

## Keeping the Word Before Us

We read for transformation, but what are ways we keep the word of God (Scripture) and the Word of God (Jesus) in our hearts and lives? Suggestions from Deut 30:11-20.

### 1. Informally in daily life (Deut 6:6-8)

1. Talking about it all the time and everywhere
2. On hands and head literally? If not, perhaps through manner of life

### 2. Recitation of God's Mighty Deeds (Deut 6:20-25; 26:5-10)

1. Summaries of the faith (Rom 1:1-4; 1 Cor 15:3-5)
2. Creeds as summaries of faith.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN.

### 3. Witnessing/ testimony

- a. Preachers do it regularly
- b. Opportunities for members to share how God is at work;  
don't let abuses stop us (Luke 9:39).

### 3. Celebrations/Feasts (Deut 16:14-15)

1. Passover, Weeks, Tabernacles, all celebrate God's deliverance and provision:  
past and present
2. Joyful
3. Inclusive (barriers come down)
4. Today
  - a. Lord supper – joyful or mournful? Not just Acts 20:7 but 1 Cor 11.
  - b. Baptism: not only Acts 2:38 but Rom 6.
  - c. Christmas and Easter vs. secular holidays.
  - d. Fellowship meals – opportunities to remember gifts of God and celebrate our commonality in Christ

### 4. Giving Gifts to God (Deut 16:16-17)

1. Reminds us of what he has given. 2 Cor 8:9. Christ though rich became poor.
2. Recognizes him as Lord – you don't appear before a king empty-handed.
3. Paul in Rom 8-9: blessed in order to bless.

### 5. Symbols (Deut 22:12; cf. Num 15:37-40)

1. Tassels mark as distinct and remind to obey commandments  
- in order to be consecrated by God
2. Baptism and Lord's Supper as symbols
  - a. but not merely that
  - b. participation (wedding analogy)
3. Stain glass, banners, crosses

### 6. Songs (Deut 31:19-22; cf. chp 32)

1. Includes praise, recital of God's acts, admonition/warning, salvation, joy.
2. Songs allow full range of experiences to be expressed (cf. Psalms)
3. Need for us to examine songs. Are they true and faithful to Word, not an issue of old or new; what I like, etc.

### 7. Reading in Community (Deut 31:9-13)

1. Read publicly in community every 7 years (then recited, etc)  
- Deut in its entirety
2. In our churches, need to reinstitute practice of public reading.
3. Respect for word when read
  - a. Jesus stands to read and sits to preach
  - b. "Hear the word of the Lord" and "Thanks be to God"