

The Power of God's Word

by Wayne Goff

"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." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

The God of Nature

The God of nature is also the God of special revelation. Isaiah 55:10-11 points out that both realms which He created do exactly what He wants them to do. God created **plant life** on the third day (Genesis 1:11-13), then **seasons** on the fourth day (Genesis 1:14-19), **animal life** on the fifth and sixth days (Genesis 1:20-31), including His crowning feat, making mankind in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27). Everything operates exactly as He designed it. We have fruitful seasons blessed by rain and minerals from the snow, so that mankind can plant, grow and eat. The apostle Paul summed up this benevolent providence in Acts 14:15-17: "...We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn ... to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Every year of our lives we can testify that these things are so because we can see them with our own eyes.

The God of Special Revelation

The God of Special Revelation has given us His eternal Word which produces the exact results He intended in the souls of men. Isaiah 55:10-11 points this out when God said that His word will not return to Him void, but it will accomplish exactly what He intends! I call Him the "God of special revelation" because we cannot witness this process with one of our five senses. We must have this information **revealed** to us by God Himself. But we can trust that this process is just as faithful and true as nature itself! The apostle Paul likewise pointed this truth out in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10: "But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has **revealed** them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." The apostles and prophets of the New Testament age received God's Word through revelation, and then passed it on to us in what we call the New Testament — the last will and testament of Jesus Christ, made possible by His death on the cross.

As one of the inspired apostles, Paul wrote of this *process* from personal experience: "How that by **revelation** He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, **when you read**, you may **understand** my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)," (Ephesians 3:3-4). So when we read the words of God found on the pages of the New Testament, we can then know and understand what we must do in order to fulfill God's purpose for making us. "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25).

Man's Response

Generally speaking, there are two responses from man to God's Word: (1) Acceptance; (2) Rejection. Our response does not change God's Word, it does not change God's plan, and it does not thwart His purposes. It accomplishes exactly what God pleases and it prospers in the thing God intended! Just as the same sun that softens butter also hardens clay, so the same Word of God softens a conscientious heart while it hardens the rebellious heart. We cannot blame God for our reaction! It is simply a matter of the heart. **The only question for you and me is whether our heart will humbly submit and obey our Creator.** Read the New Testament. Consider God's benevolent plan for you. Trust Him and obey the gospel.

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