

Then as now, God's Word is not to be cherished as a good-luck charm or to soothe the mind by bringing temporary relief from anxiety. It was given to be obeyed so that its help would not be just for this life--but forever. --MRDII

*Thy Word is a lamp to my feet,
A light to my path always,
To guide and to save me from sin
And show me the heavenly way. --Sellers*

We don't really know the Bible until we obey the Bible.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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For Now--or Forever?

Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. --James 1:21

Cold terror gripped the heart of a soldier as mortar rounds whistled overhead, rifles cracked, and the Vietcong closed in. Suddenly he felt ripping pains as a bullet tore into his chest and arm. Yet it wasn't the end for this soldier. According to an article in the newspaper, the bullet was slowed by a New Testament he was carrying in his shirt pocket. Years later, the young man still treasured the blood-stained book with the ragged hole through the middle. He believes it saved his life.

This is a nice story, but it says nothing about the life-saving spiritual help the Bible was designed to give. In Ezekiel 33, we read that the ancient Israelites used the words of the prophets to make them feel good but not to change their lives. They took passages out of context to support their confidence (v.24). They found pleasure in listening to the words of the prophet (v.30), yet the Lord said, "They hear your words, but they do not do them" (v.31). The result? They came under divine judgment.



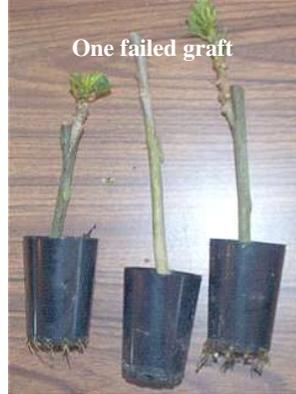


Discipleship Series

Grafting

(James 1:21-22)

- ◆ "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,
- ◆ and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
- ◆ {22} But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." [KJV]



Those who receive with meekness the engrafted word will:

1. See _____ afresh,

(Revelation 22:18-19) "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; {19} and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

(Matthew 16:17) "... Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

(Luke 24:45-47) "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. {46} Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, {47} "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

(John 14:26) ""But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

(1 Corinthians 2:14) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

(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."

(Psalms 69:30) "I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving."

2. Respond with _____



and _____, Psalm 119:159-165



(Isaiah 55:6) "Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near."

(Isaiah 55:12) ""For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; ..."

3. Change how they _____,

(Acts 9:6) "So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" ..""

(Acts 2:37-38) "... "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" {38} Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

(Daniel 9:3) "Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes."

(Luke 9:57-62) "Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." {58} And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." {59} Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." {60} Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." {61} And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." {62} But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.""

