



Lecture 2

The Power of the Word

THE SEED OF THE WORD IS TO BE BELIEVED, RECEIVED AND APPLIED

Hebrews 4:12 (Wuest translation)

For actively alive is the word of God, and energetic, and sharper than any two-edged sword, going through even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a sifter and analyzer of the reflections and conceptions of the heart.

We believers can be certain that when we receive the Word by faith and put it into action, God is faithful to honour His Word. HE MAKES IT HAPPEN!

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NASB)

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Philippians 3:20-21

“For the commonwealth of which we are citizens has its fixed location in heaven out from which we, with our attention withdrawn from all else, are eagerly waiting to welcome the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and to receive Him to ourselves, who shall transform this body of ours which has been humiliated [by the presence of indwelling sin and by death and decay], so that it will be conformed to His body of His glory, this in accordance with the operation of Him who is able to bring into subjection to himself all things”.

In Lecture 1 of this series, we saw that as believers, we have already experienced justification and sanctification. The seed of salvation has also accomplished the glorification of our bodies. This will take place at the rapture, but it is already established by the Word and will happen!

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONFIRMS THE WORD

Mark 16:20 (Wuest translation)

And those having gone forth, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word through the attesting miracles which accompanied them.

The Holy Spirit, indwelling the believer, is God’s “earnest” or down payment (deposit) guaranteeing us the future glorification of our bodies.

As believers we are God’s “purchased possession”. The Holy Spirit is the absolute guarantee until “the redemption of the purchased possession”. The words “purchased possession” highlight that God bought us for a price and keeps us secure for eternity.

Ephesians 1:18

“The eyes of your heart being in an enlightened state with a view to your knowing what is the hope of His calling, what is the wealth of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”

The Holy Spirit is both a guarantee to us, and also a guarantee to God that *He* will one day receive *His* inheritance. *What an incredible statement of how precious we are to God!* We are His inheritance which He preserves for Himself.

Extract from Kenneth S. Quest Word Studies on Ephesians 1:18:

The first is that they may know "what is the hope of their calling." The word "what" is "tis", not "how great," nor "of what kind," but "what"-what the hope really is. "The 'His calling' is the call of which God is the author, and that is an effectual call....The hope is not the object hoped for,...but the attitude of mind, the subjective hope, the assured Christian expectation" (Expositors).

The second is that they may know "what is the wealth of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." God's inheritance is within the sphere of the saints. That is, the phrase "in the sphere of the saints" is definitive of the word "inheritance." This takes us back to verse 11 where Paul says we saints were made God's inheritance. In verse 18, Paul prays that we might know how precious the saints are in God's eyes as His inheritance. He is glorified in His saints, and this glory is valuable. It is part of the wealth that God possesses, dearer to Him than all the splendors of creation.

The final step of the redemption of this possession is glorification, when our physical bodies will be the recipients of the full work of salvation. Our bodies will be transformed at the rapture when the resurrection takes place.

We now have a new POSITION in God which cannot be changed or ever taken from us. *What is our new position?*

WE NEED TO TAKE GOD'S WORD FULLY, ITS POWER, LOVE, ITS AUTHORITY BECAUSE IT IS OUR INHERITANCE.

Ephesians 2:5-6 (Wuest translation)

"and we, being dead with respect to our trespasses, made us alive together with the Christ; by grace have you been saved completely in past time, with the present result that you are in a state of salvation which persists through present time and raised us with Him seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus"

Nothing and no one can ever snatch us out of God's hand (John 10:28). Our inheritance in Jesus does not depend on our performance, character or our life history (John 1:12-13). It depends solely on the finished work of Christ at the Cross and His resurrection. It is a gift. All we need to do is believe and receive the truth which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A gift is given with no expectation of any return. Jesus has given us a gift and we can trust in His Word.

Becoming a new creation means we are not only saved, but we are also healed and delivered. We have received the blessings of Abraham which are superabundant in every way.

In Romans 1:16, Paul writes:

"For I am not ashamed of the good news. For God's power it is, resulting in salvation to everyone who believes, to Jew first and also to Gentile".

"Salvation" (or *sōzō* in the original Greek) includes salvation and deliverance from suffering. This does not imply we will not suffer, but guarantees we will have victory over any sufferings and circumstances (see also Romans 8:37).