

"SCRIPTURE BECAME ALIVE FOR ME!"

By Al Mansfield

October 2026

These words are the testimony of countless Catholic Charismatics after they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. A new relationship with the word of God has been one of the almost universal signs of the grace of this contemporary outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As we approach ever closer to celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), we devote this month to considering the role of Holy Scripture in the life of the believer as well as in the life of the Church. It is especially necessary to focus on the word of God in Scripture since it seems that Scriptural teaching, in particular teaching on human sexuality, is under severe challenge these days - even in the Catholic Church! All too frequently we hear of some in the hierarchy or clergy publicly questioning, challenging, or just outright contradicting the clear message of Scripture on matters of marriage, family, and sexuality.

THE GREATEST NEED OF THE CHURCH

During the papacy of Pope Saint Paul VI, he would frequently give sermons in which he would ask, "What is the greatest need of the Church?". To this question he gave various answers - to live Pentecost, an increase of faith, defense against that evil called the devil, etc. While all of Pope Paul's answers obviously still apply, I think I would also add this one - for a return to the word of God in Scripture. That is to say, a return to a greater knowledge of, belief in, and respect for God's written word. The famous quote from St. Jerome comes to mind - "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

VATICAN II ON SCRIPTURE

The official teaching of the Catholic Church on Sacred Scripture is stated in the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, known as *Dei Verbum*. In number 11 of that document, it says the following:

"Therefore, since everything asserted by the inspired authors or sacred writers must be held to be asserted by the Holy Spirit, it follows that the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching, firmly, faithfully, and without error that truth which God wanted put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation."

The document also states in number 21: **"The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since from the table of both the word of God and the body of Christ she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life, especially in the sacred liturgy."**

And, to sum up, we read in number 24 of *Dei Verbum*: **"The Sacred Scriptures contain the word of God, and, since they are inspired, they really are the word of God."**

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT ITSELF?

Consider the following quotes as the word of God describes itself.

2 Timothy 3:16-17..."All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
Scripture is inspired, useful, and necessary.

John 8:31-32..."If you remain in my word, you are truly my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **God's word gives us discipleship, truth, freedom.**

Matt. 24:35; Mark 13:31..."Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." **The word of God is eternal, lasting and permanent.**

Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4.."Not by bread alone does man live but by every word coming out of the mouth of God." **The word of God is our food, nourishment, and life.**

Romans 15:4..."For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." **From the Scriptures we receive instruction, encouragement, and hope.**

Romans 1:16..."For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation for him who has faith..." **James 1:21**"...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." **The word of God provides our power, salvation, and healing.**

Hebrews 4:12..."For the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of joints and marrow, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **The word of God is the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17) and penetrates our entire being.**

Psalms 119:105..."Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." **God's word gives us enlightenment.**

Psalms 119: 11..."I have laid up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." **Through God's word we have protection against sin.**

Romans 10:17..."Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ." **We receive faith through the word of Christ.**

Jeremiah 15:16..."Your words were found and I consumed them; and your word was to me the joy and gladness of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord God of hosts." **God's word gives us joy and delight.**

TAKEAWAYS

For each of us personally... Honestly ask yourself, have I lost my first love of Scripture? Do I still "remain in the word of God" as Jesus exhorts us to in John 8: 31-32? If you know that this is lacking in your life, ask the Holy Spirit to bring you back to that "honeymoon time" right after you were baptized in the Spirit and you couldn't get enough of Scripture!

For the Church...Let us pray that our Church leaders are always guided by the Holy Spirit and the word of God. May they never be carried away by every wind of doctrine, human opinion, and the spirit of the world. Amen!