

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE - 1.29.2023

FEASTING ON GOD'S WORD - PART 5

I. INTRODUCTION

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

- Today, we will emphasize a characteristic of Scripture that is essential to our growing in love and delight for God's Word—Scripture's efficacy.
- Paul acknowledges in this statement that what was transmitted to the believers in Thessalonica were the very words of God.
- The Word that he preached and proclaimed was the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (1Thess. 2:2,8,9).
- They received what they heard as God's very words.
- Because they received the Word of God, that Word was presently at work in these believers.
- The question I want us to look at today is, How does God's Word work in us?

II. THE EFFICACY OF GOD'S WORD

- Efficacy means the power to produce an intended effect or result.
- When we speak of Scripture's efficacy what we mean is that God's Word is powerful enough to actually do what God intended.
- "Is at work" - Gk. verb, present tense, '*energeita*' means "operative, active, effective, has powerful effects."
- Eph. 3:20 "according to the power at work within us";
- Col. 1:29 "struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."
- Paul is saying that God's Word is active and operating in the life of the believers who have received it.
- God's Word is at work.

- Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God accomplishes what God has purposed.
- We are powerless many times to effectuate that which we desire to see happen.
- But that is not the case with God. His Word has a 100% success rate.
- Everything he has spoken, every word that has proceeded from his mouth has never returned to him empty.
- Scripture testifies concerning its efficacy.

- God's Word is likened to a variety of things that are active, effective and productive.
- Rain and snow that waters the earth so that it produces what nourishes humanity (Isaiah 55:10).
- Fire that consumes wood (Jer. 5:14).
- A hammer that breaks the rocks in pieces (Jer. 23:29).
- Seed sown in good soil that produces thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold (Mark 4:3-20).
- A two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12).
- The images used evoke the effectiveness of those things to produce some result, such as, consuming, breaking, growing, penetrating, cutting.
- The results are the effects of the purpose for which those objects were intended.
- God's Word has a purpose. And God's word will always accomplish what He has sent it out to do.
- His Word has creative power to bring out of nothing everything that is.
- Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

- Are you convinced of the efficacy of God's Word?

- When you read it, do you read it as the very words of God that are purposed by God to produce that which God intended for them to do and accomplish in your life?
- You will grow to love and appreciate the Word of God when you see what it produces in you and how it works in you.

III. GOD'S WORD AT WORK IN YOU

How does God's Word work in you?

1. God's Word works in you to produce genuine faith.

- Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- John 20:31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

2. God's Word works in you to regenerate and convert your heart.

- James 1:18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
- 1 Peter 1:23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;
- 1 Cor 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

3. God's Word works in you to sanctify you and grow you in godliness.

- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- 1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.

4. God's Word works in you to search your heart and convict you.

- Hebrews 4:12-13 or the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

5. God's Word works in you so you can walk in freedom and overcome temptation.

- John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- 1 John 2:14 I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

6. God's Word works in you to guide you and give you wisdom.

- Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- Psalm 19:7b the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

7. God's Word works in you to comfort and console.

- Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- Psalm 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

8. God's Word works in you to refresh you and bring joy to your heart.

- Psalm 19:7a The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
- Psalm 19:8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

9. God's Word works in you to give you assurance of salvation.

- 1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.
- God's Word is effective in accomplishing all of those things we have just looked at and more!
- God's Word is actively at work in you right now to produce everything God intended for it to produce in you.
- How can I know God's Word is effective in my life?
- Paul wrote "when you received the word of God..."
- God's Word is only effective in the life of those who receive the word of God.
- What does it mean to receive?
- To receive means to believe it. To accept it.
- It must be received by faith.
- One must receive it as it is, the Word of God, not of man.
- Have you received God's Word, the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ?

- One must also intend to not only be a hearer of the Word but a doer of the Word. (James 1:22-25)
- To receive carries with it the implication that you will put into practice what you have read and heard.
- God's Word carries with it the promise of accomplishing all that God has determined for it to do.

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?