Winter Park Christian Church: Pastor Samuel Ruiz
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When the Word of God Takes Root

How God's Word Forms Committed, Receptive, Eager, and Transformed Disciples

In a broken world, where people call good evil and evil good, God calls His people to a strong commitment to the Gospel, receptiveness to the Truth, eager examination that leads to genuine faith, and a deep embrace of the transforming knowledge of God that changes our minds, hearts, and lives.

Strong Commitment

❖ Paul and his companions became known for a message that disrupted the world. That message was bearing fruit, but it was also provoking violent opposition. Moments like this require strong commitment from followers of Christ.

Acts 17:10 "The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue."

↳ Answering God's call produces a personal conviction to commit to the truth.

John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

📖 Acts 22:6-11

Titus 2:14 "[Jesus] gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works."

↳ Answering God's call leads us to proclaim the Gospel to others.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised."

1 Corinthians 9:16b-17 "…For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship."

↳ Answering God's call prepares us to engage with a broken world.

📖 2 Timothy 1:8-9,11-12

Receptiveness

❖ When the Word of God is received, the heart is willing and ready to respond to God, His word, and His work.

Acts 17:11 "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the Word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."

↳ The Word of God must be received with humility.

Isaiah 66:1-2 "Thus says the Lord: 'Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool; what is the house that you would build for Me, and what is the place of My rest? All these things My hand made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My Word.'"

Luke 6:46-48 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? [47]Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and does them, I will show you what he is like: [48]he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."

Eager Examination

❖ God has not given His Word to confuse His people, but to reveal His truth, provide understanding, and lead us to faith-filled transformation in Christ.

Acts 17:11b-12 "…They received the Word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men."

↳ We must seek the Word of God with eagerness.

📖 Proverbs 2:1-5

↳ Eager examination of the gospel will lead us through a process to grasp the truth of God.

Ephesians 4:20-21 "But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus,"

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

↳ The power of the truth of God is that it leads us to Christ.

John 5:37-39 "And the Father who sent Me has Himself borne witness about Me. His voice you have never heard, His form you have never seen, [38]and you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom He has sent. [39]You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, [40]yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life."

Transformation

❖ The word of God is living truth that transforms our inner life.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 "But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. [17]Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. [18]And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

↳ Receiving the Scriptures through the Holy Spirit produces freedom in us.

2 Timothy 3:15 "…the sacred writings, which are able to make [us] wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

James 1:21 "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

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, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

- Spiritual transformation is ongoing in the life of the believer.

Mark 10:15 "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Acts 17:11-12 "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men."

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