

What does it mean to receive the Word?

- I. Introduction
 - a. (**James 1:21-25**) “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive** with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 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.”
- II. “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness”
 - a. In receiving the word man must give up error
 - b. (**John 17:17**) “Sanctify them through thy **truth**: thy **word** is **truth**.”
 - i. If one receives the word, he receives the truth
 - ii. Therefore one cannot be in error and receive the word
 - c. We must give up error – “lay apart” = put it to the side
 - i. (**Rom 6:1-2**) “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer **therein**?”
 - 1. Answer: You can not!
 - ii. (**Rom 6:3-5**) “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:”
 - 1. Now we have a new life – newness of life
 - iii. (**Rom 6:6-7**) “Knowing this, that our **old man** is **crucified** with him, that the **body of sin** might be **destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.”
 - 1. Old man of sin is now crucified – destroyed
 - d. Example:
 - i. (**Phil 3:4-7**) “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.”
 - 1. Paul gave up error to receive the word
- III. “...receive with meekness...”
 - a. Meekness
 - i. (**1 Thess 2:13**) “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. Need to understand that we need God for direction
 - i. (**Jer 10:23**) “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
 - ii. (**Ps 119:105**) “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
 - c. Meekness – means self-denying – Doing God’s will instead of our own – having respect to God’s word
 - i. (**Matt 7:21**) “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
- IV. “...engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- a. Implanted word
 - b. Word – Seed
 - i. Parable of the Sower (**Luke 8:11**) “...The seed is the word of God.”
 - c. Word has a power to save
 - i. (**1 Peter 1:22-23**) “Seeing ye have **purified your souls in obeying the truth** through the **Spirit** unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being **born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
 - 1. Truth = Word
 - 2. Through the Spirit
 - a. By what the Spirit teaches us
 - b. (**John 16:13**) “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will **guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”
 - c. (**John 14:26**) “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall **teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
 - 3. Born again by the word of God
 - a. (**James 1:18**) “Of his own will **begat he us** with the **word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
 - ii. (**Rom 1:16-17**) “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. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
 - d. In receiving we recognize the Power in the Word of God

- V. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
 - a. Receiving means doing
 - b. Day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:36-37**)
 - i. How did they receive the word
 - 1. Accepted it – (**Acts 2:37**) “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
 - 2. Obeyed it – (**Acts 2:41**) “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”
 - 3. Continued in it – (**Acts 2:42**) “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
 - ii. Receiving it Saved their souls
 - 1. (**Acts 2:40**) “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”
 - iii. Receiving it put them into the Church by God
 - 1. (**Acts 2:47**) “...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
 - c. Receiving the Word means doing all of it
 - i. (**James 2:10**) “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”
 - ii. Must not have this spirit
 - 1. (**Isa 30:9-10**) “That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:”
 - d. Rejecting the word, condemns man
 - i. (**Acts 13:46**) “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and **judge yourselves** unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”
 - ii. Rich young ruler (**Matt 19:16-22**)
- VI. Those that receive the Word
 - a. (**James 1:25**) “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.”
 - b. (**Rev 22:14**) “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”
- VII. What does it mean to receive the Word?
 - a. Accept it as God’s word
 - b. Recognize its power to save

- c. Put away error
 - d. Obey it
 - e. Continue in it
- VIII. Have you received the word today?
- a. Know that Christ died for your sins
 - i. (**1 John 2:2**) “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
 - b. He wants you to believe on him
 - i. (**John 8:24**) “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
 - c. He wants you to repent of your sins
 - i. (**Luke 13:3**) “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
 - d. He wants you to confess him to be the Son of God
 - i. (**Matt 10:32**) “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”
 - e. He wants you to be baptized
 - i. (**Mark 16:16**) “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”