

November 18, 2018

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Transformation: The Power of the Word

1 Peter 1:13-25

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). Peter makes a similar point when he says you have been born again “through the living and abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23). That word has the power to be transformational, bringing new life which is much different than the old life in many ways!

I. The Word of God has the power to bring LIFE, 1 Peter 1:23-25; James 1:21; Isaiah 55:1-5.

II. The Word of God has the power to bring LIFECHANGE, 1 Peter 1:13-22, 2:1ff; James 1:22-27; Isaiah 55:6-9.

III. The Word of God has the power to bring LIFE SATISFACTION, Isaiah 55:10-13; James 1:16-18; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 2:9-10.

The “imperishable seed” of the Word of God goes forth to bear fruit in our lives through life itself, life change or transformation into the righteousness of Christ, and life satisfaction as we turn from the world’s empty offerings to the riches of knowing God’s mercy. Thank God for his life-giving Word!



Pick one (or more) of the key passages noted in this message: Isaiah 55; 1 Peter 13-25; James 1:16-27. Have a discussion about the more important “good gifts” God offers beyond the material things you may enjoy. As you celebrate Thanksgiving together, try to expand the focus to the life, life transformation, and life satisfaction God offers and extends to us through his Word. Have all your family members received the good gifts from God that have eternal significance?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. What if God were silent? How would life be different if we did not have the revelation that has come to us through his Word?

2. We have spent the last several weeks focusing on the Word of God. Have there been reminders or perhaps new thoughts that have been of particular importance to you? Has your appreciation for God’s communication through the Word changed in any way?

3. God states plainly through Isaiah that the Word will have its intended impact as it goes forth (Isaiah 55:10-11). On the other side of that coin is the reality that it comes to us as an invitation we must respond to (Isaiah 55:1-3).

--Describe the impact you believe God wants the Word to have in your life (based on the passages cited in this message or others) and in the lives of others.

--What you are doing to respond positively to his invitation?

--What struggles or challenges have you faced in seeking to respond to God, and what has helped you toward the transformation God intends for your life through the Word?

4. We have described the discipleship (transformation) process with the terms *discovery* (finding life in Christ), *discipline* (growing as a follower of Christ), *deployment* (serving on behalf of Christ), and *destiny* (fulfilling your purpose in Christ). Where are you in that process, and what steps are you making to move forward in your life transformation?

NEXT WEEK: Beginning next week and through the Christmas season we will be focusing on Jesus, “The Word made flesh”. In January we will begin a study of 1 Thessalonians with the call to “*excel even more*”!