

## CHAPTER SEVEN - PART TWO

### HEARERS OF THE WORD

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

Transforming ourselves into the image of Christ will involve hearing His Word and opening our eyes to the understanding of what He requires of us. By and through the study of His Word, we will know what we are to do and why. And through this process, our faith will grow. We will then move from faith to faith, thereby being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as we see in **2 Corinthians 3:18**:

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

True Scriptural faith is believing every word that God says about a matter. When we live by faith (the faith), our faith will grow from one level of faith to another level of faith, then shall we be transformed from glory to glory. The final part of the transformation process happens at the Judgment seat of Christ, where those who have progressed from faith to faith and from glory to glory will receive glorified bodies and positions of rulership in the Messianic Era.

The previous Scripture of **2 Corinthians 3:18** is referring to the event that occurred with Moses and the nation of Israel. Moses puts on a veil in order to cover the brightness of the glory upon his face as a result of his meeting with the Lord on Mount Sinai. He puts on the veil because the people of Israel were afraid and desired not to look upon the glory. This event takes place after Israel's idol worship of the golden calf and after Moses returns from receiving the Ten Commandments.

*Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned*

*to him; and Moses talked with them. Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.*

*And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him. (Exodus 34:29-35)*

The people of Israel did not desire to look upon the glory of Moses or to hear his message unless he placed a veil over his face. This event was an example depicting the condition of Israel, even today, as they remain in a blinded state of unbelief. And this example was written for our admonition, as the Church is no different today. The Church, as a whole, is also blinded to God's Word. Many have no desire to seek the Truth, the understanding of the Word of the kingdom. We can, if not careful, allow the truth of Scripture to become veiled in darkness as our hearts are hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, thus giving place to the devil.

*But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4)*

We see further commentary on this with Israel in **2 Corinthians 3:14-18**:

*But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

When the splendor of Moses' face was so great that the people of Israel could not bear to look upon his face, the people requested him to veil it. Even after Moses, the people of Israel continued to be blinded by the truth and did not have the discernment to understand what the Mosaic covenant pointed to. Even now in the reading of the Old Testament Scriptures a veil lays over it, and their blindness and state of unbelief continues to

reflect the condition of their heart. The veil that was on the face of Moses, who was a type of Christ, prevented the glory of his face from shining out and is a representation of the darkness, ignorance and hardness of their hearts. And because the veil over their hearts stop the glory from shining out, this will also hinder the Word of the kingdom, the Gospel of the glories of Christ from shining in and being received. And this event was written as an example to Christians.

The veiled condition of the Church can be seen in the Parable of the Sower, **Matthew 13:18-23**, as Christ reveals the different types of Christians and how they either receive or reject the Word of the kingdom whenever they hear it. And this was due to the tares who were placed in the Church by Satan in order to corrupt the Word, specifically the Word of the kingdom.

But Christians have been placed in a position where they could ultimately be brought into a realization of the salvation of their souls through following that which is outlined in **James 1:21**:

*Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls.*

A Christian is to receive the Word only after he has set aside the things which would hinder the reception of this Word. One obstruction, *filthiness*, which is a dulled spiritual desire and perception, would prevent the Word of God from being properly understood. Another obstruction would be pride and a hardness of heart. Jesus ministered that the only way that one can enter the kingdom of heaven would be to put away pride and become as a child, as children are meek and have teachable spirits.

*But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."*  
**(Luke 18:16, 17)**

*...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby unto (soul) salvation... (1 Peter 2:2)*

After a Christian has removed any obstructions that could prevent him from hearing the Word of God properly, he is to put away all *wickedness* or impurity in his life that could also hinder the reception of the Word of

God. Once this is done, a Christian is able to receive the Word unto spiritual maturity, which, when put into practice, will ultimately result in the salvation of his soul. Not only is he called to receive the Word properly, but to receive the “*implanted*” Word. This Word is to be *firmly fixed within a believer’s mind*. This process over time will lead the Christian to move from spiritual immaturity to spiritual maturity. And, an understanding of the Word of the kingdom is the key that will open the believer’s eyes to the understanding of the Word of God.

