

CAPTURED BY THE WORD PRT 3

Let's go straight into the word this morning: I would like to set the scene for today's teaching
Ephesians 2: 8 For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9not by works, so that no one can boast.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

From the scriptures we read, there is an emerging picture which you and I would do well to pay attention to.

The picture is this;

- We can observe that; firstly, it is impossible to be a child of God without faith and secondly it is impossible to please God without faith; in other words, in the absence of faith you cannot have a relationship with God. It takes faith to become a child of God and it takes faith to maintain the relationship.
- You need faith to believe that God exists and that He has good intentions for you, regardless of what you are going through.

Matthew 17:20 "Because you have so little faith," He answered. "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

- When Jesus was answering a question from the disciples regarding why they could not perform a certain miracle, He brings up another dimension of faith. It is not every form of belief that brings results – you need to have genuine faith.
- The third aspect we observe is that without genuine faith everything is impossible but with faith nothing is impossible
- In other words, Jesus is saying, get the real faith to work in you and you will have access to all that you need. When you have the real deal, size does not matter – if it is real, it will work regardless of size.
- The big question is this; how does one access genuine faith in his life?

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- Thirdly, in order to operate in this faith, you need to start somewhere and that starting point is called getting the word into you. Romans 10:17 gives you and I a starting point:

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- You see, many of us hear the word but very few of us get to the point of generating faith from the word.
- It is not just hearing the word that brings about the mastered seed type of faith – it is not through hearing via your physical ears but rather it is via your spiritual ears.
- The ability to hear the word through your spiritual ears produces the “mastered seed type of faith.”
- All of that was a way of setting up the tone for today’s message – this morning I want to equip you on the subject matter **HOW TO GET INTO THE WORD AND THE WORD INTO YOU.**
- As you can see, the process of getting genuine faith is two prong – the first stage is for you to get into the word and without this initial stage, the process of developing faith cannot start.
- After you get into the word, you need to get the word into you – this is the hearing that is referred to in *Romans 10:17 – faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God.*
- When you only get into the word, you develop a big head full of knowledge, but when the word gets into you, you develop a big heart full of transforming revelation.
- Getting into the word stimulates your intellect but when the word gets into you, it stimulates your heart.
- When the word gets into you, it results in the word remaining in you – it is the word that remains in you or the word the abides in you that the Holy Spirit has access to in order to encourage you when you are in need.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

1. Seek to prioritize the word of God

- You will make time for whatever is of value to you – we do not have a scarcity of time but we have an abundance of misaligned values.

John 6: 67 So Jesus asked the Twelve, “Do you want to leave too?” 68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Matthew 6: 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

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- There is no substitute to seeing the need for the word – when you see its need, you will pursue it, you will pay attention to it.
- When you prioritize something, you are committed to it. It takes personal commitment to the Lord to get into the word – your commitment will not require monitoring from the pastor, your friends and the like.
- To prioritize the word means that you establish a routine and a schedule for it. What you don't plan for, will never get done.
- It is one thing to have a schedule but it is another to stick to it – you owe it to yourself to be as disciplined in the area of getting into the word as you are to the things that really matter to you.
- To prioritize the word also means that you are willing to invest in it – there is nothing as valuable as having a comprehensive study Bible.
- One of my hobbies is cycling and to be honest with you cycling does not come cheap – I have seen people buying bicycles with the same value as a small vehicle. What is the point; the value their hobby and are willing to invest in it.
- A good student of the word is willing to invest resources into their spiritual growth and development.

2. Develop the habit of hearing the word

- In this age of technology, no one has a reason to not hear the word – it has never been easier than now to listen to the word.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Since Paul was ready to leave the next day, he talked to them and kept on speaking until midnight.

3. Get into the habit of reading and studying the word

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- Getting into the word goes beyond reading but also involves studying it. Your reading of the word should prompt you into studying the word.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Everyone can read the word but not everyone has a heart to study the word – it takes effort!
- Keep in mind that studying is a different exercise from reading. When you study something, you deeply invest your time and attention in what you're reading.
- Effective bible study takes much thinking and understanding – we do the thinking and God gives the understanding.
- Paul said to Timothy, “think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything” (2 Tim. 2:7).
- The main objective for studying the bible is to obtain deeper insight into the person of Jesus, to understand Him more, to be transformed into becoming more like Him.

2 Corinthians 3: 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.

- The study of scripture removes all your wrong conceptions of Christ, until His glory is clearly revealed.
- There is an attitude with which you need to approach this matter of studying the bible. The attitude we should have was rightly expressed by the evangelist George Whitefield when he became a Christian:

“I began to read the Holy Scriptures upon my knees, laying aside all other books and praying over, if possible, every line and word. . . I daily received fresh life, light and power from above.”¹ – George Whitefield

- The clearing of your misty view of the resurrected Christ will take diligence, purpose, focus and great discipline in studying scriptures.

¹ Arnold Dallimore, George Whitefield, 1:81