

Introduction:

- If you missed last week you can get the notes on our web site: WWW.houseoffreedom.org and click on podcast. There you will find notes and audio.
- Last week I shared from Rev 19:11-ff about the Rider on the White Horse. His title was The Word of God. I shared with you three points: Recognizing the Word, Receiving the Word, and Releasing the Word. The creative power of the Word of God is released through Faith, Confession, and Action. Those three words are what it means to work the Word. "The Word works for those who work the Word!"
- My goal today is get you to take this Word and work it. The Word is Jesus and the Word is a creative force in the life of believers. I want us to believe it and act on it.
- If I told you that I was going to give away ten thousand dollars in cash to everyone here this morning and instructed you to meet me in the Multi purpose room after the service, what kind of thoughts would run through your mind? Likely, you'd wonder what I was really up to. You might also have grave doubts because if you know anything at all about me, you know that I do not have that kind of money to give away...yet. If you bother to show up after church, it would probably be out of curiosity to see how I would manage to talk myself out of this one. There would probably be a little doubt and skepticism.**** However, what if Bill Gates showed up at our humble church service and made the same kind of promise? What kinds of thoughts might go through your mind upon hearing his promise? No doubt, many of you here would not even wait for the service to end before rushing off and forming a line. You'd be filled with expectation and anticipation. Why? You may not be able to guess at his motives, but you would have no doubt that Bill Gates has the ability to make good on his promise. **APPLICATION** Great faith owes its existence and substance to the ability and integrity of its object. A survey of Bible history, both Old and New Testaments, demonstrates that God's word is true and he has the power to do what he says he will do. So, keep your spiritual eyes upon God and his provision in Christ and he will see to it that your faith is as strong as his unfailing word.
- From the Message Bible "When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee—**God can't break his word.** And because **his word cannot change**, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God" (Hebrews 6:16-19, The Message)

I. The New Creation

- A. The New creation is the new reality. The new creation is OUR new reality.
 1. The New birth. Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3, "*You must be born again.*" That led to some lengthy discussion. Nicodemus just did not realize he needed to be born again. Many people do not realize they need to be born again. Many Americans think they are born again based on their family history. "*You must be born again!*" New reality. The Word has the power to do that! Create a new reality for you, in this life! Lets look at this:

2. The New creature NKJV/person NLT. *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)
The new reality.
 - a) New - Gr. Kainos, means 'new'. Even more specifically it means "new in nature, new in kind".
 - (1) Mk 14:25 new wine
 - (2) Rev. 5:9 new song
 - (3) Rev 21:5 new creation as in heaven and earth
 - (4) Eph 2:15 Jew and Gentile become one new man
 - (5) Eph 4:24 put on new nature
 - (6) Luke 22:20 Jesus speaks of a new covenant. God is into 'NEW!'
 - (7) All of these 'news' have their hope in Christ or find their expression in Christ.
 - b) Creature-Gr. ktisis, means creature. "The OT view of creation fixes the role of humanity as both part of creation and yet distinct from it because of a special relation to God". Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 483). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. The new reality does the same. We remain a part of God's creation yet distinct from fall man because of our new relationship with God. The new relationship is our new reality! New creation, new reality!
- B. How does this happen? You work the Word! Faith, confession and action.
 1. *"For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."* (Romans 10:10, NLT)
 2. Believe in your heart-**faith**. Declare with your mouth you believe. **Speak/confess**. Live for God-**Action**.
- C. *The old life is gone; a new life has begun*. 2 Cor 5:17 If you are a new creature, you have a new life. If you are a new creation, you have a new life. If you are a new person in Christ, you have a new life.
 1. You have a new reality!
 2. Most Christian have not taken the time to determine what their new creation realities are. They get saved and stop. They miss out on so much more of what the Word offers.
 3. New creation realities! This is what we have in Christ. Let us find out what those are and live them!
 4. You find new creation realities through the revelation of God's Word. Holy Spirit reveals what we now are in Christ. Holy Spirit reveals what we can now do in Christ. Holy Spirit reveals who God is. And Holy Spirit reveals what His will is for us who believe!

