

September 8, 2024 PM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
1 Thessalonians 2:13 – “How to Receive the Word of God”

- A. How can you get more from your reading of Scripture and from your hearing of the Word preached?
B. In the beginning of **v13**, our authors gave thanks how the saints in Thessalonica received the Word of God.

How you ought to receive the Word of God	I. <u>SCRIPTURE IS OF GOD AND NOT MEN</u> II. <u>THE WORK OF THE WORD IN YOU WHO BELIEVE</u>
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I. SCRIPTURE IS OF GOD AND NOT MEN → **v13**

A. Scripture testifies of itself to be the God-inspired or God-breathed Word.

1. **2 Tim 3:16-17** says, “**All Scripture is inspired by God [lit “God-breathed”] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**”
2. Calling Scripture by the title, “**the prophetic word made more sure,**” Peter explained how the Holy Spirit worked in those He used to give us the Holy Word. → **2 Pet 1:19-21**

B. Peter was aware that Paul’s writings were given to him as he was “**moved by the Holy Spirit**”¹ to speak from God. → **2 Pet 3:14-16**

C. For you to receive the Scriptures as God-Breathed, the Holy Spirit must first breath faith into you to believe it.

1. Think of the countless people who do not believe the Bible to be God’s Word.
 - a. They may have grown up in being taught a false religion.
 - b. Some were brainwashed to be atheists.
 - c. Both for the pagan and the atheist, **Rom 1:18** says they “**suppress the truth in unrighteousness.**”
 - 1) Deep down, the idol worshipper knows that that molded image is not the God of heaven.
 - 2) Deep down, the supposed atheist knows that God really does exist. His created order has made it evident to them. [When they study the expanse of stars & planets, our plants, the earth, complexity of the creatures God has made, they are aware that all did not come about /s the work of an almighty Creator].
2. For you who believe, when you look at the pagan or the atheist, how is it that you believed and they did not. It is not that you were more intelligent than them.
 - a. The Holy Spirit working in you convinced you to accept Scripture “**not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God**” (**1 Thes 2:13**).
 - b. In **Jn 16:7-8**, Jesus said that after He would go away, He would send the “**Helper**” or comforter [Paracletos] to “**convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.**” The Holy Spirit does this by convicting and convincing us of the truthfulness of what sin is, what righteousness is, and the judgment all is in accordance with Scripture.

¹ **2 Peter 1:21**

II. THE WORK OF THE WORD IN YOU WHO BELIEVE → middle of **v13**

A. The authors already made mention of this evidence of God's work in them who believed in God and His word. → **1 Thes 1:2-3**

B. The WSC 89-90 gives us some excellent instruction how we are to benefit from the Word of God.

1. Q. 89. *How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

2. Q. 90. *How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?*

A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

B. If God has worked faith in you to believe His Holy Word and the gospel given to us by that Word, you will bear much fruit according to Christ's parable of the soils in **Mat 13**.

1. Jesus gave us various reasons why some bear no fruit and perish. → **Mat 13:18-22**

2. **Mat 13:23** explains, **"The one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."**

3. As we read earlier in **2 Tim 3:16-17**, some of the fruit of God's working in you will be various degrees of **"training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."**

4. From **2 Cor 10:5**, a fruit of God's work in this church is that will be evident among ourselves and those outside our church that sincerely working toward **"taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"** and His Holy Word.

C. You need faith to believe the Word; however, your study of the Word will in-turn give you more faith.

Rom 10:17 says, **"faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."**

Review, further application, and conclusion: