**STIMULATIONS OF FAITH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

1. What is the word of God?
   * The word of God is Jesus. Jesus came to the earth as an embodiment God’s word, that is, the word became flesh. (John 1:1-14, Hebrews 1:1-2)
   * The word of God is the will of God. The word of God is what God is willing to do. (Isaiah 55:11, Ecclesiastes 8:4)
2. How do we acquire knowledge of the word of God?
   * **The Scripture:** The bible is the primary means by which a believer knows the word of God (the will of God or even about Jesus), in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Apostle Paul wrote that ALL SCRIPTURE, is given by the inspiration of God, which means that the words in it are the words of God. Furthermore, Jesus, in John 5:39 said that the scripture testifies of him (who is the word of God), so we can safely say that the bible is the word of God. Lastly, you will find bible verses that gives us insight into God’s will, such as 1 Thessalonians 5:16, that tells us that it is God’s will for us to rejoice in all circumstances. This simply shows that the scripture is God’s word.
   * **The Holy Spirit:** In the last words of Jesus when he was going to the cross, he told his disciples that the Holy Spirit will bring them into all truths when he comes (John 16:13), he also said that the Holy Spirit will testify of him (John 15:26). This reveals that we can receive the word of God through the Holy Spirit, another example is 1 Corinthians 2:11, where Apostle Paul said that no one knows the things of God except the spirit of God. So, we can safely conclude that the Holy Spirit was sent to help us acquire the knowledge of the word of God, amongst other functions.
3. How does the knowledge of the word of God stimulate faith?
   * Faith comes by the CONTINUOUS hearing of the word of God (Romans 10:17). The psychology of faith does not really have to do with hearing new things, but with repetition. Repetition is the pathway to true convictions.
   * The knowledge of the word of God, gives us insight into his will and promises for us, and as these promises are unfolded to us by his Spirit and through his word, we respond in Faith, hope is revived in us, and we look to God who has made his promises to us. (Romans 15:4)
   * The knowledge of scriptures also gives us an insight into God’s nature and character, and this makes him trustable, for example, Numbers 23:19 assures us that God is not a man that he should lie, which means we can bank on his promises and be rest assured that it will surely come to pass (in time). Numbers 55:11 also tells us that God’s word will not return to him void, but it will accomplish the very thing it was supposed to accomplish. This is exciting, because with God, we can put our egg in on basket, in fact, faith does not consider any other options outside of God.
4. Examples of where the knowledge of the word of God stimulate faith in the Bible
   * Abraham receiving God’s promise in Genesis 12: 1-4. The prove that Abraham’s faith was stimulated is that he followed God’s instruction. (Hebrews 11:8).
   * Abraham obeyed God in offering Isaac as sacrifice, because he had interacted with God, and he understood the character of God, so he thought that after he had sacrificed his son, the God of all possibilities would raise him up from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19, Genesis 22: 1-15)
   * The word of God came to Isaac not to go to Egypt, and God promised him that he would bless him even in the land despite famine. Isaac exhibited faith by staying in the land. (Genesis 26:1-5,12-17). We see God’s word revealing his will to Isaac here.
   * The 10 lepers, believed Jesus’ words, when he pronounced them healed by asking them to show themselves to the priests (it was their custom to show themselves to the priest, so that they can be certified as not being leprous anymore, before returning to the city), as they went, they became whole. The word of Jesus, which is also the word of God was more real to them than their current situation, that is Faith.
   * Apostle Paul, on his way to Crete encountered a tempestuous wind called Euroclydon. While everyone was afraid, Apostle Paul exhauted everyone by declaring the word of God that an angel delivered to him during the night, that there shall be no loss of life, that’s faith! (Acts 27:12-26)