



Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Foundations for the Believer to Live the Spiritual Life.

The Transformed Life.

5. The Word-Filled Life.

C. Types that describe the Word of God. The Bible defines itself by various types or analogies for us to better understand its importance, effect, and power in our lives, (*continued*).

8) Fire as an analogy for the Word of God.

Jer 23:29, “Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?””

Jer 20:8-9, “For each time I speak, I cry aloud; I proclaim violence and destruction, because for me the word of the LORD has resulted in reproach and derision all day long. ⁹But if I say, “I will not remember Him or speak anymore in His name,” then in my heart it (*the Word of God not spoken*) becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones; and I am weary of holding *it* in, and I cannot endure *it*.” Cf. Psa 39:3

Jer 5:14, “Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, “Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making My words in your mouth fire and this people wood, and it will consume them”.”

Fire has several analogies in Scripture that speak to what God’s Word does and accomplishes in our lives. Fire is used for: providing warmth, cooking to make food palatable for consumption, forging metals into useful implements, smelting precious metals like gold and silver to separate out the dross purifying them making them more valuable, burning away the stubble in a field or forest to prepare for new production, burning away or removal of what is worthless so that only the good remains, judgement of sin, evil, and wickedness, etc.

When God uses fire as an analogy for His Word, He is saying that His Word ultimately has a positive effect where the destructive consuming nature of fire is used to remove that which is useless and evil, so that only the good is left that has a benefit to our lives.

As in the analogy of its warming characteristic, God’s Word is designed to warm our hearts for Him and to comfort us in times of difficulties. In that, He desires our hearts to be on fire for Him that are burning with the truth of His Word, so that we share and live in His values, purposes, concerns, love, grace, happiness, and self-control.

We also see the cleansing or purifying process in view, as the refiners fire of God’s Word is designed to remove the dross (sin, human good, and evil) from our souls, so that we have pure Divine Good Production. The Word of God burns away and cleanses what is impure and superfluous (useless) in our lives as it is allowed to purify our values, priorities, purposes, attitudes, thinking patterns, and standards of right and wrong.

In all of this, we see the judgment effect of God’s Word in our lives. As we have noted above in the analogy of God’s Word being a judge or critic of our lives, we see that same analogy in this fire analogy. The Word of God is designed to show us what is right within us and what is wrong. Its standard tells us the difference, and in faith we are to throw off the wrong and walk in that which is right. Yet, as children of God, if we do not do that, the Word of God will bring judgment into our lives by way of Divine discipline, **1 Cor 11:28-32**, and the judgment of the BEMA seat of Christ, **1 Cor 3:10-15**.

1 Cor 11:28-32, “But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. ³¹But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.”

1 Cor 3:10-15, “Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

It is the Word of God that saves souls, saving them from the final judgment of the Eternal Lake of Fire.

2 Peter 3:7, “But by His Word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

John 12:48, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”

Jude 1:23, “Save others (*through the teaching of the Gospel*), snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.”

Rev 20:14, “Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Rev 21:8, “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

As Jeremiah exhorted, “**Is not My word like fire?**” God was declaring to the people of Israel who were rejecting Him by rejecting His Word taught by Jeremiah and others that if they continued in negative volition, His Word would result in judgment over them and their nation. The people and their false prophets were rejecting the warnings of Jeremiah, claiming there would be peace and prosperity and no Babylonian captivity. Yet, God declared that His Word would be to them like a fire, efficacious and powerful and the basis of their own downfall or destruction. Just as a fire consumes chaff, so God’s Word would consume them and their false prophets.

We too often fail to judge our lives by God’s Word. We fail to allow the Word to burn away the stubble of our own ideas, agendas, goals. If we fail to allow the Word to do its work, then we too will face the consequences. Yet, when we heed the refining fire of God’s Word, the dross will be removed and only that which is pure and clean and valuable will remain, and we will glorify God in our lives with the result of rewards and blessings in the eternal state.

9) A Hammer as an analogy for the Word of God.

In the second half of **Jer 23:29**, we have our next analogy of God’s Word, a Hammer.

Jer 23:29, “**Is not My word like fire?**” declares the LORD, “**and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”**”

“**Hammer**” is used eight times in the OT. In **Jer 23**, it is the Noun PATTISH that is also used in **Jer 50:23**; **Isa 41:7**. The type of hammer used in each of the three contexts is different.

