Question:

We often hear people say, *“Let us read the Scriptures”*, and at other times, *“Let us read the Word.”* Are these two expressions different, or do they mean the same thing?

Answer:

To understand the difference, we must first define each term from a biblical and theological point of view.

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1. What Is “The Word”?

In the Bible, “the Word” (Greek: *logos*) often refers to God’s spoken message, a living and active voice coming directly from Him, especially through revelation, dreams, visions, or prophetic utterance.

In many Old Testament passages, when God gave instructions, warnings, or promises to His prophets, the phrase used was:

> “The Word of the Lord came…”

For instance:

> *Genesis 15:1*
> *“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’”*

This “Word” was not something Abraham read—it was a direct spiritual communication from God. Similar phrases are found throughout Scripture:

- 1 Kings 17:8 – “Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying…”
- Isaiah 38:4 – “And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying…”
- Jeremiah 1:11 – “Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying…”
- Ezekiel 1:3; 12:21, Hosea 1:1, Jonah 1:1, Micah 1:1, Zephaniah 1:1, etc.

In a broader sense, even Jesus Himself is called “the Word” in His divine nature:

> *John 1:1,14*
> *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”*

This shows that “the Word” is not only speech—it’s the living revelation of God, including Christ Himself.

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2. What Is “The Scripture”?

The word Scripture (Greek: *graphe*) refers to the written Word of God—the recorded messages, teachings, commandments, and revelations preserved for instruction.

So, for example, what Abraham heard in a vision became Scripture for us today because it was written down. Thus:

- To Abraham, it was *“the Word of the Lord.”*
- To us, it is *“Scripture.”*

All of God’s spoken Words that were recorded for future

generations became “Scriptures.” That’s why we read:

> *Romans 15:4*
> *“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*

> *2 Timothy 3:16–17*
> *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*
> *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

This verse teaches a powerful theological truth: Scripture is “God-breathed” (*theopneustos* in Greek), meaning the Holy Spirit inspired human writers to record divine truth (see also 2 Peter 1:21).

So when we say, *“Let us read the Scriptures,”* we are referring to

the entire written Word of God—the Bible—containing both Old and New Testaments.

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3. Do “The Word” and “The Scripture” Mean the Same Thing?

In essence, yes—both refer to God’s truth. However, the difference lies in form and context:

- “The Word” – emphasizes the living message, whether spoken, revealed, or incarnate in Christ (John 1:1, Hebrews 4:12).
- “The Scripture” – emphasizes the written record of that message, preserved for all generations.

So when a preacher says, *“Let’s read the Word of God,”* or *“Let’s read the Scriptures,”* both phrases point us to the Bible, which contains the written form of God’s living Word.

And importantly: the power of the Word is not diminished by its form. Whether God speaks audibly, through prophecy, or through Scripture, His Word is always alive and active:

> *Hebrews 4:12*
> *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than*

> *any two-edged sword…”*

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4. Why Does This Matter?

Understanding this distinction helps us value both revelation and preservation:

- God reveals truth (the Word),
- and He preserves it for our instruction (Scripture).

And this leads to a personal question:

> *Have you received the Word of God personally?*
> *Have you accepted Jesus—the Living Word (John 1:14)?*
> *Have you been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, as taught in the Scriptures (Acts 2:38)?*
> *Are you ready to meet Him when He returns (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17)?*

There’s no contradiction between “reading the Word” and “reading the Scriptures.” Both point to God’s eternal

truth—spoken, written, and fulfilled in Christ. As believers, we are called not only to read the Word but also to live it (James 1:22).

> *The Lord is coming (1 Corinthians 16:22).*

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