorization: 2 Timothy/Rom. 8/Philippians/Col. 3:1-17/Isa 40/Psa 19, 23, 25, 27, 37, 40, 86, 103, 118, 121, 131

Isa. 66:2