**Week 6: How to handle the Word after receiving**

Last week: In the parable of sower, the third soil seems to retain the word, but it’s said to be unfruitful. How do we prevent this and truly keep the Word so it produces fruit?

It all comes down to your source of life.

Unfortunately, as we’ve looked at in the previous two lessons, you can study the Word of God and still not have life **(John 5:38-40)**. So where does life come from?

Life comes from knowing God deeply and intimately **(John 17:3)**. This knowing of God communes with His life in a way where His life becomes your life.

Let’s look at Scripture’s witness for receiving life through knowing God and what role the word plays in this.

* **2 Peter 1:3-4**
  + “​​3 His[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A2-4&version=CSB" \l "fen-CSB-30465a)] divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A2-4&version=CSB#fen-CSB-30465b)] his own glory and goodness.     4 By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.”
  + This Scripture states that life comes from God’s power, specifically through knowing Him. Out of His presence (His glory and goodness) came promises that help us share in the divine nature (more of His life).
    - Why promises? Our only role when it comes to promises is faith. We cannot make them happen, but simply are called to trust God by living how He’s called us to live in faith that He will provide His promise. Ultimately, the provision to all His promises is Jesus, God’s very self **(2 Corinthians 1:20)**. So when it comes to the Word helping us share in His life, we see these verses highlight His promises. So one way the word can bring life is through giving you His promises, as you abide in knowing Him.
      * Even hearing the Word brings faith **(Romans 10:17)**!!! And true hearing includes obedience because hearing without obeying is deceiving yourself **(James 1:22).**

A fruitful study in God’s word bringing life versus being unfruitful: A look at Jesus’ response to God’s word vs. Eve’s when Satan tempts them

Eve’s response

* **Gen 3:1-3**
  + Compare to **Gen 2:16-17**… she added “and not touch it”--do NOT add to God’s Word (**1 Cor 4:6**… answer to factions)
  + ^^also look at **Gen 2:9**...the tree of life is in the middle of the garden and they could eat from that. She was not specific with the exact tree she could not eat from. She needed to distinguish which tree and not get confused because this confusion/misinterpretation led to disobedience.
  + Seems to be some going back & forth… philosophizing… BAD **(Colossians 2:8)**.
  + Result: their eyes were opened… but having your eyes opened by any other means besides the Word & the Spirit leads to death.
    - In the beginning, the Spirit hovered over the deep and then God spoke and there was light, which led to life. Throughout Scripture the Spirit and the Word **together** bring light and life **(Proverbs 1:23)**. We need both together.

The tree of life is definitely in the middle of the garden and maybe the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is right next to it. Either way because of the confusion that occurs it seems clear that they were near each other as they are listed together and Eve just refers to “the tree in the middle of the garden” as the one she can’t eat from.

Are they placed so closely together because they go together so intricately? God wanted them to have life and knowledge but it was clear He wanted their life NOT to depend on knowledge for knowledge's sake. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented being like God in your own independence. God wanted life to come through dependence on Him. The Scripture is clear God gives knowledge, but not apart from Himself for He literally is our wisdom **(1 Corinthians 1:30).** God would have led Adam and Eve into knowledge through their lives being dependent on Him. When we take the word separate from the Spirit, we don’t have life. It’s a form of godliness that denies its power. The word without the Spirit is head knowledge and fleshly works, neither of which are faith in Jesus, which is the only work of God **(John 6:29)**. Everything needed for LIFE and godliness is through the knowledge of HIM (not good and evil).

Lucifer wanted to be like God in his own strength to usurp God. Rather, we are called to become like God (sharing in His divine nature) through submitting to Him as Head and receiving His life into us **(Colossians 2:19)**.

Jesus’ response

* **Matt 3:16-4:11**
  + **3:17 & 4:6,7,10**=Jesus relies on the Scriptures the WHOLE TIME, which is aligned with the voice of God He just heard by the Spirit.
  + **Matt 4:4**=the word is bread!! It gives us nourishment & thus life.
  + **Matt 4:6**… Satan twists Scripture… so do false teachers **(2 Peter 3:16)**.. Jesus’ answer is MORE SCRIPTURE that is INTERPRETED BY THE SPIRIT. Scripture must be interpreted by the Spirit and because the Spirit wrote the Word, the Word interprets itself. Depend on God… He’s the author. Ask the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth & faithful teachers as needed.
  + Result: deliverance

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, the beginning of life. Jesus responded to Satan in a fear of the Lord **(Isaiah 66:2-**humble, submissive, trembling at God’s Word**)** and Eve did not. God clearly gave favor to Jesus and not to Eve. So in every encounter with the Word, we are called to live in a fear of the Lord. When we don’t, we will be deceived.

Ways we are called to fear the Lord and not be deceived:

* Word>tradition & logic… **Matt 15:1-9**
* Mistaken because you don’t know the Scriptures or the power of God: **Matt 22:23-33**… we need to know both the SCRIPTURES (TRUTH) AND THE POWER (SPIRIT). We cannot have one without the other. We will know if a teaching is from God if you desire to do His will **(John 7:17).** So do not believe the lie that we cannot know the correct interpretation of Scripture. It belongs to the Spirit and Scripture promises the Spirit will lead us into all truth, if we desire to obey. Otherwise we will just be deceived **(James 1:22).**
* We need to be on the lookout for false teaching: **Matt 16:12, Col 2:8, 2 Pet 3:16-18**
* **Deut 29:29**… When He reveals, it is for you to ***follow*** not secret knowledge to store up; also we don’t need to go trying to find “secret knowledge”... the Lord has given us everything we need to know and His Spirit will teach it to us **(2 Peter 1:3-4; John 16:12-16).**

So how do we receive the Word and keep it and not be deceived? By receiving God’s LIFE, which is His presence. We can have the Word without His presence, but we cannot have His presence without the Word. So receive the Word as His intimate presence, for Jesus is the Word made flesh **(John 1:14)**. The way we are called to receive His presence (Word and Spirit) is through faith, obedience and only by the Spirit **(Ephesians 1:13; James 1:22; John 7:17; Galatians 3:3).** The Word is not for our will, but for His!

In the beginning light came and then life because of the Spirit first hovering and then the spoken Word coming. Similarly in our hearts, the Spirit must come and then the Word is received through the Spirit. It is only with both the Spirit and Word that life comes.

The Spirit and the Word are ONE. Inseparable. Both are the life of God. **John 6:63; John 17:17 & 1 John 5:6.**