II. God Works Through His Word

- A. The Word works for those who work the Word. God works through His Word for those who work the Word.
 1. The Father has given a revelation of Himself through the Word.
 2. The Father has given a revelation of who we are through His Word.
 3. I can not say it strongly enough to make you realize the importance of the place that the Word of God holds in redemption and in the life of a child of God.

- a) *"He who despises the word will be destroyed, But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded."* (Proverbs 13:13, NKJV)
 - b) *"Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because they have no knowledge."* (Isaiah 5:13, NKJV)
 - c) *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...."* (Hosea 4:6, NKJV)
- B. Satan bitterly opposes the Word. Why? Because the Word is Jesus! The Word is creative. The Word in us makes us New creation realities! It makes us change agents in the earth.
1. *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God."* (Hebrews 11:3, NKJV)
 2. *"He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession."* (James 1:18, NLT)
 3. *"For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God."* (1 Peter 1:23, NLT)
 4. The Word did all of that and the devil hates it. So he does everything he can to oppose in our lives to keep us from believing it.
 5. After we are born again our very sustenance comes from the Word. Jesus said this to the devil when tempted: *"No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"* (Matthew 4:4, NLT)
 6. Does that sound like God is giving us permission to ignore His Word? Doubt His Word? Neglect His Word? Leave His Word for the preachers? NO! That is how the church went into the dark ages!
 7. When the Word loses its place in our lives, redemption loses its place and faith becomes unknown! God gave us the Word so that we would have redemption and faith and know that all things are possible for those who believe.
- C. The Main Enemy of Faith
1. The main enemy of faith is to mentally agree with the Word without actually believing it. This has been called by many 'mental assent'.
 2. With mental assent you believe something in your head, you agree, approve and confirm it is right, proper and righteous. It carries your unwavering endorsement. You may not talk about it, but it bears your seal of approval. In mental assent you believe in your head but not in your heart.
 3. The reason it is dangerous is that it is hard to recognize, because it comes clothed with the term "Faith." It is caused by familiarity with the Word. I.e. Maybe as a child you grew up with a Bible on the coffee table. Maybe you grew up in a Christian home and were taken to church where you heard the Word, agreed with it but did not believe it. Maybe you actually were born again but you had better things to do than study the Word. We said we believed it but our actions were contrary.
 4. If we really had understood what the Word is and what it does we would have thrown ourselves into it! Devoured it! Believed it! Confessed it! And Acted on it!

III. The Word Works For Those Who Work The Word

- A. The work: Faith, Confess, Act. The Work: Believe, Declare and Act! That process got you saved, or will get you saved. Bingo! New Creation in Christ! You have just entered the world of limitless possibilities in Christ. You too are now a change agent in the earth.
- B. Examples
1. Ie. When I got saved I believed that Jesus was my savior. I confessed Him as Lord of my life. And I immediately began acting on the Word. My life changed because I believed, I confessed to other that I believed. And I acted on all the Word I could get my hands on. The mental assenter says, "I believe the Bible is the Word of God. I believe that Jesus is the son of God. I want to be saved but it is not happening.' He professes to believe but has not concept of acting on the Word.
 2. Ie. it is the same with healing. But the mental assenter says, "I believer the Bible is true. I believe the healing scriptures. Everyone has prayed for me. I cant understand why I am not healed."
- C. Here is what I know:
1. This is my new reality: I am a new creation! *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)
 2. This is my new reality: I am the righteousness of God in Christ. *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Corinthians 5:21, NKJV)
 3. This is my new reality: I am a joint heir with Jesus! *"And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory..."* (Romans 8:17, NLT)
 4. This is my new reality: I can ask my Heavenly Father directly! *"At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy."* (John 16:23-24, NLT)
 5. This is my new reality: My God supplies all my needs! *"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19, NLT)

Conclusion:

- The Word works for those who work the Word! God works through His Word for those who work the Word.
- How do you work the Word? You recognize Who has said it and what He has said. You believe it. You declare what you believe. And you act on it.
- To get saved: You recognize that God is speaking and He has said, "You must be born again." You believe that in your heart. You declare it with your mouth. And you act on the Word. It is as He has said.