

**How to Receive the Word of God**

**Lesson Three**

**Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-6 (NLT)**

**11**There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are **spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen.** **12**You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again **the basic things about God’s word.** You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. **13**For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right. **14**Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

**Chapter 6**1So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the **fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds** and **placing our faith in God**. **2**You don’t need further **instruction about baptisms**, the **laying on of hands**, the **resurrection of the dead**, and **eternal judgment**. **3**And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding. **4**For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, **5**who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— **6**and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

Paul had a problem! The people he addressed in this letter had become **“dull of hearing.”** It is very obvious that Paul had taught the basics of the doctrines of Christ but the people didn’t remember them or they didn’t listen to them to begin with.

When Jesus gave John His Revelation (the Book of Revelation), He said, **over and over**, **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”**

How many times have you heard someone preach or teach but not heard a word that was said? I have been guilty of this. Sometimes I can be listening to someone preach or teach but my mind is a million miles away.

When we come to the House of the Lord, we need to set our minds to receive the Word of God. The Word of God will change us! It will make us complete, it will even HEAL US!

**Psalm 107:20 (KJV)**

20  He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions.

Listen to what Jesus said in Luke 8:18;

**King James Version:** Take heed therefore how ye hear:

**New International Version:** Therefore consider carefully how you listen.

**New Living Translation:** "So pay attention to how you hear.”

**English Standard Version:** Take care then how you hear.

**Berean Study Bible:** Pay attention, therefore, to how you listen.

**As I teach you the Word of God this afternoon, each of you will receive a different “measure of blessing” from what I teach because all of you will be listening on different levels.**

You have heard, many times I’m sure, about the milk and the meat of the Word and of course, the main scripture out of Hebrews chapters five and six talks about the milk of the Word. I have actually had people come to me and say, “I want the meat of God’s Word, I want a deeper revelation!” Well, what is the difference in the MILK and the MEAT? Are they different scriptures? NO! Let us take the previous scripture as an example.

**Psalm 107:20 (KJV)**

20  He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions.

No matter how many times you read this scripture, it will always read the same way. One person may read it and pass on by, not receiving any kind of revelation or deliverance from God. Another person may read it and receive a revelation about God’s healing Word and they may be healed of their sickness!

It is the same scripture but what makes the difference is **“Our level of perception.”** This is why it is SO IMPORTANT that we set our mind to **HEAR the Word of God and to RECEIVE the Word of God**. We also need to learn to **EXPECT God to do what He says He will do**!

I have told you frequently about the Believers in a place called Berea which was just outside of Thessalonica. Look at what Luke says about them:

**Acts 17:11 (KJV)**

**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.

Let’s look at the “Parable of the Sower” that Jesus taught.

**Luke 8:4-15 (NLT)**

**4**One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: **5**“A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. **6**Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. **7**Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. **8**Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

**9**His disciples asked him what this parable meant. **10**He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

‘When they look, they won’t really see.
    When they hear, they won’t understand.’

**Luke 8:11-15 (KJV)**
11Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
12Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. 14And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

So, let me encourage you, when you come into Life Group and when you go into our large church service, SET YOUR MIND TO RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD!

Jesus explained the parable to His disciples.

**The SEED** = The Word of God

**Who is the Farmer or the Sower?** Anyone who spreads the Word of God. It is not God.

There are four types of people who the Word is sown into and four distinct ways in which the either receive the Word or reject the Word.

1. **The Footpath (Wayside) People**

*12Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

v.12, they HEAR the Word but it has time to make them believe and be saved, the devil comes and takes it from them.

* 1. Satan’s job is to steal, kill and destroy. **Why is it that we tend to ascribe these attributes to God many times?**
	2. **John 10:10 (KJV)**
	10  The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.
	3. God gives us ABUNDANT LIFE, NOT sickness, disease, heartache, trouble or anything that is bad! **This is “Stinkin’ Thinkin’!**
	4. God NEVER puts sickness and disease on people and **it is ALWAYS God’s will to heal**! **ALWAYS!**
	5. Some people say that Paul had some kind of eye disease and he asked God three times to heal him but God refused.
	6. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV**

**7**And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, **a messenger of Satan** to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. **8**Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9**And He said to me,“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10**Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

