

How to Experience all the Power of God's Word

Psalms 119:162 - *I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.*

Job 23:12 - *... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.*

Psalms 119:103 - *“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth”.*

Jeremiah 15:16a - *Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.*

We have started every message over the past 4 weeks, reading these 4 passages. They speak of the beauty and power of God's Word. The goal of this series is that you may have a strong relationship with the Word of God. The Bible is too powerful to be a neglected book. Today I want to share how to get the most out of the Word – how to experience all the power of God's word.

Opening Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 - *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you **received** the word of God which you heard from us, you **welcomed it** not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who **believe**.*

In order to get the most out of the Word you have to receive it as indeed it is, as the Word of God, welcome it and believe it.

“the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe”

The Word of God works! It is impactful, it is life-changing, God is ready to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12). It “*effectively works*” – The Greek word here, literally means, *to energize (energeo)*.

That is why **The Passion Translation** translated this verse like this: *“The Word of God continues to be an energizing force in you who believe”*

Amplified Bible (AMPC): ... *“you welcomed it not as the word of mere men, but as it truly is, the Word of God, which is effectually at work in you who believe exercising its superhuman power in those who adhere to and trust in and rely on it.*

God's Word works effectively in us who believe (energizes us). However, in order for you and I to experience the true work and impact of the Word, we need to receive it, welcome it and believe it. - And that has to do with 3 factors that I want to explore with you today:

1. The condition of our hearts

Luke 8:11-15 - *“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³ But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with*

cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Some soil is **hard**, and the devil comes immediately to steal the Word. Another type of soil is **rocky**, and the seed doesn't go very deep. It describes someone who quickly responds to the Word but then his interest wanes and does not continue. The third type is the type of soil that receives the seed but already has a lot of other things going. It is **crowded** soil: the cares of this life and different distractions and pursuits end up leaving no room for the Word to grow. Lastly, there is **good soil**, fertile soil.

*¹⁵ But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with **a noble and good heart**, keep it and **bear fruit** with patience.*

Matthew 13:33 - *But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

The condition of our hearts is therefore crucial. Only those with *a noble and a good heart* reaped all the power of that Word. Noble heart? What does that mean, you may ask?

The word 'noble' is also used in **Acts 17:10-12 NIV**: *As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more **noble** character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.*

So, the condition, the quality of one's heart, ultimately determines whether the seed of the Word will produce 30, 60, hundred-fold blessing and impact, or nothing at all.

2. How we hear

After explaining the Parable of the Sower, Jesus says,

Luke 8:18 - *Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."*

The effectiveness of the Word in our lives also has a lot to do with *how we hear*. The word "hear" is mentioned 7 times in this passage. It is a very important word. How do you hear?

a) **Hebrews 3:7** - ... *"if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts"*

A hardened heart will limit the effectiveness of God's Word in your life, and it desensitizes you to the voice of God. A hardened heart will also find it hard to 'believe' and will find it hard to understand spiritual things (**Mark 6:52** - *"They had not understood because their heart was hardened"*).

How we hear is very important. We need to hear with an eager, receptive heart. It is also very important to hear with an attitude of faith:

Hebrews 4:2 - *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard **did not profit** them, **not being mixed with faith** in those who heard it.*

This passage says that the exact same Word that was of benefit for some was of no benefit to others. Why? They both heard the Word but in some, it was not mixed with faith. The Word of God works effectively in us *who believe*. It is crucial that we believe it, and receive it with faith –no scepticism, and doubt. So, take heed *how* you hear: hear with an engaging, receptive, good and noble heart, and hear with faith!

3. Spiritual capacity

One thing that I observed that can limit how much people get out of the Word is their own spiritual capacity. Here's a statement from Jesus that explains what I mean:

John 16:12 - *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

Jesus still had many things to say to His disciples – He had not exhausted all the Word He had for them. There were still many great revelations, powerful teaching, life changing messages... '*many things to say*'. I believe that there is no limit to the amount of revelation that God has in store for us – what's limited is our capacity to receive it. Jesus said, '*but you cannot bear them now*'

Hebrews 5:11 – *"of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

Jesus said that He still had much to say. The writer to the Hebrews conveys the same thought: ... "*of whom we have much to say, but*" ...

Some people have little capacity. If you want to experience all the power of God's Word then you need to enlarge your spiritual capacity.

God enlarged Solomon's capacity to receive - **1 Kings 4:29** - *And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and **largeness of heart** like the sand on the seashore.*

All that *wisdom and exceedingly great understanding* had to fit into a heart that was large enough to contain it. Our hearts are the containers where God wants to pour out His word. Some of us come to God with really small containers and that is all God has to work with.

Here's a good prayer to pray: **Psalms 119:32** - *I will run [pursue] the course of Your commandments [word], for **You shall enlarge my heart.***

Conclusion

God's Word is alive and powerful. It effectively works in us who believe. **How's your relationship with the Word of God?** Do you engage with it? Do you receive it,

welcome it, and believe it? Are you prepared to act on it and align your life with it? Is it a treasure to you? Do you seek to grow in the Word? Do you have a full revelation of the power contained within the pages of your bible? What is the condition of your heart? How do you hear? What is your spiritual capacity like? – All those things determine whether the Word is working effectively on your life or not.