The Divine Design for Edification

A 2-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

This study explores the divine design behind God's Word and its effectual working in the life of every member of the Church, the Body of Christ. Drawing from 1 Thessalonians 2:13 as the theme verse for this year's camp, the study examines what it means that the word of God "effectually worketh" — not effectively, but in a way that is final, conclusive, cannot be improved upon, and is not to be substituted for — within the inner man. Through examples drawn from Job, Jeremiah, Paul's epistles, and the Thessalonians themselves, believers are equipped to understand how the particular doctrines of Romans through Philemon are designed to renew the mind, make the believer willing, and produce conduct that is God-honoring and God-glorifying.

www.enjoythebible.org

Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 1	The Design and Effectual Working of God's Word
Lesson 2	Particular Doctrines and Their Effectual Working

Lesson Summaries

L1

The Living Words of the Living God *Understanding the Effectual Working of Scripture*

The Living Words of the Living God — Understanding the Effectual Working of Scripture

- This year's camp theme verse: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 — Paul's thanksgiving that the Thessalonians received the Word of God not as the word of men, but as it is in truth the Word of God, which effectually works in those who believe it
- The Thessalonians: the "model church" — their work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope were entirely produced by God's Word effectually working within them, not by nature, upbringing, or education

Effectual vs. Effective

- "Effectual" = final, conclusive, cannot be improved upon, and is not to be substituted for — God never uses the word "effective" of His own works; His provision is always effectual
- "Effective" = merely successful in accomplishing a purpose; the world at large and the satanic policy of evil offer substitutes for some doctrines — effective, but not effectual
  - Examples: the world's peace vs. the Lord's peace to His eleven (John 14:27, in connection with Israel's program); psychiatrists and drugs vs. the Word for personal tribulation; guilt trips vs. 2 Corinthians 5–6 for ambassadorship

Man Created for Godliness (Genesis 1:26)

- God created man in His likeness, to be a godly creature — godliness is composed of three things: thinking like God does, doing things God's way, and laboring with God in what He's doing
- God's Word is designed to fit into that created makeup like a hand in a glove, producing functional life unto God's honor and glory
  - Spirit → thinking like God | Soul → doing things God's way | Body → laboring with God in His work

Scriptural Examples of the Word's Design

- Matthew 4:4 — "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" — the Lord's declaration of the Word's design to produce functional life
- John 6:63 — "the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life" — designed to operate in the human spirit and produce life; contrasted with the flesh which "profiteth nothing"
- Jeremiah 15:16 — Jeremiah consumed the words God had given him, designed to produce stability in the face of persecution: "thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart"
- Job 23:12 — "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*" — Job placed a value on God's words; the doctrines God had taught him let him stand against the human psychology of his three friends
- Hebrews 4:12 — "the word of God *is* quick, and powerful" — not just alive, but having the functional life; able to divide asunder the soul from the spirit and operate in each independently and with distinction
  - Note: Keith says this verse, "even though it's coming from God's program with Israel," is for the tribulation saints — "But you can learn a few things from it, too."

Two Stages of the Effectual Working (Philippians 2:12–13)

- Stage 1 — "to will": the doctrine renews the mind and makes a believer willing to do what God wants accomplished in him
- Stage 2 — "to do": the doctrine teaches how to do it in a way that honors and pleases God
  - Two stages for each of the issues to be looked at this weekend — ambassadorship, your walk, personal tribulation, a local church, and your heavenly conversation — announced here for later sessions

L2 — Particular Doctrines *How God Has Designed Them to Effectually Work Within You*

Particular Doctrines — How God Has Designed Them to Effectually Work Within You

- Ephesians 3:20 — "according to the power that worketh in us" — the power is not mystical; it is the living words of the living God effectually operating within the believer's inner man
- God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think — there is no circumstance in which His Word cannot effectually work and produce a God-honoring, God-glorifying result

The Battle of Imaginations (2 Corinthians 10:3–5)

- The warfare is not carnal — it is the casting down of imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God
- The believer's greatest enemy is his own imagination: how circumstances appear vs. what God's Word declares to be true
- Reckoning (Romans 6) — counting something to be true and operating upon it regardless of circumstances; the obedience of Christ = obedience to God's Word completely, just like Christ

