

## The Power of God's Word

### Lesson 2

#### The Foolishness and Weakness of God

## The Power of God's Word

1. The living and active Word
2. The foolishness and weakness of God
3. Power to save us
4. Power to transform us
5. Power to overcome our habitual sins
6. Power to answer our prayers part 1
7. Power to answer our prayers part 2
8. Power to raise us to eternal life

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## The Living and Active Word

1. The Word of God is living and active because God is living and active
2. By God's Word all was created
3. By God's Word the universe is being upheld
4. God has now given His powerful Word to us in written form
5. The gospel is God's only power to save us

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

- In 1 Cor. 1:25, Paul writes the Corinthian church about the foolishness and weakness of God
- In that same verse he states that God's foolishness is wiser than men
- And, he also said that God's weakness is stronger than men

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

- The people of Corinth were proud of their great knowledge, wisdom and philosophy
- They had come to believe as so many do today that if what was presented to them had not originated from and been confirmed as logical by their own reasoning, then it was foolishness, unworthy to be considered by any wise person

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

- Their pride and prejudice did not allow them to consider any truth that differed from their own wisdom, including the gospel message, God's only power to save
- Yet, in spite of their thinking, God purposefully revealed His wisdom and power in the gospel message, the only way humanity can be saved

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

- The Jews on the other hand demanded a powerful sign in keeping with their own ideas of how God should react toward humanity to save them
- They could not believe that God would display His power for salvation through a weak crucified savior dying like a disgraced criminal

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

- Yet, God showed His power through the cross of Christ providing the only sacrifice by which anyone can be saved

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

1Co 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1Co 1:22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

1Co 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1Co 1:24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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## The Gospel God's Only Power To Save

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

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### Why Would God Make The Gospel Conflict With The Wisdom and Strength of Men?

1Co 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

1Co 1:27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

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### Why Would God Make The Gospel Conflict With The Wisdom and Strength of Men?

1Co 1:28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

1Co 1:29 so that no man may boast before God.

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### Why Would God Make The Gospel Conflict With The Wisdom and Strength of Men?

- Many times we will try to teach someone the gospel for them to be saved and they will thoroughly reject it
- Often, we will say to ourselves, "I don't understand why they do not obey the gospel because they are so intelligent."
- In that statement, we have answered our own questions because of their prideful foolish wisdom, they remain opposed to an all wise and all powerful God

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### Why Would God Make The Gospel Conflict With The Wisdom and Strength of Men?

- Through human wisdom and logical reasoning, we can never reach a conclusion that will cause the gospel message to make sense to us
- Jesus' crucifixion for forgiveness of our sins will be seen as a ridiculous sign of weakness and helplessness beneficial to no human being

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### Why Would God Make The Gospel Conflict With The Wisdom and Strength of Men?

- God has attached salvation, forgiveness of our sins, to actions that we "reason" are foolishness, such as baptism (immersion in water) for the forgiveness of our sins
- Often there is no logical connection that we can discern between the things God commands and the results He promises if we obey His conditions
- He has done this so no flesh may boast in His sight

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### Why Would God Make The Gospel Conflict With The Wisdom and Strength of Men?

Isa 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

Isa 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

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## Naaman The Incurable Leper

2Ki 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.

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## Possible Hope Provided Through An Israelite Slave-girl

2Ki 5:2 Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

2Ki 5:3 She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."

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## Naaman Seeks Healing From The Wrong Source

2Ki 5:4 Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel."

2Ki 5:5 Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes.

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## Naaman Seeks Healing From The Wrong Source

2Ki 5:6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

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## Naaman Seeks Healing From The Wrong Source

2Ki 5:7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."

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## Elisha's Servant Speaks God's Cure To Naaman

2Ki 5:8 It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

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## Elisha's Servant Speaks God's Cure To Naaman

2Ki 5:9 So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha.

2Ki 5:10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean."

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## Naaman Proudly and Angrily Rejects God's Cure

2Ki 5:11 But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.'

2Ki 5:12 "Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

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## Naaman Was Cured When He Believed and Obeyed God's Powerful Word

2Ki 5:13 Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'"

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## Naaman Was Cured When He Believed and Obeyed God's Powerful Word

2Ki 5:14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.

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## Will You Now Believe and Obey God's Powerful Gospel To Be Saved?

