

## **RESPONSES TO THE WORD OF GOD IN THIS REFORMATION**

“So take care HOW YOU LISTEN ...” (*Luke 8:18*).

“Take care WHAT YOU LISTEN ...” (*Mark 4:24-25*).

“WHO TOLD YOU ...” (*Genesis 3:11*).

These three verses will change your attitudes towards the word and those who bring them to you. The End-times are filled with false teachers and ministries. Our ability to discern the spirit of truth from the spirit of error is essential to our survival in this declining environment. Following the Spirit of truth will grace us with the ability to know the truth and become free.

“See to it that NO ONE MISLEADS YOU ...” (*Matthew 24:4*).

“Be careful WHO YOU LISTEN TO as they will DETERMINE WHERE YOU ARE GOING” (*Hebrews 13:7-8*).

“Be careful WHAT YOU LISTEN TO as it will BECOME YOUR NATURE (*2 Peter 1:3-4*).

“Be careful HOW YOU LISTEN as it will DETERMINE THE DEPTHS OF REVELATION YOU WILL POSSESS.”

How you respond to the word will be the STANDARD OF MEASURE MEASURED BACK TO YOU (*Matthew 4:24*).

Then God will EXPLAIN, EXPOUND AND EXPAND THE TRUTH IN THE FUTURE (more will be given besides) (*Mark 4:24*).

Those who have responded accurately HAVE THE WORD, AND IT WILL GROW MIGHTILY AND THEY WILL PREVAIL (*Mark 4:25*).

Those who have rejected the Word at first sight will be SHUT OUT FROM NEW TRUTH AND LIGHT. Since they HAVE BEEN CUT OFF FROM NEW TRUTH; they will peddle only in the new even though it may become obsolete and outdated.

HIS OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO THE NEXT LEVEL AND A NEW MOVE HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY. HE WILL WALK IN DECLINE AS GOD MOVES ON. What he has with him will not be able to help him to connect or progress forward. Until he comes to his spiritual senses, he will sit in the pig sty!

God is the ONE WHO IS SOWING THE SEED into our hearts (*Mark 4:26*) through the messengers. God is the ONE WHO WILL SEND OTHERS TO WATER THE SEED (*1 Corinthians 3:6*). OUR HEARTS MUST CARRY THE RIGHT CONDITIONS AND INGREDIENTS TO GERMINATE THE SEED.

Then GOD WILL GIVE THE INCREASE (*1 Corinthians 3:6*). The SOIL PRODUCES CROPS BY ITSELF IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SEED AND THE SOWER (*Mark 4:27*).

When the CROP PERMITS, GOD WILL RECEIVE HIS HARVEST (*Mark 4:29*). The crops will grow from one stage to another until it can be harvested.

God is challenging His Church with this Reformation message and His Holy Spirit is establishing the revelation of the Word into the hearts of God's people. Their response to His words would determine people movements towards them. When the soil of the heart is ready GOD WILL SEND A SOWER. When their receptive ability is in full operation they would receive His Word. Their personal consecration will determine if THE SEED IS GERMINATED. Then GOD WILL SEND ANOTHER TO WATER THE SEED. The ongoing outworking with the Holy Spirit will allow the seed to grow to maturity. Then God will SEND THEM A SEASON OF HARVEST.

Let's look at the various response level to the new truth preached in the churches today.

**1. THOSE WHO REJECT IT OUTRIGHTLY**

They rejected it because of ignorance (*Acts 3:17, 17:30*).

They rejected it because of prejudice (*Acts 17:5, 16:19, 19:40*).

They rejected it because God has refused to open their eyes (*Is 6:10*).

They rejected the Word because of the conditions of their own heart (*Heb 3:7-8, 15*).

They rejected the Word because of their disobedience (*Heb 4:6, 11*).

**2. THOSE WHO ARE OVERWHELMED BY THE STANDARDS**

They are those who are overwhelmed by the standards of the Kingdom that they believe it's not relevant for the present day (*Matthew 19:21, 22, 25*). The rich young ruler had all the trappings of a believer but failed to make a cut in righteousness.

The messengers of the truth are accused of raising the standards beyond what is achievable. Jesus explained that the lowering of the standards in righteousness is because of man who lower it because of the hardness of hearts of other men they lead. It is dangerous to lower the standard of God's word as it will become a precedence setting the course of unrighteous living and practices in the future.

**3. THOSE WHO ONLY APPRECIATE THE KNOWLEDGE/REVELATION**

These are those who hear with excitement but have no courage to live it out or walk it through in obedience. They are always learning (they are in every seminar!) but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth that can set them free (*2 Timothy 3:7*). They do not mix the Word of truth with faith so that they can enter into their rest. The truth learnt is not beneficial to them. Even though Herod enjoyed listening to John, he never obeyed what he heard. (*Mark 6:20*). In fact, he became so familiar with it that it never brought any conviction to his heart.

