

The Rhema Word of God

Scripture for Personal Application

Logos and Rhema

There are two main Greek words for the Scriptures that are translated *word* in the New Testament. **Logos** refers to the totality of the inspired Word of God and to Jesus, the Living Word. **Rhema** means “an utterance” and refers to the spoken, or personally applied, Word of God.

Biblical Examples of Logos

- *“In the beginning was the Word [logos], and the Word [logos] was with God, and the Word [logos] was God”* (John 1:1 NKJV¹).
- *“The seed is the word [logos] of God”* (Luke 8:11).
- *“Holding fast the word [logos] of life”* (Philippians 2:16).
- *“Study to present yourself approved to God, a workman who does not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word [logos] of truth”* (II Timothy 2:15).
- *“For the word [logos] of God is living, and powerful”* (Hebrews 4:12).
- *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word [logos] of God, which lives and abides forever”* (I Peter 1:23).

Biblical Examples of Rhema

- When Jesus told Peter to cast the fishing nets on the other side of the boat, Peter said, *“Master, we have toiled all the night, and caught nothing: nevertheless at Your word [rhema] I will let down the net”* (Luke 5:5).
- When Gabriel told Mary that she would have a son, *“Mary said, Behold the maidservant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word [rhema]”* (Luke 1:38).
- Simeon recalled God’s promise that he would see the Messiah before he died: *“Lord, now you are letting servant depart in peace, according to Your word [rhema]”* (Luke 2:29).
- God gave John the Baptist a message to preach as the forerunner of Christ: *“The word [rhema] of God came to John”* (Luke 3:2).
- Jesus told Peter he would deny Him: *“Peter remembered the word [rhema] of Jesus, who had said unto him, Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times”* (Matthew 26:75).
- God reminded Peter of His Word: *“Then remembered I the word [rhema] of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 11:16).

Biblical Insights Into Rhema

- Rhema grows our faith - *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word [rhema] of God”* (Romans 10:17).

- Rhema is the sword of the Spirit - *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [rhema] of God”* (Ephesians 6:17). This is what Jesus used in the wilderness. See Matthew 4:1-11.
- Rhema brings God’s cleansing power into our lives - *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for her; That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word [rhema]”* (Ephesians 5:25–26).
- Rhema helps us abide in Jesus so He can answer our prayers - *“If you abide in Me, and My words [rhema] abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done unto you”* (John 15:7).
- Rhema is our spiritual nutrition - *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4).
- Rhema gives us life - *“The words [rhema] that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”* (John 6:63).
- *“When God gives a rhema for us to act upon, He often confirms it by a second rhema, that “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word [rhema] shall be established”* (2 Corinthians 13:1).”²

Rhema – The Spoken Word

What does rhema mean for me today? Is it possible that God will speak to me through His Word today?

Absolutely! As Ellen White says, “The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God’s word, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One.”³

“A rhema is a verse or portion of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with application to a current situation or need for direction... It is the Holy Spirit Who illuminates particular Scriptures for application in a daily walk with the Lord...”⁴

As we read God’s Word (logos) each day, we should ask God to speak to us through it and give us insight into its application to our lives. As we meditate on these verses, and by faith apply them to our lives, they become rhema to us, giving us spiritual life.

Personal Application

- 1) Have you ever experienced a time when a scripture came to life for you in a special way?
- 2) Pray this week for the Holy Spirit to highlight verses for you and help you apply them to your life as rhema.

¹ All Scriptures taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.

² Institute for Basic Life Principles. *What is Rhema?* <https://iblp.org/questions/what-rhema>

³ White, Ellen. *Testimonies, Volume 6*, eBook Copyright © 2010 Ellen G. White Estate, Inc., 1901. p. 393.

⁴ Institute for Basic Life Principles. *What is Rhema?* <https://iblp.org/questions/what-rhema>