As for the Gentiles (unsaved), their blindness and unbelief of our Lord and Savior keeps them far away from spirit salvation. But for Christians who are spiritually saved and therefore should be in pursuit of the kingdom, their blindness is not with regards to eternal salvation, but with regards to not believing that which God has spoken through the Word concerning soul salvation, the salvation that remains yet future.

Therefore, the example of Israel’s disobedience and unbelief that we find in the Book of **Hebrews** is the subject of warning to Christians concerning their unbelief with regards to soul salvation.

*For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

*Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it...*

*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intent of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all*

*things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 3:16-4:2, 11-13)*

God first committed His Word to His firstborn sons, Israel, an eternally saved people. But, the nation as a whole did not take the hearing of the Word seriously and did not put their faith in it. Rather, they desired the things of this world by which they were deceived, causing their hearts to be dull and blinded, choosing to live in unbelief of that which God had said. How does this pertain to Christians?

*For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them. (Hebrews 4:2)*

The warnings are exactly the same for Christians. If we choose to keep the Word of God far away from us, choosing instead the desires of this world, then we choose to live in unbelief to that which God has said. If we choose not to hear the Scriptures, we cannot know the truth and then allow this truth to change our way of living to that which pleases God. This will lead to the same exact consequence as it was with the Israelites, who because of unbelief and disobedience *would not enter His rest*. Instead, *their corpses fell in the wilderness*. Christians, therefore, who do not hear, read and study God's word will not know His ways and cannot please Him, so they also *will not enter His rest*.

It is through our proper engagement with the Word of God, which keeps our focus on the Seventh Day that we can be renewed in the *spirit* of our mind and thereby be transformed, so that we can be able to enter His rest. It is only by aligning our mind, our thinking, to that which God has said can we know and do His will. And in this, we exercise faith. We cannot exercise true faith in God if we do not study His Word, for *faith is believing everything that God says in His word*. Therefore, the study of the Word and exercising faith in God go hand in hand.

An example of this very thing can be seen in **Colossians 2:6**,

*As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught [through the study of His Word], abounding in it with thanksgiving.*

In this we understand that God, in His infinite wisdom, has provided everything through the power of His Word and through the Holy Spirit

necessary for us to be successful in our race of the faith.

*...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue... (2 Peter 1:3)*

God's purpose for His Word is to give us the knowledge of the whole gospel of Christ to include the gospel of glory, so that we are able to *work out our own salvation* for the saving of our souls.

*For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)*

This particular *knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ* is vitally important for the saving of our lives in the age to come. This is the reason why Paul constantly prayed that the Church would receive one of the greatest strengths our inner man can possess — the knowledge and wisdom of the glory of God.

*...making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints... (Ephesians 1:16-18)*

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. (Colossians 1:9)*

In the Books of **Psalms**, **Proverbs** and **Ecclesiastes**, mostly written by King David and his son, Solomon, there is a great deal of importance placed in gaining wisdom and understanding of God's Word. When God granted a gift to Solomon, Solomon's only request was that God would impart wisdom to him. God was pleased with Solomon's request and He answered his prayer (**1 Kings 3:3**). It was through the knowledge of God that King Solomon was able to understand how to rule effectively. Solomon understood God's will and purpose for his life. He also understood that when fools despise wisdom, they must face the consequence of their choice. Their hatred for wisdom arises out of a

refusal to know and obey God; therefore rejection of God's wisdom is a rejection of God Himself, which will ultimately destroy them. This dismal warning in **Proverbs 1:20-33** ends with a promise of life in the age to come to the few who will listen and obey; they will find ease and safety inside the gates of the kingdom.

