

Word of God so that I can hold it in my hand. When I hold the KJV I have the Word of God. I hold it in my hands." Well, you can't hold words in your hands. Words are an expression of thought, and they must either be in your head, or they have no effect, no meaning. The Word of God that He has put here is endless in its depth. There is a lifetime of study. It deserves that we learn his truth for new situations as they come, and that we learn to express these truths and to get them across.

It means that we realize that if He keeps us here He keeps us here in order to be His witnesses and he keeps us here in order to grow in grace and to show others how to grow in grace. The God-ordained method for doing a great part of this work is preaching. The purpose of the preacher is to be God's instrument in getting God's truth into the hearts of the people and helping them to grow in love, joy, peace and the other elements of the fruit of the Spirit.

May God give us in our hearts and lives to show forth the fruit of the Spirit. May He give us a conviction of God's truth, a certainty of it that nothing can shake, a knowledge that the Holy Spirit indeed speaks to us through ~~xx~~ this Book and gives us truth, and if we keep our eyes on the Lord the truth he wants us to have. May he give us that joy that is contagious. That joy which will help us in creating similar joy in others. That love, that peace, these other qualities. May he enable us in direct contact in which we preach and in public meetings in which we preach to be His instrument to fulfill the great purpose of preaching. Let us pray.

Our God and Father we thank you that you have given us the truth in earthen vessels. That you have given us the wonderful truths of your word. These truths that can change a life from darkness and gloom and uncertainty and dissatisfaction into love, joy, peace and happiness because our names are written in heaven. We pray you will help us to improve in our ability to get your thoughts across, in our ability to present it. That you will give us a renewed understanding of the purpose of preaching and that you will give us a determination not to win others approval, not to advance ourselves in anyway, not simply as a job, but to preach as dying men ~~x~~ to dying men conveying the message of salvation and conveying the joy of salvation. And giving a message that the Holy Spirit might use in leading others to Christ and to help them to grow in the fruits of the Spirit. We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.