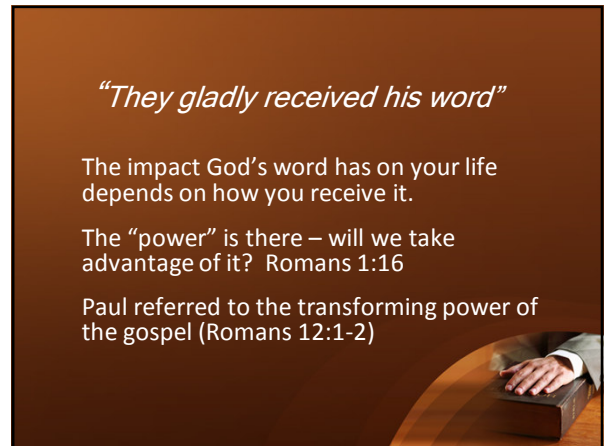


They Gladly Received The Word
Acts 2:36-41



"They gladly received his word"

The impact God's word has on your life depends on how you receive it.

The "power" is there – will we take advantage of it? Romans 1:16

Paul referred to the transforming power of the gospel (Romans 12:1-2)

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Every changed life in the NT...

- Began with the preaching of the gospel - **Acts 2:38-42; 3:12ff; 8:4-13; 8:35-40; 9:16 & 22:14-16; 10:24ff; 11:19-25; 16:13-15; 16:30-34, etc...**
- No other way to obtain biblical faith. **Romans 10:17**

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Same Seed - Different Soils

The varying results in the parable of the sower are because the soils in which the seed was sown were different. (Matthew 13:18-23)

- Taken away
- Driven out
- Rendered unproductive
- Bear fruit

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Fallow ground...

Some hearts are unprepared to receive God's truth.

Hosea 10:12; Jeremiah 4:3 –
"break up your fallow ground"

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Fallow ground...

Defined as:

- "uncultivated, inactive & unseeded,"
- "undeveloped but potentially useful."
- Soil that has become hardened, often overgrown with weeds and incapable of receiving the seed without diligent preparation

Two perspectives

- One – **others**.
 - Have I given up on reaching the fallow ground in the world I live in?
 - Do I lack faith?
 - Have I grown indifferent? **Jer. 6:14-15**
 - Do I practice and support teaching/preaching that seeks to pierce the hearts of men? **Acts 2:37**

Two perspectives

- Two – **myself**.
 - How do I keep my own heart from becoming hardened & impenetrable?
 - Self examination? **2 Corinthians 13:5**
 - Maintaining a love for truth? **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**
 - Do I practice continual reseeded? **James 1:21**

It's about how you receive God's word!

It's a choice!

Jeremiah 35:12-13, "Will you not receive instruction by listening to My words?', declares the Lord."

How we receive God's word will determine how it will impact our lives.

We must receive it as being divinely inspired

- Not just wise sayings and commentary.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:13**,
"...when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God..."

We must receive it with a spiritual mindset

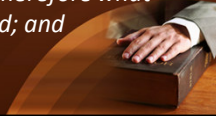
- The truth of God's word will never take root in the heart of anyone with a fleshly/carnal mindset.
- 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; 3:1-3.
- Is our mind set on the "things above" or on the things that are on earth? Colossians 3:1-2
- How is our spiritual appetite? Acts 17:11

We must receive it with continual sense of humility

- James 1:21, *"...in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."*
- Is there any "yeah, but" in us?
- It's how we draw near to God. James 4:6-10
- Humility must precede exaltation. 1 Peter 5:6

We must receive it with resolve to act upon it.

- “Effectual doers” and not just “forgetful hearers” are those who are blessed by God. James 1:22-25
- Example of those on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:37-41.
- Does the call of the Lord in Revelation 3:1-3 apply to us? *“...Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent...”*



We must receive it with determination to endure until the end.

- We will be tested – how badly do we want it? 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7
- Because of the nature of our hope. 1 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:18.
- The rocky soil – Mark 4:16-17
- Hebrews 10:32ff; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2



We must receive it continually.

- Do we have a continual longing for it? 1 Peter 2:1-2
- Is it a daily part of our lives that is as important as eating?
- Do we ever see a place or time to stop growing? 2 Peter 1:5-6
- Is it our “delight” to study? Psalms 111:1-2; 119:12-16



It is no understatement to say that our eternal destiny depends upon how we receive His word.

– John 12:48, *“He who rejects Me, and **does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.**”*