When we pray for God's wisdom and understanding of His Word, He is faithful to give it. Unfortunately, many Christians do not pray and seek to know Him through the study of His Word. Instead, a majority rely *strictly* on man to teach them through philosophy and empty deceit. We cannot rely on the wisdom and traditions of man to teach us the truth and wisdom of God.

*...that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God...Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

**(1 Corinthians 2:5, 11b-13)**

The Word of God is living and powerful (**Hebrews 4:12**). Four reasons why the Bible is alive and powerful:

- 1) The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The Word is Jesus Christ, Who is alive and powerful.
- 2.) The Word was written by holy men who were moved to write by the Holy Spirit, Who is alive and powerful.
- 3) Past, present and future events written in the Word are true and live events. These events are unfolding every day.
- 4) Everyone will be judged by everything that is written in the Word. Therefore, the Word is a powerful judge.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Word teaches *all* things pertaining to God. However, there is something that is often misunderstood. In **1 John 2:27**, we read:

*But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same*

*anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

John was speaking to those who *knew* the Truth and were being led by the Holy Spirit. And the context to which he is warning them concerns “*those who try to deceive you*”—false teachers.

John is not saying that man cannot teach Scripture for *He Himself gave some to be....pastors and teachers... till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God... that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men... (Ephesians 4:11-14)*

God has given some to be pastor-teachers to deliver the Word of God. However, we must allow the Spirit to lead, giving us the understanding, wisdom and discernment of the message that is being delivered. Simply put, the Word comes *by* man and *through* the Spirit.

It is our responsibility to abide in the Word and allow the Spirit to teach us. When we are mature in the Word, we are able to discern whether one is speaking the Truth or not. We are to test the spirits, whether they are of God, for there are many false teachers today speaking “great swelling words” of things which they do not know, telling lies of hypocrisy, teaching falsely the Word of God and deceiving many immature Christians.

And those who are indolent, having no desire to study the Word, will be unable to discern truth from false messages. All they know is the milk message of the Word. If they hear the deeper truths or the meat message, they will be unable to understand and therefore quick to reject it. The deeper truths is not the common or popular message spoken today, and this is why it is quickly rejected, even though it is the truth of God’s Word. On the contrary, immature Christians are easily swayed to receive false doctrine.

**Hebrews 5:12-14** speaks of the immature Christian:

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the Word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use, have their*



*senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

The writer of Hebrews was addressing a group of Christians who at one time had been advancing towards spiritual maturity, but who had regressed through the deceitfulness of unbelief to the point of being spiritually immature once again and were not capable of handling anything but milk. The writer then encourages them to abandon the “elementary principles” of Christ and move on to maturity again. However, the writer’s exhortation to go on to maturity is conditional — based on “*if God permits*” us to go on.

*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection...And this we will do if God permits. (Hebrews 6:1-3)*

The writer leaves us with the indication that God may not permit some Christians to move on to maturity, that is, to the understanding of the Word of the kingdom. The reason why is given in the verses immediately following:

*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6)*

By falling away, the Christian would be forfeiting his inheritance. He would be back within a world ruled under Satan and by doing so, would bring shame upon Christ and His name. This act would result in dire consequence. And though the Christian may later change his mind about the matter, God will not change *His mind*. The Christian will surely be cut off and will be given the same measure in which he cut off Christ, bringing shame and reproach upon His name. Scripture identifies the act of falling away as if one is “*crucifying the Son of God to himself*.” There will be no room for repentance and no second chances (**Hebrews 7:27**).

The heavenly inheritance is no small matter and should never be taken lightly. God has called us to be partakers of a future heavenly inheritance with Christ. The key to acquiring this inheritance is “faith,” and *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*. God’s Word is able to bring about the “metamorphosis,” the transformation from the “old man” to the “new man in Christ.”