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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## Will You Now Believe and Obey God's Powerful Gospel To Be Saved?

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

1. The foolishness and weakness of God
2. Why would God make the gospel conflict with the wisdom and strength of men?
3. Naaman was cured when he believed and obeyed God's powerful word

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

- In Christ, God displayed His wisdom and power to save us from our sins
- To the world, the gospel message is foolishness and weakness
- But God's foolishness is wiser than men and His weakness stronger than men
- No logical connection between what God requires us to do to be saved and His promised result

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

- But, we will only be saved if we humbly obey His commands trusting in Him to forgive us of our sins through the blood of Jesus whom He has raised from the dead
- God has done things this way so none of us can boast before Him

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

1Co 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1Co 1:22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

1Co 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1Co 1:24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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## God Promised To Give Jericho To Israel

Jos 6:1 Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in.

Jos 6:2 The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors.

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## God Promised To Give Jericho To Israel

Jos 6:3 "You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days.

Jos 6:4 "Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

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## God Promised To Give Jericho To Israel

Jos 6:5 "It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."

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### Jericho's Walls Fell When They Believed and Obeyed God's Powerful Word

Jos 6:14 Thus the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp; they did so for six days.

Jos 6:15 Then on the seventh day they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times.

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### Jericho's Walls Fell When They Believed and Obeyed God's Powerful Word

Jos 6:16 At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city.

Jos 6:17 "The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

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### Jericho's Walls Fell When They Believed and Obeyed God's Powerful Word

Jos 6:20 So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city.

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### Jericho's Walls Fell When They Believed and Obeyed God's Powerful Word

Jos 6:21 They utterly destroyed everything in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

Jos 6:22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the harlot's house and bring the woman and all she has out of there, as you have sworn to her."

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God's Grace (Unmerited Favor) and Faith  
Work Together To Produce God's Result

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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God's Grace (Unmerited Favor) and Faith  
Work Together To Produce God's Result

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

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God's Grace (Unmerited Favor) and Faith  
Work Together To Produce God's Result

Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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The Man Born Blind Was Healed When He  
Believed and Obeyed Jesus' Powerful Word

Joh 9:1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.

Joh 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

Joh 9:3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

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The Man Born Blind Was Healed When He  
Believed and Obeyed Jesus' Powerful Word

Joh 9:4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

Joh 9:5 "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

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The Man Born Blind Was Healed When He  
Believed and Obeyed Jesus' Powerful Word

Joh 9:6 When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes,

Joh 9:7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

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## The Power To Heal The Man Born Blind Was In Jesus

Joh 9:30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes.

Joh 9:31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.

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## The Power To Heal The Man Born Blind Was In Jesus

Joh 9:32 "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

Joh 9:33 "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

Joh 9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" So they put him out.

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## The Power To Heal The Man Born Blind Was In Jesus

Joh 9:35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Joh 9:36 He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

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## The Power To Heal The Man Born Blind Was In Jesus

Joh 9:37 Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."

Joh 9:38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

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## The Power To Forgive Sins Is In God Through The Blood of Jesus

Heb 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Mat 26:32 "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

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## God Forgives Us By Jesus' Blood When We Believe and Obey His Powerful Word

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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God Forgives Us By Jesus' Blood When We Believe and Obey His Powerful Word

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

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God Forgives Us By Jesus' Blood When We Believe and Obey His Powerful Word

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

1Pe 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

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God Forgives Us By Jesus' Blood When We Believe and Obey His Powerful Word

1Pe 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

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God Forgives Us By Jesus' Blood When We Believe and Obey His Powerful Word

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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God Forgives Us By Jesus' Blood When We Believe and Obey His Powerful Word

Col 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

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God Forgives Sinful Christians When We Believe and Obey His Powerful Word

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

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## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

1. The foolishness and weakness of God
2. Why would God make the gospel conflict with the wisdom and strength of men?
3. Naaman was cured when he believed and obeyed God's powerful word
4. Jericho's walls fell when they believed and obeyed God's powerful word

## The Foolishness and Weakness of God

5. The man born blind was healed when he believed and obeyed Jesus' powerful word
6. God forgives us by Jesus' blood when we believe and obey His powerful word
7. God forgives sinful Christians when we believe and obey His powerful word