Thank You Father God, for Your SPOKEN Word; the Word that became Your written Word; the Word that is Your **fulfilled** Word of the past, and present and of future things to come.

Thank You Father for all Your faithful men that finished what You gave them to do on the earth while they lived. Thank You for those up and coming men that will bring to the finish what Jesus Christ gave His Spirit-filled Church to do. For Your Kingdom is only advanced through consecrated saints; through strong and forceful men, with or without a godly “helpmate.”

Father, what if You had never motivated and inspired those men to write down what You said; what You said to the people You love and about the people You love; the people You free and steer in the right direction? What if Your faithful priests and prophets had not written down, and done, what You gave them to say and do in Your Name?

What if Noah and his son Shem had not kept an account of all that happened to the world, and to them? What if Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had not kept a *journal of their journeys?* What if the biographies of Moses and David had not been written? What if the annals of the kings had not been kept? What if the apostles had not followed through with putting pen to paper, recording the words of Jesus Christ as He discipled them? What if Elizabeth and Mary had not been inspired to write down their stories? They all said what God told them to say, and did what God told them to do – by His spoken Word to each and every one of them.

So why is God’s ‘written’ Word so important for us? If God can audibly speak to us like He did with all these others, which He can anytime He wants, then why does God want His people to know His written Word; I mean REALLY know it from Genesis to Revelation?

Peter gives us the simple answer in 1 Peter 1:12 that it was revealed to the apostles by the Holy Spirit that they were not serving themselves but us, in writing down all that happened in that time. If we didn’t have the written Word, the Scriptures of both Old and New Testaments:

\*we would not be united – each doing what thought best

\*we would be swayed by all kinds of teachings about all things that matter in life, beginning with creation – deceived by counterfeit spirits

\*we would not be prepared for what is coming – caught off-guard with disaster and persecution – without hope, not knowing what to expect or to look forward to

As I hear various statistics about the mainstream churches today – this is exactly what is happening with the people the Lord has forgiven and gifted, ‘for the most part.’

The written Word says that “faith comes by hearing the message and the words of Christ.” (Romans 10:17) So then, the written and spoken Word of God are one. You can not put your faith in Jesus Christ apart from knowing (fully joined to) His written Word. You can say that you have heard from the Lord, but apart from His written Word, which confirms any ‘spoken’ word you hear, you have not heard from the Lord, but from a spirit that feels and sounds like the Holy Spirit.

Most people only dive into the Bible when they are in trouble, distressed, threatened with a deadly disease, etc. In other words, when they are afraid and hopeless, and there’s nothing wrong with that. But, in order to live the victorious life in Christ Jesus – the written Word of God must be our daily bread. It is to be studied and treasured, hidden deep inside, not compromised in any way. We need to believe what the Holy Spirit reveals to us in God’s written Word, and what He teaches us therein so that we obey it – at any cost.

If God, throughout time, has devotedly worked to keep His written Word existing and circulated in this world, generation by generation, then should we not be committed to knowing every page? If God has made sure that His Holy Scriptures are in every language – then shouldn’t we be studious to know what we should know? God most certainly will hold us accountable for knowing what we should know from within His written Word.

If I am not reading God’s written Word day in and day out – then I am not walking with Jesus on His path, in truth and spirit. If I am only picking up my Bible once in a while – then I am not in perfect fellowship with my Lord. Jesus, the Living Word, and the written Word of God – are one. Revelation 19:11-15 *“He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.”*

God’s written Word is as powerful as His spoken Word. Hebrews 4:12-13 *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

He has given us His indwelling Spirit to teach us and remind us of His spoken and written Word. The indwelling Holy Spirit makes us hunger for God’s written Word, but so much of the time we feed on everything else – instead of what we truly need to grow up in our most holy faith.

When I was first saved I couldn’t get enough of God’s Word. I read it every day for hours. I wanted to know this Jesus that died for me; I wanted to know what my heavenly Father required of me. I wanted to think and live the way that pleased my Father God. I had no earthly father to raise me and so I appreciated my heavenly Father more because of it, although it was a difficult journey learning to depend on my Father God. Godly fathers, in the way they father, prepare their children to know their heavenly Father and to trust and obey Him.

Twenty five years later, after I met Jesus and asked Him into my heart, my Savior made a personal visit to me. (I’m writing the book about it called Just Walk With Me.) With a vision and His spoken Word, He “jump-started” me so that I could get going with Him again like I had in the beginning when I “first loved” Him and truly hungered for His written Word each day – in order to live it out.

This visit from Him happened one early morning (3:30 a.m.) when I was drawn out of bed to get alone with Him out of desperation; to ask Him what He wanted me to do. The vision was of the Savior’s whole backside with His right hand reaching back to me, and my hand reaching to take His outstretched hand. He was on a narrow upward path. (I drew a picture of it that will be the cover of the book.) His audible spoken Word to me was: *“Carol, I love you. Just walk with Me.”*  We had a conversation about what I was doing, and when He did not answer my last question, our conversation ended.

This had never happened to me before, and it has never happened since. In fact, a few weeks later after it happened, I was having my morning quiet time with the Lord and I asked Him if He would do it again. He answered abruptly: “NO! You don’t need another vision; YOU HAVE MY WORD!” In my lap was the open Bible. I picked it up and rubbed my face in it, feeling the soft pages against my cheeks, kissing it and crying over it. I was given a renewed perspective that day of God’s precious and powerful written Word.

Then, some months later the Holy Spirit spoke to me about the people in the Great Tribulation. He said, “Carol, keep writing about Me, (the Lord who is the Spirit) and don’t stop, because after the rapture those who are left behind that knew you will look for your journals. They will want to know what you knew that they didn’t. They also had the Bible, but it do them any good.”

So, my point in asking these questions about all the faithful men and women of the past that the Holy Spirit used to write and publish and circulate the written Word of God – is to help Christians see and understand the power and treasure of God’s written Word, the Holy Bible. The indwelling Holy Spirit in each of us longs for us to open God’s Word each morning so He can reveal things to us, encourage us to keep going with the Lord, teaching us to think and act like our heavenly Father, and about the needs of others, and most importantly to give us the hope in order to endure hardship and to persevere through the suffering of our faith’s persecution like all the other men and women of God did that are recorded for us in God’s written Word. Thank You Father!

I believe it is important to write down what happens in our life, our marriage and with our children as we live with the Lord day to day, year to year, generation after generation. Our children and grandchildren need to hear about our walk with the Lord! The reason we don’t take the time to write things down is that we are just too busy with so many non-essential things in our lives.

What I have found after 40 years of having the Holy Bible in my presence, is that I have to be responsible and disciplined with God’s written Word, and to cry out to the Lord to help me be responsible and disciplined with His Word. His written Word is first for ME! It is up to me for His written Word to be in me, hidden and protected, so that I will be careful to live according to every Word that comes from the Mouth of my God.

Thank You Father for all You’ve done throughout history to preserve Your written Word. Help me to treasure it and handle it as I should, so that I will be transformed into a true daughter of Yours – all the way!

 *“In the days to come, when I will send a famine through the land — not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it.”* Amos 8:11-12

We need to understand what we really have in our possession with God’s written Word!