This company of believers appreciates the light of the revelation but not prepared to walk in the light. They would never implement or live out the word in reality. They do not possess the courage to practice it in their lives. They walk the talk and excitement.

**4. THOSE WHO HOPE FOR ITS REALITY**

They respond to the Word with excitement and hope that someday in the future it will all fall in place by God's sovereign hand. "God has said it thus He will do it in His time" so they say!

These believers do not know that we need to knock if it's going to be opened. They are unaware there is no answer to prayer if prayer is not prayed! God desires us to hear His word and do our part for its accurate fulfillment. It's by faith and patience we inherit the promises of God. We need to act in faith and patiently wait for its results (*Hebrews 6:12*). These two virtues are part of our human responsibility in response to God's word.

We must act immediately when His Word come to us. Our act of faith moves the hand of God to bring reality to these promises of God. We must not procrastinate in our obedience. We must hear and heed so that the Spirit of wisdom can accompany our obedience. It will give us the needed inspiration to pursue the course and ways of the Spirit in the matter. Our initial act of faith releases the progressive inspiration of subsequent acts corresponding to faith. This will create a chain reaction until reality is seen.

**5. THOSE WHO LIVE OUT THE REALITY**

They align themselves accurately to the truth so that God can speed up the process of fulfillment. They identify with the truth unashamedly and press in to see its fulfillment. They have passed through the stages of struggling to belief ("help my unbelief, Lord") to believing all things are possible now to him that believes (Lord I believe it is NOW!). These men are violent in the pursuit to reality. They remove every limitation and obstacle so that the word is brought into fulfillment. They accelerate the processes of faith like May and the Holy Spirit overshadows them and cause them to see reality.

Many like Zachariah have lost the power to believe their own prayers as well as God's word's spoken sovereignly to them. This is two minuses to faith. We need to believe His Word and hold fast to the confession of our faith (*Hebrews 4:14*).

**6. THOSE WHO MODEL THE WORD OF TRUTH**

These men are the examples of faith and the reality of the message is outworked in their lives. They are the living expressions of the truth. They are the living word, the word that has become flesh and is dwelling among us (*John 1:14*).

These men have not only spoken the truth but have model the truth with an accurate lifestyle. They are not only the custodians of truth but also the very expression of the reality of the message. The expression of love and a totally transformed lifestyle was the result sought through the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom. Mary expressed that to perfection. Jesus said that wherever the gospel is preach, what she had done will be spoken of memory of her! (*Mark 14:9*)

God is looking for a whole generation of men who will be the living expression of what He has said and is saying today. They must become the living epistles of Christ, known and read by all men (*2 Corinthians 3:2, 3*). This is the reason why the ministry of the Spirit will not fail. It will produce the proof in the lives of those who hear the message. It gives life and produces a living epistle so that others can see its reality.

When the Word became flesh, we received grace and truth. We receive the revelation of truth that set us free. We received the ability to live out the truth. It was not a law we had to struggle to keep but a life we enjoyed living out! (*John 1:14, 16, 17*)

## 7. THOSE WHO CONTINUED IN THE TRUTH

The ministry of the Holy Spirit brings progressive truth that will lead us on and further into His fullness. Many lose the ability to transit from one level of truth to the next level of truth. This ability is found by first renewing our minds continually to what we are receiving by the Holy Spirit. We must pull down all strongholds, speculations and every lofty thing that rise up against the knowledge of Christ (*2 Corinthians 10:3-6*). We must allow the revelation truth to set us free from our own minds and embrace the power for a transformed life by the renewing of our minds (*Romans 12:2*).

Then we need to learn to have the attitude of obedience as this is what pleased God the Father concerning His Son (*Philippians 2:5, Heb 5:8*).

This ability to continually change to move forward until we are fully transformed to the image of the Son is a grace only the Son can release upon us by the Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:29*). We need this grace that was on the Lord Jesus (*2 Timothy 2:1*).

We need to find the grace to move progressively forward until we have fully present our body as a living sacrifice and our minds fully renewed to discover His will on this earth (*Romans 12:1, 2*). This will allow us to have sound judgment concerning ourselves and our assignments here on earth.

Paul instructed Timothy to continue in the things he has learned and become convinced of knowing from whom he had learnt it. What Timothy received from his childhood became a foundation for his continued learning. It's this that will give him the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith. This continued learning will put him into a place of leadership effectiveness adequate and equipped for every good work (*2 Timothy 3:14-17*).