

Part 5. The Holy Spirit

Lesson 4: Logos and Rhema – Understanding God’s Word

Lesson Summary

God speaks to His people through His Word in two complementary ways: **Logos** and **Rhema**. Logos refers to the complete, objective, eternal Word of God—found in Scripture and revealed in Christ Himself (John 1:1, 14; 2 Tim. 3:16–17). It is the foundation of doctrine, discernment, and authority, the unchanging anchor for every believer (Heb. 4:12; Matt. 4:4). Rhema refers to the timely, Spirit-applied Word—when God quickens a Scripture to a believer’s heart for a specific moment or decision (Rom. 10:17; Eph. 6:17). Rhema never adds to or contradicts Logos, but applies it personally, guiding action, igniting faith, and equipping obedience (Luke 5:5). Both aspects must remain in balance: Logos without Rhema may lead to dry intellectualism, while Rhema without Logos may lead to emotionalism or error. Together, they ground us in eternal truth while keeping us responsive to God’s Spirit, so that we may walk in both truth and power.

Key Takeaways

- **Logos** = the full, written Word of God and Christ Himself (John 1:1, 14; 2 Tim. 3:16–17).
- **Rhema** = the Spirit-applied, spoken Word for specific times and needs (Rom. 10:17; Eph. 6:17).
- Logos is the **foundation**—objective truth for all generations (Heb. 4:12).
- Rhema is the **application**—timely guidance that brings Logos to life (Luke 5:5).
- **Balance needed:** Logos without Rhema → dry intellectualism; Rhema without Logos → error.
- **Testing standard:** Every Rhema must be confirmed by Logos (Acts 17:11).
- Both come from the same divine source and work together under the Spirit’s guidance (John 14:26).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What does Logos mean in Scripture?
A: The eternal, written Word of God, and Christ Himself (John 1:1, 14; 2 Tim. 3:16).
2. **Q:** What does Rhema mean?
A: The Spirit-applied Word for a specific time or situation (Rom. 10:17; Eph. 6:17).
3. **Q:** How did Jesus use Logos against Satan?
A: He quoted Scripture (Matt. 4:4), showing Logos’ authority in spiritual battle.
4. **Q:** Can Rhema ever contradict Logos?
A: No—true Rhema always aligns with Scripture (Acts 17:11).
5. **Q:** What danger comes from overemphasizing Logos alone?
A: Dry intellectualism without living application (2 Tim. 2:15).
6. **Q:** What danger comes from overemphasizing Rhema alone?
A: Emotionalism or error not grounded in Scripture.
7. **Q:** How do Logos and Rhema work together?
A: Logos grounds us in eternal truth; Rhema guides us in timely obedience (John 14:26).

“The Word of God is both Logos and Rhema—unchanging truth and timely application, anchoring us in Christ while guiding us in daily obedience.”