Authority and Power
of God's Word

I. Authority
   A. Proceeds from the Author, the Holy Spirit
      i. Author gives authority to what is written
      ii. "Inspiration" = inbreathed by God (the Holy Spirit)
          (2 Tim. 3:16)
          All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
          a) All Scripture (written word) is inspired
          b) All Scripture is profitable
      iii. The author is the interpreter, the final authority
          2 Peter 1:20-21
          But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

   B. Psalm 12:6
      The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.
      i. Clay furnace = human element
      ii. Silver represents the divine message which comes through the human element
      iii. The purifying fire is the Holy Spirit
      iv. 7 is the number of the Holy Spirit and of perfection

II. Jesus and the Old Testament
   A. John 10:34-36
      Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I SAID, YOU ARE GODS’? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”
      i. “The Scripture cannot be broken” (v. 35)
      ii. The only unshakable thing is the Word of God
   B. “The Law” = Old Testament Scriptures – two titles
      i. The Word of God
      ii. The Scripture

III. How Jesus used Scripture
   A. Matthew 4:4, 7, 10
      But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”
      Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.”
      Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR
GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.”

i. The first temptation is to doubt
ii. “It is written” – Don’t argue, answer with Scripture
iii. The sword of the Spirit is the spoken word

Ephesians 6:17
And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

B. “Jot and tittle” signifies written text – Matthew 5:17-18
“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.
“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

i. “Jot”: smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet
ii. “Tittle” A little distinguishing curl

C. Matthew 22:31-32
“But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ‘I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB?’ He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

i. Jesus quoted what Moses said as coming from God to the people of his day
ii. God’s Word is eternal

IV. How Jesus life fulfilled scripture
A. Eighteen times: “That the Scripture might be fulfilled.”
B. Jesus whole life was controlled by Scripture
i. Birth
ii. Life
iii. Death
iv. Resurrection, etc.

V. Authority Behind the New Testament: Holy Spirit
A. John 14:25-26
“These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you”

i. The Holy Spirit unfolds all truth: past, present and future
ii. Totally inspired

B. John 16:12-14
“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

i. Jesus gave them all they could bear at that time
ii. He trusted the Holy Spirit to reveal all further truth
VI. The Nature of God's Word
   A. Hebrews 4:12 – The Word of God is:
      * For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 
      i. Alive, not dead
      ii. Energetic: Divine energy which penetrates every area of human personality – soulish vs. spiritual
      iii. Discerning: You read the Bible; the Bible reads you
      iv. Effective

   B. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 – If received in faith, the Word will do what it is intended to do
      * For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

   C. 2 Peter 1:3-4
      * Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
      i. God has already given us...
      ii. Where? Through the knowledge of Jesus....
      iii. By what? Exceeding great and precious promises in the Word of God
      iv. Thus become partakers of God's own nature

   D. God's Word is like Jacob's ladder – as you appropriate each promise, you move up one rung

VII. Eight Effects of God's Word
   A. Produces faith (Romans 10:17)
      * So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

   B. Seed of new birth
      i. James 1:18
         * In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.
      ii. Incorruptible seed produces incorruptible life (1 Peter 1:22-23)
         * Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
C. Spiritual nourishment

i. Milk (1 Peter 2:2)
   Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to
   salvation.

ii. Bread (Matthew 4:4)
   But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT
   ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

iii. Solid food (Hebrews 5:12-14)
   For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach
   you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not
   solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of
   righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have
   their senses trained to discern good and evil.

D. Mental illumination (Psalm 119:130)
   The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

   i. Education is not light
   ii. Wisdom comes through the Word of God

E. Physical healing

i. God's Word: (Psalm 107:17-20)
   Fools, because of their rebellious way, And because of their iniquities, were afflicted. Their soul
   abhorred all kinds of food, And they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried out to
   the LORD in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed
   them, And delivered them from their destructions.
      a) Saves
      b) heals
      c) Delivers

ii. Proverbs 4:20-22
   My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from
   your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them And
   health to all their body.

F. Victory over sin and Satan

i. Psalm 119:9,11
   How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.
   Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

ii. Matthew 4:4, 7, 10
   But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT
   ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”
   Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR
   GOD TO THE TEST.’”
   Then Jesus [said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR
   GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”]
G. Cleansing and holiness (Ephesians 5:25-27)
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless.

H. A spiritual mirror (James 1:23-25)
For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

You do not love God more than you love His Word

The Power and Authority of God's Word is taken from Laying the Foundation, A Derek Prince Study
Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible
Read Hebrews 4:12

Interesting fact: The author of Hebrews is unknown. The letter was written to Hebrews who had professed faith in Jesus as Messiah, but who were wavering in their faith.

What do you think it means when the scripture says that the Word of God is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart?

An old adage says "The New Testament is in the Old concealed; the Old Testament is in the New revealed". What do you think that means?

Read Romans 10:17

Romans was written by Paul while he was in Corinth to the Roman Christians. At that time most of the Jews had been run out of Rome.

Do you think this verse means that it is important to read scripture aloud? Do you ever read scripture aloud during your quiet time? Try it.
In Ephesians 6:17 says to take the helmet of salvation. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8 and Titus 2:13. Define what this helmet is.