

“And the Oscar Goes To: The Informed but Unresponsive”

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

I. A Grand Performance

A. Of God’s Word in 1 Thessalonians 2:13

1. Hebrews 4:12; Acts 7:38; 1 Peter 1:23; Isaiah 55:11; Deuteronomy 32:47; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5; John 6:68
2. For the Word of God to be living, to “perform,” it must be received.
3. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to produce saving life and transforming life (1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, 9).
4. The Word of God “performs,” is “living and active” because God and Christ and the Spirit are living:
 - a. God’s written word, the Bible – Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16.
 - b. God’s living Word, Jesus Christ – John 1:1, 14, 18.
5. The written Word and the Living Word:
 - a. Bible reveals the Person & Glory of God as manifested in Christ.
 - b. Christ is life & living; Scripture is life & living.
 - c. Christ is Human & Divine; Scripture is human & Divine.
 - d. Christ & Scripture are supernatural in origin.
 - e. Christ & Scripture exercise transforming power over those who believe.
 - f. Christ & Scripture can be rejected by those who do not believe.
 - g. Christ & Scripture embody untainted, undiminished perfections.
 - h. Christ & Scripture disclose revelation that is at once as simple as the mental capacity of a child, and as complex as the infinite treasures of Divine Wisdom & Knowledge.
 - i. Christ & Scripture are as enduring as the God whom they reveal.
6. How does the Word of God “perform” in the life of the believer? (2:13)
John MacArthur Study Bible footnote for 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - a. Saving – Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23
 - b. Teaching & Training – 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - c. Guiding – Psalm 119:105
 - d. Counseling – Psalm 119:24
 - e. Reviving – Psalm 119:154

- f. Restoring – Psalm 19:7
- g. Warning & Rewarding – Psalm 19:11
- h. Nourishing – 1 Peter 2:2
- i. Judging – Hebrews 4:12
- j. Sanctifying – John 17:17
- k. Freeing – John 8:31-32
- l. Enriching – Colossians 3:16
- m. Protecting – Psalm 119:11
- n. Strengthening – Psalm 119:28
- o. Making Wise – Psalm 119:97-100
- p. Restoring the Heart – Psalm 19:8
- q. Prospering – Joshua 1:8-9

B. Of the Informed but Unresponsive – Hebrews 6:4-8

1. Five Great Advantages of the Informed but Unresponsive
MacArthur Commentary on the Letter to the Hebrews

- a. “enlightened” –
- b. “tasted of the heavenly gift” –
- c. “partaken of the Holy Spirit” –
- d. “tasted of the good Word of God” –
- e. “tasted of the powers of the age to come” –

II. Food for Thought – More than Just a Taste

- A. How does a person merely taste of the Lord vs feasting on Him?
- B. Choose 1 of the 17 ways listed above that God “performs” in the life of the believer and share how you have seen it clearly in your life.
- C. What light does Matthew 13:25-30, 36-43, shed on Hebrews 4:4-8? How are the two passages alike? How do we know Matthew 13 is NOT the rapture?
- D. Would you like to see God “performing” more in your life? What is preventing Him from doing so? Using the list of 17 above, what would you like to see Him do more of in your life?
- E. Of all the Scripture listed on this outline, which verse is most meaningful to you? Why? Which verse would you most like to commit to memory? Why?

“AND THE OSCAR GOES TO!”

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

A GRAND PERFORMANCE

"the Word of God performs its work in you who believe"

People can go to church for years and years and hear the Gospel over and over again, even be faithful church members, and never really make a commitment to Jesus Christ. In order for God to "perform His work in you," you must embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

“IT TARES ME UP INSIDE!”

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Kingdom of Heaven is like “wheat and tares:” Satan’s efforts to deceive believers by mingling unbelievers among them. Let God do the “weeding” on judgment day.

PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING

Their suffering was proof of their salvation:

Affliction – pressure of circumstances; 1:6; 3:3

Suffered – same word as Jesus'; 2:14

Persecuted – driven out, rejected; 2:15

Hindered – blocked travel; 2:18

Contrary – winds hinder progress; 2:15

GOD'S WORD PERFORMS

Deuteronomy 32:47

"My words are not idle words; indeed it is your life."

ISAIAH 55:11

"My word which goes forth from My mouth will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

ACTS 7:38

"In the wilderness an angel spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai and gave him living oracles to pass on to you."

EPHESIANS 5:25-26

"Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her, so He could sanctify her, using the Word to cleanse her like the ceremonial washings with water."

TITUS 3:5

"God saved us in Christ, not on the bases of our own so-called good deeds, but according to His mercy by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."

HEBREWS 4:12

"The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

JOHN 6:68

"Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you want to leave me too?' Peter answered Him, 'Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'"

1 PETER 1:23

"You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God."

THE LIVING ACTIVE WORD

For the Word of God to be living and active in your life, for it to “perform in you,” you must receive and accept it: accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and accept the Bible as the Word of God, not as words of man.

HYDROPONIC FAITH

"growing plants in mineral nutrient solutions and water" – Watch It Grow! 9453 Firestone

Word of God + Holy Spirit = God's performing!

1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, 9

PERFORMANCE OF A LIFE TIME

How can God's Word "perform?"

God is living, Christ is living, Spirit is living
and so the Word of God is living, active!

Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John
1:1, 14, 18

IT'S ALIVE!

Saving, teaching, training, guiding,
counseling, reviving, restoring, warning,
rewarding, nourishing, judging, sanctifying,
freeing, enriching, protecting, strengthening,
making wise, restoring the heart, prospering,
and much, much more!

OSCAR BEST ACTOR

Hebrews 4:6-8

"The Informed, but Unresponsive"

The Word of God also "performs" in those who do NOT believe: it convicts, it draws, it judges, and it condemns. And the greater your exposure to Christ and the Scriptures while you still reject them, the greater will be your judgment.

WARNING SIGNALS

Hebrews 4:12 is actually a warning to the informed, but unresponsive. It begins in 3:7, and is based on Psalms 95:7-11.

Beware of Unbelief – 3:12-19

Be Afraid of Falling Short – 4:1-10

Be Diligent to Enter God's Rest – 4:11-13

HEBREWS 6:4-8

A warning to those who are intellectually convinced of the Gospel, who enjoy gospel and church blessings, but who are in reality spiritually uncommitted to Christ.

The Informed but Unresponsive!

“ENLIGHTENED”

An intellectual perception of spiritual, biblical truth; enjoy biblical teaching and gain knowledge; mentally aware, but without any kind of response – acceptance or rejection, belief or unbelief.

Isaiah 9:1-2; Matthew 4:16; John 12:35-40

“TASTED HEAVENLY GIFT”

The greatest heavenly gift is Christ and His salvation; it was only “sampled, tasted,” not “feasted upon.”

2 Corinthians 9:15; Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 2:9; John 4:10; 6:51, 35; 16:8-11; 6:44

“PARTAKE OF HOLY SPIRIT”

Associated with, not possession of; simply around the Holy Spirit when He is around.

Hebrews 1:9; 2:4; Luke 5:7

“TASTED GOOD WORD OF GOD”

This is not “logos” – God’s entire Word;

This is “rhema” – only parts, not whole;

Word of God only sampled in bits and pieces,
not taken in in its entirety.

Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 34:8

“TASTED POWER OF AGE TO COME”

These people saw the miracles and power of God in the Apostles with their own eyes; same power and miracles that will be seen in the Millennial Kingdom...and STILL refused to make a commitment to Christ.

Revelation 20:11-15

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

Hebrews 6:6 – not referring to lost salvation

- Lost opportunity to receive salvation
- Dangerous to keep rejecting salvation
- Even more dangerous to walk away in full Light
- It is “crucifying Jesus” all over again

LET IT RAIN!

Hebrews 6:7-8

Same ground

Same rain

Different results

Hebrews 3:7, 15; 4:7 – “Today if you hear...”