

THE GOD OF

BOTH

Part 4 • April 13, 2025

Pastor Jason Smotherman

The distinction between Logos and Rhema in Scripture is powerful and often misunderstood. Both are Greek words translated as “word” in English, but they carry different nuances:

Logos (λόγος) – “The written or established Word”

This refers to the eternal, unchanging, written Word of God. God’s logic, reason, or message as expressed through the person of Jesus and the written Word of God.

Rhema (ῥῆμα) – “The spoken or specific Word”

This refers to a specific, timely word—a direct utterance, command, or word spoken in the moment, often by the Holy Spirit through vessels (imperfect except for Jesus) willing to be used.

Examples of Logos in Scripture:

JOHN 1:1 NKJV

In the beginning was the Word (Logos), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus is described as the eternal Logos—God’s ultimate message to humanity.

HEBREWS 4:12 NIV

For the Word (Logos) of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword

Refers to Scripture as a powerful, living truth.

MATTHEW 7:24 CEB

Everyone who hears these words (Logos) of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man...

Refers to Jesus' teachings—His established truth.

Examples of Rhema in Scripture:

ROMANS 10:17 NKJV

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (Rhema) of Christ.

Faith is stirred not just by reading Scripture, but when God's Word comes alive—spoken and received in your heart.

LUKE 1:38 KJV

Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word (Rhema)."

Mary's response to the angel.

She received a personal, specific promise from God—this is a rhema word.

EPHESIANS 6:17 NLT

Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (Rhema) of God.

The spoken Word becomes a weapon in spiritual battle—declared, not just read.

Key Distinction:

Logos is foundational—Scripture, doctrine, and Jesus Himself.

Rhema is personal and timely—a word that's freshly spoken to your spirit, often based on the Logos, but applied directly to your situation.

Example:

Peter Walking on Water (Matthew 14:28-29)

- Peter says, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
- Jesus replies with a single word: "Come."

That word was a Rhema.

It wasn't a general truth for all disciples—it was a specific, faith-releasing command for Peter in that moment.

Had someone else tried it without a Rhema, they would have sunk.

This example highlights:

- The Logos tells us God does miracles.
- The Rhema tells Peter when and how to participate in one.

Believers should be aware of two theological dangers:

- **Overemphasis on Rhema** – Detaching “personal revelation” from Scripture leads to mysticism and subjective theology.
- **Neglect of Rhema** – Limiting God’s voice to only written words can lead to a dry, academic faith devoid of living relationship.

Sound theology sees Rhema as illumined Logos, not in competition with it.

The Bible is the logos.

When God quickens a word from the logos, it becomes Rhema.

There are scriptures that are applicable at certain times in your life. Prophets release the Rhema. What is God speaking from His Word (Logos) today is Rhema.

In Greek the word Rhema means “an utterance.” Therefore, the Rhema word in biblical terms refers to a portion of Scripture that “speaks” to a believer.

***MATTHEW 4:4 NKJV** is an excellent example of its importance:
Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema] that
proceeds out of the mouth of God.”*

To a prophet there is nothing worse than stale preaching and teaching—yesterday’s word, yesterday’s anointing. Rhema is fresh and applicable in the now season.

We should all love and study the Word (logos). Believers should study and know the Word (logos), but believers should release Rhema.

When we use Rhema, we mean a specific word from the Lord that applies it to us individually. No true Rhema spoken by a present-day prophet will be in conflict with the spirit and context of the Logos.

The Logos is like a well of water, and the Rhema is a bucket of water from that well.

The Logos is like an entire piano, and the Rhema is one note sounding forth from it.

The Logos is like the whole human body, and the Rhema is one of that body's members performing a particular function.

Logos = full courtroom transcript;

Rhema = the judge's verdict spoken directly to you.

Rhema is always dependent on the Logos: The body can continue to survive without certain members, no member can survive without the body.

A Rhema word for us ... The Logos states:

MARK 16:15-18 NKJV

¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The Rhema declares; DO IT NOW!