

“Receive With Meekness The Implanted Word”

James 1:21

Luke 9:23 “If any man would come after me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

“After me.” PERSON

- Some followed for the wrong reason. John 6:68
- Confusion about what the church is. Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 4:17
- Must follow HIM. John 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12
 - Be like him. “O to be like thee...” 2 Peter 2:21

O To Be Like Thee #97

- Oh! to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer,
This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures,
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.
- Oh! to be like Thee, full of compassion,
Loving, forgiving, tender and kind,
Helping the helpless, cheering the fainting,
Seeking the wand'ring sinner to find.
- Oh! to be like Thee, lowly in spirit,
Holy and harmless, patient and brave;
Meekly enduring cruel reproaches,
Willing to suffer, others to save.
- Oh! to be like Thee, Lord, I am coming,
Now to receive th' anointing divine;
All that I am and have I am bringing,
Lord, from this moment all shall be Thine.

O To Be Like Thee #97

- Refrain:
Oh! to be like Thee, oh! to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.

The gospel to be preached. Romans 1:16

- God desires all men to be saved.
 - 1 Timothy 2:4 Knowledge of the truth.
 - 2 Peter 3:9 Come to repentance.
- Accomplished through the “foolishness of preaching.” 1 Corinthians 1:21-24
- Go “make disciples,” through preaching. Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16
- “Faith” produced by hearing. cf. Romans 10:16-21; John 20:30-31

The gospel to be preached. Romans 1:16

- Pentecost. Acts 2:14-41
- Samaria. Acts 8:5-13
- Eunuch. Acts 8:35-39
- Saul. Acts 9:17-18
- Cornelius. Acts 10:34-46
- Lydia. Acts 16:15
- The jailor. Acts 16:32

One Must Have A Receptive Heart

- Not everyone has a receptive heart.
 - Jews who heard Jesus preach. John 5:39-42; cf. Matthew 13:15
 - Those who stoned Stephen. Acts 7:51ff
- cf. "Honest and good heart." Luke 8:15ff
 - Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8
 - Cornelius. Acts 10
 - Mary. Luke 10:39-42

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One Must Have A Receptive Heart

- Necessary for one who is not a Christian.
- Necessary for Christians!
 - James writing to those who are "begotten" James 1:18
 - James speaks of himself as a "servant of Jesus Christ." James 1:1
 - Addresses Jewish Christians in the Dispersion. James 1:1
 - Urges them to "hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ ..., with respect of persons." James 2:1
 - Urges them to "be patient unto the coming of the Lord." James 5:7
 - These are to "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." James 1:21

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Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

- Those who would receive the word with meekness must be:
 - "Swift to hear." James 1:19
 - Hunger and thirst. Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 2:2
 - Isaiah 55:3 "Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live."
 - Matthew 11:15; 13:13-15
 - Hear with the desire to carry it out. James 1:23

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Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

- Those who would receive the word with meekness must be:
 - "Slow to speak." James 1:19 – two ears, but one mouth.
 - Proverbs 29:20 "Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him."
 - Proverbs 21:23 "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue Keepeth his soul from troubles."
 - James 1:26 the man who "bridles not his tongue ..., this man's religion is vain."

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Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

- Those who would receive the word with meekness must be:
 - "Slow to wrath" – "for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 1:19-20
 - cf. Naaman. 2 Kings 5
 - cf. 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:20

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Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

- "Wherefore ..." James 1:21
- "Putting away all filthiness." dirty, filthy. Filth, filthiness, figuratively in a moral sense (James 1:21).
 - "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." NIV
- Syn.:
- *aischrótes*, shame, obscenity;
 - *molusmós*, defilement;
 - *aselgeia*, lasciviousness, licentiousness;
 - *aischrología*, filthy talk;
 - *miasma*, defilement;
 - *miasmós*, the act or process of defiling;
 - *akatharsía*, uncleanness. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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Hindrances To A Receptive Heart Must Be Removed

"Wherefore ..." James 1:21

- "Putting away all ... overflowing of wickedness"
- Not just abundance or excess ...
 - But, put away ALL OF IT. cf. 1 Peter 2:1; Ephesians 4:24-25; cf. Colossians 3:5
 - Denying ungodliness and worldly lust! Titus 2:11

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"Wherefore ..." James 1:21

- "Receive **WITH MEEKNESS** ... the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
- Before the word can save your soul, it must be received. cf. Luke 8:11-15
 - We are responsible for its reception.

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What Is Meekness?

2 Timothy 2:25 *"In meekness correcting them that oppose themselves; if peradventure God may give them repentance unto the knowledge of the truth"*

1 Peter 3:15 *"but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: (being) ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear."*

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What Is Meekness?

"It is that attitude of spirit we accept God's dealings with us as good and do not dispute or resist. ... it is a condition of mind and heart which demonstrates gentleness, not in weakness, but in power. It is a balance born in strength of character." (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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What Is Meekness?

- Mild, Gentle, Patient, Longsuffering, Absence of pride ...
- Not incompatible with power.
NOTE: Moses. Numbers 12:3; Jesus. Matthew 11:28
- One who hears with the intention of obeying. James 1:22-25
 - Ethiopian eunuch. Acts 8
 - Cornelius. Acts 10
 - Mary. Luke 10:39-42

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Conclusion:

James 1:21 "Wherefore ... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

- He who hears sound doctrine taught, but does not put it into practice will not profit.
- "Take heed what ye hear." Mark 4:24
- "Take heed how ye hear." Luke 8:18

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