

THE LIFE CHANGING GOSPEL



Purpose of the value of Discipleship being lived out: being made into the image of the Son

Key Theme: The Gospel

Key Truth: Receiving the Gospel in Word, Power, Holy Spirit and Full Conviction.

Key scriptures: *1 Thessalonians 1:5-6*

When it comes to the gospel this is one of the most powerful passages from the scriptures, because it declares and proclaims a reality for us, as to how we all have received the gospel.

How we receive the gospel and the gospel we receive, determines and dictates whether we will be able to live out a life that is reflective of the true gospel. Failure to receive the true gospel and the true way in which ones receives the gospel, will always have us coming short of coming into the abiding life in Christ and the ability to live as Christ did.

We must receive the gospel the way the Thessalonians received the gospel, if we are to be imitators of God and the church who are abiding in God. There is no other way. Ask yourself how you have received the gospel.

Was it in word, power, Holy Spirit and full conviction? When you heard the gospel proclaimed, were you arrested and apprehended by the power of it? Did it stop you in your tracks and lead you to biblical repentance, where you were now able to make a decision to turn from your current way and walk in a completely different direction and start coming to know Christ and learning from Him?

1 Corinthians 1:18 says the word of the cross is the power of God unto salvation. Power is power and it is to be experienced. Did we receive the power of the gospel which started us on the process of the salvation of our spirit, soul and body? We are to experience the power that rose Jesus from being dead and brought Him back to life, not just have a mental association with the power, and say yes, this is true but it's not our experience or reality, our Truth.

How does one expect to be an imitator of God, Paul and the Thessalonians, if one hasn't received the gospel the WAY God has purposed it. It's simple, we won't be able to.

If we have only made a mental agreement with what Jesus accomplished on the cross, this is still a good thing, but can I urge you to seek the Spirit with ALL you have, making it your NUMBER 1 PRIORITY and PURPOSE, above ALL OTHER PEOPLE and THINGS, and ask Him to reveal the power of the gospel within you. It's the WORK of the gospel the church needs. The powerful WORK of the resurrection, which saw a dead man become alive again.

Mankind are all DEAD in our sin and iniquity, until the gospel lays hold of us and resurrects us from a dead state to a living one.

Questions:

- Q. Discuss as a group your understanding of the true gospel.
- Q. Discuss as a group how you have received this gospel.
- Q. What is the difference between being taught the gospel by man as opposed to God?
(Look at Galatians 1:11-12 for a reference)
- Q. Why is every element (word, power, Holy Spirit, full conviction) essential in receiving the gospel?
- Q. Discuss as a group what truly imitating God looks like in and through our lives through receiving the true gospel, the WAY God instructs?
- Q. How much of our lives today reflect the true gospel working in our lives?

Action point: From going through this resource what do you sense the Holy Spirit is saying you may need to action or look into?