

When God Speaks: The Living Power of the Word The Word That Changes Everything

By Hope Wooten | NarroWay Productions | 7 Minute Read
Devotional 02 in this series

Throughout Scripture one phrase appears again and again:

“The Word of the Lord came...”

It may look like a simple sentence, but in the Bible that phrase signals something extraordinary. When the Word of the Lord comes, events begin to move. History shifts direction. Lives change.

God’s Word is never presented as passive information. It is active. It carries authority. It brings life, direction, warning, and restoration. We see this clearly in the opening verses of the book of Hosea.

“The Word of the LORD that came to Hosea, son of Beeri...”
— Hosea 1:1

That single phrase invites us into something much deeper than a message delivered to a prophet. It invites us to see how **God’s Word moves through the entire story of Scripture.**

The Word Arrives — Then the Word Speaks

In **Hosea 1:1**, the Hebrew word translated “word” is דָּבָר — **dabar**.

Here it appears as a **noun**:

“The Word of the LORD came to Hosea.”

Before Hosea says anything, the Word **comes**. The prophet first encounters the presence of the Word.

But in the very next verse the form changes.

“When the LORD first spoke through Hosea...”
— Hosea 1:2

Now the word becomes a **verb**. The Word that arrived now **speaks**.

That movement is important.

First the Word **comes**.

Then the Word **speaks**.

In other words, Hosea does not invent a message. He receives it. The Word enters his life and then moves through him.

This is how God works throughout Scripture.

The Word arrives... and then things begin to happen.

The Depth Hidden in Three Hebrew Letters

The richness of this idea becomes clearer when we look at the Hebrew root behind the word **dabar**.

It comes from three consonants:

ד – ב – ר (**D-B-R**)

Ancient Hebrew writing originally used **only consonants**. Vowel sounds were added later to help readers pronounce the words. Because of this, the same three letters can carry multiple related meanings depending on how the vowels are placed.

Within this root we find several connected ideas:

- **to speak**
- **wilderness or desert**
- **sacred inner place**
- **to lead or guide**

At first these meanings may seem unrelated, but when we view them through the story of Scripture, they begin to form a beautiful picture.

The **wilderness** is where people encounter God.

The **holy place** is where His presence dwells.

When God **speaks**, His Word gives direction and **leads** His people forward.

All of these ideas live inside the same root.

So, when Scripture says "**the Word of the Lord came,**" it is describing something much deeper than speech. It is describing an encounter with the living God whose voice directs history.

The Word Moving Through Scripture

Once we start noticing *dabar*, we see it woven throughout the entire biblical story.

After the flood, God **speaks to Noah**, giving instructions for a new beginning.

God **speaks to Abram**, calling him to leave his homeland and begin a journey that will eventually bless the whole world.

God **speaks to Hagar** in the wilderness, revealing Himself as the God who sees the overlooked and the hurting.

Later He **speaks again to Abram**, establishing a covenant and changing his name to Abraham.

In the book of **Exodus**, God's Word calls Moses, confronts Pharaoh, and leads Israel out of slavery.

When the covenant is given at Mount Sinai, Scripture says:

"God spoke all these words."
— Exodus 20:1

Even the Ten Commandments are called "**the Ten Words.**"

From that moment forward the history of Israel continues to unfold through the Word.

The Word comes to **Jeremiah**.

The Word comes to **Ezekiel**.

The Word comes to **Hosea**.

And each time the same pattern appears:

The Word comes...

and then God's purposes move forward.

What the Word Reveals About God

As we trace the Word through Scripture, several important truths become clear.

God Is Not Silent

The God of the Bible is a God who **speaks**. He reveals Himself. He communicates His will. The prophets did not invent their message; they received it.

Covenant Is Built on Words

The relationship between God and His people rests on **spoken promises and commands**. The covenant itself is established through words God declares to His people.

History Is Governed by the Word

What God speaks eventually comes to pass. The events of history unfold around His declared purposes.

King Solomon once reflected on this reality when he said that **not one of God's promises had failed**.

Isaiah later explains why:

"My word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty. It will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."
— Isaiah 55:11

God's Word does not merely describe the future. It **creates, directs, and fulfills** it.

God's Servants Speak His Words

Because of this, the ministry of prophets and teachers is centered on the Word of the Lord. Their responsibility is not to generate ideas but to faithfully speak what God has revealed.

Even in Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones, the prophet is told: "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Hear the word of the Lord.'" Life comes not from the prophet — but from the **Word**.

The Word at the Center of the Biblical Story

When we step back and look at the whole narrative of Scripture, something remarkable becomes clear.

The Word of the Lord stands at the center of everything. Creation begins because God **speaks**.

Covenant is established through His **spoken promises**.

Prophets call the people back through the **Word of the Lord**.
Salvation itself comes through **hearing and responding to that Word**.
From Genesis to the prophets, the story moves forward because **God speaks**.

And then the New Testament opens with a statement that brings this entire theme into focus:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
— John 1:1

The Word that spoke creation into existence...
The Word that called prophets...
The Word that shaped history...
is revealed in its fullest form in Jesus.

Why This Matters for Us

Understanding the power of God's Word is not simply an academic exercise. It changes the way we live.

If God's Word truly carries life, direction, and authority, then it cannot remain something we merely read occasionally. It must become something we **listen to, trust, and follow**.

God still speaks through His Word today.
It guides.
It corrects.
It restores.
It leads.

And just as the Word came to Hosea and moved him into action, the same Word continues to move in the lives of those who receive it.

When God speaks, nothing stays the same.