Examples of a Doctrine and Its Effectual Working

- 1 Corinthians 4:8–14 — designed to make a believer willing to be a fool for Christ, to be despised and defamed, rather than seeking social acceptance in the world
  - The Corinthians tried to blend Bible doctrine with the science and philosophy of their day and were thought honorable in Corinthian society — Paul's rebuke: "We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ" (v. 10)
- 2 Corinthians 5:1–8 — designed to produce not only confidence that death brings the believer into the Lord's presence, but willingness to die for the cause of Christ
  - Probably most Christians get primarily, maybe simply, that at death you go to be with the Lord — if that's all, you've got about one-tenth of what God designed it to do
- Romans 12:3–8 + 1 Corinthians 12:13–27 — designed to teach a believer to love like God does, renewing the mind away from natural selfish love toward selfless love for other members of the church, the body of Christ
  - Every word of the body description in 1 Corinthians 12 can effectually work within a believer and change his thinking, to esteem others more than himself (cf. Philippians: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus")

The Gospel — the Power of God unto Salvation

- Romans 1:16 — "the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" — the one portion of the Word designed specifically to save from the debt and penalty of sin
- Romans 1:16–3:26 — the gospel: first (1:18 to end of ch. 1), you deserve His wrath; second (2:1–3:20), it is humanly impossible to escape it; then (3:21–26), everything He's willing to do — Christ died as your substitute Redeemer, was buried and raised again
- Believing in Jesus = trusting completely in Him to do for you what you could not do for yourself — the only condition is that you accept His death payment with full persuasion of mind that it is totally sufficient
- Romans 5:1–2 — the first thing God desires to effectually work in a newly justified believer: peace with God, access into grace, and rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Effectual vs. Effective

Lesson 1 draws a distinction between what is "effective" and what is "effectual." Something effective merely succeeds in accomplishing a designated purpose. Something effectual is final, conclusive, cannot be improved upon, and is not to be substituted for. God's Word is always effectual — never merely effective. The distinction really is important for the weekend's subjects: for some doctrines, the world at large and the satanic policy of evil offer substitutes. But only God's Word accomplishes the effectual, God-designed result.

Two Stages of Doctrinal Effectual Working

Two stages are consistently identified in the effectual working of God's Word, drawn from Philippians 2:12–13: God works in believers "both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure." Stage one ("to will") — the doctrine renews the believer's mind and makes him willing to do what God wants accomplished in him. Stage two ("to do") — the doctrine tells how to do it in a way that honors and pleases God. These two stages are given for each one of the issues to be looked at that weekend.

The Specific Design of Each Doctrine

You ought to be able to go through Romans to Philemon, identify every doctrine God gives you, and know what it is designed to do in you. Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 are designed to teach selfless love for fellow members of the Body of Christ. Second Corinthians 5:1–8 is designed to produce willingness to die for the cause of Christ. First Corinthians 4:8–14 is designed to produce willingness to be a fool for Christ. You ought not hold that book and not know what it's designed to do in you; if 2 Corinthians 5 has never made you willing to die for the cause of Christ, it hasn't effectually worked within you yet.

Key Scripture References

1 Thessalonians 2:13	This year's camp theme verse — God's Word effectually working in believers as they believe it
Philippians 2:12–13	God works in believers both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure — the two stages of effectual working
Matthew 4:4	Man does not live by bread alone but by every word from God — the Word's design to produce functional life
John 6:63	Christ's words are spirit and life — operating in the human spirit in contrast to the flesh which profits nothing
Genesis 1:26	Man created in God's image for godliness — thinking like God, doing things God's way, laboring with Him

Job 23:12	I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food* — the right valuation of God's Word
Jeremiah 15:16	Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart — God's words designed to produce stability in the face of persecution
Hebrews 4:12	The word of God *is* quick, and powerful — from God's program with Israel, for the tribulation saints, but you can learn a few things from it
Ephesians 3:20	The power that worketh in us — God's Word, not mystical activity, is the source of His exceeding work in believers
2 Corinthians 10:3–5	Casting down imaginations — the warfare of the mind between God's declared truth and circumstances-based thinking
Romans 1:16–3:26	The Gospel of Christ — the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth
Romans 12:3–8 / 1 Cor. 12:13–27	Doctrines designed to teach you to love like God does — selfless love for other members of the church, the body of Christ

For further study visit www.enjoythebible.org