

Receiving The Word

Intro: There are differing circumstances in life that we are faced with. For example, we should be patient in receiving criticism, humble in receiving praise, self-controlled in receiving bad news, hospitable in receiving guest, etc. Nothing is more important than how we receive God's Word. Let us notice some things about receiving His Word.

I. RECEIVE IT AS GOD'S WORD.

A. 1 The. 2:13 ¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

B. The Bible is from God.

1. When the apostles spoke they spoke God's Word.

- a. Mark 13:11 ¹¹ But when they shall lead *you* , and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost."
- b. 2 Pet. 1:21 ²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost."
- c. 1 Cor. 2:10, 12-13 ¹⁰ But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

2. This is also true of what they wrote.

- a. 2 The. 2:15 ¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."
- b. Eph. 3:3-4 ³ How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)"
- c. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

C. Being from God it deserves our utmost respect.

1. It is not just optional request from God but mandatory rules, laws, by which we must live.

- a. 1 Cor. 9:21 ²¹ To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law."
- b. Jam. 1:25 ²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein* , he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."
- c. Psa. 19:7 ⁷ The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the *Lord* is sure, making wise the simple."

2. It is that word which will be the standard by which we will be judged on the last day.

- a. John 12:48 ⁴⁸ He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."
- b. Rom. 2:16 ¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

II. RECEIVE THE WORD WITH MEEKNESS

- A. Jam. 1:21** ^{“21} Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
1. *Meek* is from the Greek word *πραΰτης* (*prautes*).
 2. This word deals with the idea of submission or humility.
 3. Here would indicate the submission of our will to the Word of God.
- B. It is that Word of God that has the power to save.**
1. Rom. 1:16 ^{“16} For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 2. 1 Cor. 1:18 ^{“18} For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”
- C. Thus, we must first learn the Word.**
1. Rom. 10:17 ^{“17} So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 2. 2 Tim. 2:15 ^{“15} Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- D. After learning that Word we must humbly submit to it, obey it.**
1. Rom. 6:17-18 ^{“17} But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
 2. Heb. 5:9 ^{“9} And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

III. RECEIVE THE WORD WILLINGLY.

- A. Acts 2:41** ^{“41} Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.”
1. These three thousand did not grumble, argue or complain about what one must do.
 2. They delighted themselves in the opportunity to learn God’s Word and save themselves.
- B. Acts 17:11** ^{“11} These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
1. They first found out, through studying the scriptures, that it was God’s Word.
 2. Then they willingly (word readiness shows this disposition) received the word.

IV. RECEIVE THE WORD WITH A PERSONAL APPLICATION.

- A. We must be doers of the Word.**
1. Jam. 1:22 ^{“22} But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
 2. Rom. 2:13 ^{“13} (For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”
- B. Salvation is an individual action that each person must do.**
1. No one else can repent and be baptized for me.
 2. I cannot force someone else to be saved.
- C. The Christian life is filled with personal responsibilities.**
1. I must transform my life; Rom. 12:1-2 ^{“1} I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

2. I must add the proper things to my life.
 - a. The fruit of the Spirit; Gal. 5:22-23 “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
 - b. The Christian graces; 2 Pet. 1:5-7 “⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

D. Receiving the word will make a difference in our lives.

1. I will hear God’s Word, not with just an attitude of agreeing with it, but with an attitude of changing my life to conform to it.
2. So often we apply God’s Word to others, when we should apply it to ourselves.

V. WE SHOULD BE READY TO RECEIVE THE WORD DURING AFFLICTION

A. 1 The. 1:6 “⁶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:”

1. When the Word was preached to the Thessalonians some received the Word.
2. There was great persecution to those individuals.
3. Acts 17:5-8 “⁵ But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; ⁷ Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, *one* Jesus. ⁸ And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.”

B. If we receive the Word, we might also receive persecution and affliction.

1. There is a natural conflict between good and evil.
 - a. John 3:19-20 “¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.”
 - b. 2 Cor. 6:14 “¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
2. Thus, when we receive the light, those in darkness will hate and persecute us.
 - a. John 15:18 “¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.”
 - b. 1 Pet. 4:4 “⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*.”
 - c. 2 Tim. 3:12 “¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
 - d. We might be rejected by parents, children, friends, work associates, etc., but we must receive the Word in spite of any affliction.

VI. RECEIVE THE WORD WITH CAUTION

A. This is so because there are false teachers.

1. Mat. 7:15 “¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”
2. 1 John 4:1 “¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
3. Even Satan will use scriptures.
 - a. Mat. 4:5-6 “⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written,

He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

- b. 2 Cor. 11:13-15 ¹³For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

B. The false teachers and teachings is why we must study to make sure the Word is in accordance with God’s Will.

1. Acts 17:11 ¹¹These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
2. 2 Tim. 2:15 ¹⁵Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Conclusion: God’s Word is able to save our souls and is the blueprint for our lives. Let us receive that Word and obey it so we will be pleasing to Him.