

# The Light of the Word

Sunday, August 23, 2026

## KEY PASSAGES

### Isaiah 29:17-19 (NIV)

*In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest? In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. Once more the humble will rejoice in the Lord; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.*

### Psalms 119:105-112 (NIV)

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to your word. Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts. Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.*

### Luke 21:29-33 (NIV)

*He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."*

## FIVE KEY POINTS

- 1 Reading comes before studying.** He read out Eugene Peterson's introduction to *The Message*, where the advice is to read leisurely and thoughtfully first and let study come later.
- 2 The Bible is addressed to us.** We find ourselves in a conversation where God speaks first and last.
- 3 Your eyes need time to adjust.** Scripture works the same way, so slow down and read it prayerfully.
- 4 Put yourself in the stories.** Name the animals with Adam, face Goliath with David, stand on the road to Damascus with Paul. Their promises are ours.
- 5 Read on your own, then read with other people.** He commended families who still read at the table, and asked anyone who has let it slide to pick it back up or join a Bible study this fall.

## STORIES & ILLUSTRATIONS

**A cranky old preacher and a paperback Bible.** He came to faith in his teens after classmates kept inviting him to youth group and he kept not going. One Sunday night he went, heard a preacher he called a cranky old man, and walked forward at the end. He was handed a paperback Living Bible and told to read it, and almost fifty years later he is still reading.

**Locked in the crypt.** In Germany for his aunt's funeral, he joined a tour of a thousand-year-old cathedral and wandered off among the sarcophagi. The group left, the door shut, the lights went out, and he stood in the darkest place he has ever been. Then a faint orange glow appeared at the far end, a piece of amber set into the floor above, lighting the marble of the tombs.

[Listen to the sermon again on Spotify](#) · [Re-watch the sermon on YouTube](#)

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