* + 1. The Bible **NEVER** says Paul had an eye issue.
			1. This is MAN’S tradition that has been handed down and is **NOT scriptural**.
		2. In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul explains what was happening to him. He was shipwrecked, beaten with rods, stoned, etc., all because of the ABUNDANCE OF REVELATIONS he received so that he could write 2/3rds of the New Testament!
		3. What was happening to Paul was ALLOWED by God but was not CAUSED by God! This is important to note.
		4. Who was causing all of Paul’s problems?
			1. “a MESSENGER OF SATAN.” Messenger – Grk. Angelos – where we get our word “ANGEL”. **It was not a demon but rather a fallen angel!**
			2. This fallen angel was assigned to cause “AFFLICTIONS” to Paul as we will see later in his letter to Timothy.
			3. It did not cause physical sickness but rather, bad situations, such as ship wrecks, beatings and stoning.
			4. Paul did pray three times about this but God told him that **His grace would get him through it**.
			5. God did not want Paul to become puffed up by pride due to the abundance of revelations he had received and therefore, lose his salvation.
			6. So God was saying, “Paul, I’m going to allow this messenger of Satan to continue causing you these afflictions but I am going to help you through each and every one of them when you put your faith and your trust in me!”
			7. Paul HAD to trust God in each and every one of these situations. **How would you react if you knew that every time you turned around Satan’s cohort was going to cause a bad situation to happen to you?** But you could be assured that God would get you through the time of trouble.
			8. **God did not put sickness on Paul since it would be contrary to the Word of God!**
1. **The Rocky People**

*13They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

v. 13, They receive the Word with **GLADNESS AT FIRST** but because they have **no root or no foundation**, when temptation **(Grk - adversity)** comes, they fall away.

* 1. **Mark 4:16-17 (KJV)**
	16  And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately **receive it with gladness**; 17  And **have no root in themselves**, and so **endure but for a time**: afterward, **when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake**, immediately **they are offended**.
	2. This illustrates those who hear the Word of God and gladly receive it, but have no depth of consecration, no root to endure, no stability to stand persecution, trial, and misunderstanding **which are sure to come**.
	Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.
	3. **2 Timothy 3:10-12 (NKJV)**

**10**But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, **11**persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—**what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.** **12**Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

* + 1. Paul was talking about the afflictions and persecutions that happened to him and were caused by the “messenger of Satan” that he spoke of in 1 Cor. 12.
		2. Paul called them “persecutions” NEVER sickness.
		3. Paul tells us that ALL who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION**.
		4. YOU WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION AND AFFLICTION as a Christian!
		5. You **DO NOT HAVE TO ENDURE SICKNESS AND DISEASE!**
		6. **In our study on the Doctrines of Christ, we will go into the doctrine of divine healing in further detail in a future lesson.**
1. **The Thorny People.**

*14And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*

v. 14, These people receive the Word and then go about their lives but when cares of this life, the riches and pleasures of this life come along, they do not produce fruit or become perfect (mature) Christians.

**Matthew 7:16 (NLT)**

16You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

1. **What are some of the cares of this world that would cause these people to walk away from God?**
2. **Mark 10:17-29 (NLT)**

**17**As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **18**“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. **19**But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’” **20**“Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.” **21**Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” **22**At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. **23**Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” **24**This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10&version=NLT#fen-NLT-24583f)] to enter the Kingdom of God. **25**In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” **26**The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. **27**Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” **28**Then Peter began to speak up. “We’ve given up everything to follow you,” he said. **29**“Yes,” Jesus replied, “and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, **30will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution.** And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. **31**But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.”

1. You CANNOT out give God! **THIS is the “Prosperity Doctrine**.”
2. ALL of the patriarchs in the Old Testament WERE financially prosperous!
3. **“God doesn’t mind if we are rich, He just doesn’t want us to be covetous.” Kenneth Hagin.**
4. We see in this group of people that **riches are deceitful!**
5. Rich – “Having more than enough.”
6. Rich is a “relative” term. What is rich to one person may be “poor” to another.
7. **The Good Ground People**

***Luke 8:15 (KJV)***  *15  But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*

 v. 15 – These people come in to hear the Word with an HONEST and GOOD HEART. They Hear the Word and they Keep the Word and it brings forth fruit, WITH PATIENCE.

**Mark 4:20 (KJV)**
20  And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

The Word of God will produce FRUIT in your life IF you will do what the Word of God says.

**Hebrews 10:35-39 (KJV)**
35  Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
36  For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
37  For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.
38  Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
39  But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

**Mark 11:23-24 (KJV)**
23  For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
24  Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

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**Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)**
1  Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.