The Word on the Word

The verses on these pages represent a simple journey through Scripture, a few touch-points that chronicle what God's Word says about God's Word. To help yourself throttle down and ingest the detail, you may want to consider these prompts.

First, find a spot:
Print off these pages (if convenient), find a quiet place, a place that can serve as your "go to spot" for solitude for this Crave exercise. After you settle into your spot, breathe a prayer that goes something like this: *Ahhhhhhhhhh...OK, God. I'm listening.*

Then, observe:
As you see in these passages references to God's Word or words (words like "commands," "decrees," "precepts," etc.), take a moment to interact with what you see:

- Use a symbol (like a book) or a special color to highlight these references.
- Then underline or highlight any descriptions of the Word or any actions related to the Word.
- Write in a separate journal (notebook, sheet of paper, e-doc) anything you sense that God is showing you or teaching you about His Word from these passages.

Then, process:
Looking at what you've marked or highlighted, journal anything from these passages that answers these questions. The answers might just rock your world a bit.

What does the Word do to me?
What am I to do with the Word?
In what different ways is the Word described?
Why should I pay attention to it?
What is God showing me? What does He want me to learn?

And finally, take away:
Write what most made you go "wow!" Or, here's a nice closing prayer to breathe: *God, what's next?*

Major caveat: don't limit your study to these questions and prompts. And by the way, these verses are just a "starter set" of passages from God's Word that speak of God's Word. You can find many more with some creative searching. Prayers!

Barry Shafer

Deuteronomy 6:1–9 (NIV)
[1] These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, [2] so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. [3] Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. [4] Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [6] These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. [7] Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [8] Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [9] Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Psalm 12:6 (NIV)
[6] And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

Psalm 19:7–11 (NIV)

[7] The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. [8] The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. [9] The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. [10] They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. [11] By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 119:97–105 (NIV)

(Or just do the entire chapter in your own Bible!)

[97] Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. [98] Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. [99] I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. [100] I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. [101] I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. [102] I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. [103] How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! [104] I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. [105] Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Isaiah 40:1–8 (NIV)

[1] Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. [2] Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. [3] A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. [4] Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. [5] And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." [6] A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. [7] The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. [8] The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

Jeremiah 23:28–29 (NIV)

[28] Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. [29] "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

Hosea 4:6 (NIV)

6 "…my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children."

Matthew 13:18–23 (NIV)

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Luke 6:45–49 (NIV)

45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. 46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

2 Timothy 3:14–17 (NIV)

[14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, [15] and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

[12] For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.