In **Jer 23:29**, it is a sledgehammer, which has a long handle and is intended to be used with two hands. It speaks to the power of the prophetic Word of the Lord as “a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces,” given His state of existence and presence. Therefore, He ensures the validity of His Word.

In **Jer 50:23**, it is a generic hammer, that also speaks to the prophetic Word of God. As such, in the course of this prophecy of the restoration of Judah, the Lord announces that He will destroy Babylon to avenge their maltreatment of Judah and Jerusalem. In a mock lament, the cry is raised, “How the hammer of the whole earth is cut down and broken!” as the Lord destroys the destroyer.

In **Isa 41:7**, it is the forger’s hammer that has a large, heavy head set upon a short handle and is intended to be used with one hand. It gives the imagery of the Word of God as a forger’s hammer used by a blacksmith, where on the Day of the Lord, God will renew the strength of the righteous remnant of Israel.

The other two Hebrew Nouns for “hammer” are MAQQEBETH used in **Judges 4:21; 1 Kings 6:7; Isa 44:12; Jer 10:4**, and HALMUTH used only in **Judges 5:26**. These all are the builder’s type of hammer, and are not used to reference the Word of God directly.

As you can see, and know, a hammer is used either for construction or destruction, so is the Word of God. In **Jer 23:29**, the context is God’s Word pent up in Jeremiah’s soul that is aching to come out. It is pent up because the Israelites were rejecting God’s Word and instead listening to the false prophets and teachers of their day who were operating on the visions of their own minds. This meant they were rejecting God’s Word through His true prophets, that they were trusting in their own viewpoints. This would ultimately result in their own destruction because they were rejecting the construction of the True Builder. They were not building their lives on the sure and infallible truth of God and His Word.

The Hammer of the Word of God is designed for “**Construction**,” the building up of your soul; the edifying of your soul. Only the Word, combined with the ministry of the Holy Spirit, has the power to build us up in Christ and to develop spiritual maturity and stability, **Acts 20:32**.

Acts 20:32, “And now I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

“We must be constantly building and erecting the spiritual structures of God’s truth into our hearts and minds or we will be building carnal and worldly structures of the false and destructive and humanistic ideas of man. All such humanistic and arrogant ideas first exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. They are ultimately anti-God and anti-man. They hinder our capacity to be what God has designed us to be as His people. In addition, man’s ideas, the visions of man’s own heart, always result in his ruin. They leave us at the mercy of the spiritual elements, the storms and winds of the world just like a man who builds his house on the sand rather than on the rock which consists of God’s Word.” (J. Hampton Keathley III)

1 Cor 3:10, “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.”

2 Cor 13:10, “For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.”

In **Eph 4:12**, the giving of the communication spiritual gifts are for, “**For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.**”

In **Eph 4:16**, regarding the Pastor-Teacher, **“From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”**

Then, we see the Hammer as the Word of God is designed for **“Destruction,”** the tearing down of things. As the saying goes, “In order to build up, you must first tear down.” This is the work of demolition. The tearing down and removal of the bad, so it can be replaced with the good. Therefore, the Word of God leads us to tear down the old structures of our soul filled with human viewpoint, sin, and evil that stand in the way of new construction.

2 Cor 10:3-6, **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”**

“Fortresses,” like the “rocks” of **Jer 23:29**, are anything raised up by the arrogance of man that counters or is against the Word of God. They are anything that hinders authentic Christianity (hindering you from walking in the light of Christ) and works against the application of the knowledge of God and its impact on our life. This includes all forms of selfism, humanism, religionism, emotionalism, secularism, cultism, materialism, etc. It also includes wrong mental attitudes that simply fail to act on the promises, principles, and purposes of God’s Word. In other words, the fortresses are the arguments, attitudes, and designs which present an obstacle to a proper impact of Scripture and its revelation of God upon our lives.

Therefore, through the accurate study of the Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and prayer, we should be accomplishing two things:

1. The destruction of any attitude, viewpoint, or thinking that is counter to or opposed to Divine Viewpoint, (the viewpoint of Scripture / God’s Word).
2. In its place, we should be building up God’s viewpoint in the mentality of our souls, as both the foundation and superstructure of our thinking and living, especially since we are the Temple of God.

Eph 2:19-22, **“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”**

Jer 1:9-10, **“Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.””**