

God's Effective Word

by Wayne Goff

This past week's heavy rain reminded me of God's words through Isaiah (ch. 55). *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it"* (vv. 10-11).

We do not doubt the need for rainfall and snow, nor do we deny the **effect** they have upon the earth. Summer crops that feed mankind are a blessing from God, and His providence rules the natural realm. It is **not** "Mother Nature" that does this, but Almighty God!

Similarly, God's Word accomplishes *His intentions and purposes*. It does not convert everyone. It does not cause all to repent. But it does convert the humble, honest soul and it enlightens the eyes of those who look for His light in their lives and act accordingly. As someone has said before, **"the same sun that melts the butter, hardens the clay."** It is the heart that determines the results, but rest assured they are God's results and not man's.

The **mighty power** of God's Word is seen in what is said in Hebrews 4:12: *"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 intents of the heart."* What instrument do you and I know that can **pierce so deeply** into a man's being that it can *separate* his soul and spirit?! God's Word alone can do that, and because of its mighty power the Word must be handled carefully. It can wound, maim, and destroy or it can prick, divide and heal. Like a scalpel in a surgeon's hand, it can get down to the heart of the matter.

So what is our responsibility to God's Word? Listen to it, submit to its teachings and demands, and be saved as God always intended.

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