The beginning points for coming to an understanding of the Word of God are quite simple. First, the individual must understand that God's Word not only reveals God's plan and purpose for man but also that which is able to build a person up and give him an inheritance within an age toward which all things move — the coming Messianic Era. Then, in order for the person to qualify for the inheritance, he must believe God and govern his life accordingly. Teachings drawn from the opening two chapters of **Genesis** form the key to correctly understanding the Word of God. If one understands these opening verses correctly, he will understand how God has structured his revelation to man, allowing him to understand the rest of the Scriptures. One must understand what is revealed at the beginning *first*. The opening verses of **Genesis** deals with four keys points as the basis or foundation for which the entirety of Scripture rests:

- 1) Creation (**Genesis 1:1**)
- 2) Ruin of the Creation (**Genesis 1:2a**)
- 3) Restoration of the Creation (**Genesis 1:2b-25**)
- 4) Rest (**Genesis 2b-2:3**)

The central theme of Scripture is the message of *redemption*. These four key points provide the foundational structure upon which the entirety of Scripture is built. God took six days to restore the ruined creation, and then God rested on the seventh day. In the antitype, each day is one thousand years in length. This would amount to six thousand years of the restoration of man followed by one thousand years of rest.

And this covers the entirety of God's revelation to man. A person must follow this skeletal structure and build upon this structure after the manner in which God began. Then, God in His Word draws not so much from history per se as He does from the spiritual content set forth in the historical accounts — *the spiritual lessons behind the events*, taught mainly from *types* pointing to corresponding *antitypes*. Anyone can understand facts within revealed Biblical history (the letter of Scripture). But only saved man (one who has the indwelling Holy Spirit) can go beyond the letter to the spirit of Scripture. Only the one possessing the Holy Spirit can look within Biblical history and see spiritual content (**1 Corinthians 2:12-16**). This is what is meant by "*comparing spiritual things with spiritual*." It is within this facet of Scripture that one can know the "*deep things of God*" (**1 Corinthians 2:9-13**). When viewing

Scripture after this fashion, one will come to realize that the central Person presented throughout Scripture is the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must search the Word for understanding, comparing Scripture with Scripture, “*here a little, there a little.*” (**Isaiah 28:10**). By studying the types in the Old Testament we can better understand the unveiling of the New Testament. We must allow the Holy Spirit to teach us all things and guide us into all truth, so that we will be complete, able to know and do the will of God.

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)*

We must always seek the truth from Scripture, exhorting and teaching one another — *For what does the Scripture say?* (**Romans 4:3**). For since the foundation of the world, God has made known His word throughout the whole earth --- through those He has entrusted to preach His gospel, even Noah, *a preacher of righteousness* (**2 Peter 2:5**), who lived nine hundred and fifty years and before him, Enoch, a man who walked with God for three hundred years and preached His word to all (**Jude 14**).

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:*

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:14, 15)*

The gospel was preached from the beginning, but not all believed. Rather, many chose to believe a false report.

*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

*But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed:*

*“Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.” (Romans 10:16-18)*

In **Colossians 3:16**, Paul admonishes the Church to seek the Word unto maturity:

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

A companion Scripture can be seen in **Ephesians 5:17-19**:

*Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...*

“Being filled with the Spirit” is equivalent to “letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom.” The phrase “the word of Christ” concerns the whole counsel of God, which has to do with Christ and His coming kingdom — a revelation that only comes from heaven above as the indwelling Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and guides us into all Truth.

The Word of God is a Book of prophecy, and all of what is written has been and will be fulfilled at the precise time that God wills. And the end is near; the prophecy of Christ’s return and His future reign is soon to be fulfilled. His return as King of kings is revealed in the prophetic Scriptures. His love and peace is the song of our hearts. Our hope is in the Blessed Hope of His return for which we earnestly long. Each one of us must choose between Truth or error, the broad path or the narrow way, life or death.

*“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).*

We must set aside time every day to open the Scriptures, seeking the Word as treasure, exhorting and teaching one another, and allowing the Spirit of the Lord to lead us unto the salvation of our soul. We must be hearers of His Word. As always, the choice is ours.