



Why We Resist the Word – 2

Objective

We are called to a fruitful life through God's Word. In this Bible study we will highlight, understand and deal with some of the reasons why we resist God's Word.

Introduction

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:3 that the World was framed by the Word. We can create the framework for the world we want to experience in any season of our lives by the Word of God.

For every season of your life there ought to be words that are framing your world.

What words are framing your year? What words do you need to create the year you desire to see?

At Radiant City London, we are framing our world with this scripture:

Deuteronomy 11:11

but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, God is directing our steps and the place that He is taking us to, the life He is calling us into is a life that is totally dependent on heaven's supply of water.

Just like we cannot live a healthy life without water. We cannot live a healthy spiritual life without the Water of the Word. We will be lethargic, lukewarm and fruitless without the Word! This is why we are addressing the reason why we might be resistant to the water of the Word.

Why we resist the Word

A Sick Heart

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

The heart here is not referring to the thing that pumps blood around your body. It's referring to the seat of your emotion. The core of your being. The place where we now carry the presence of God as New Testament believers. The heart is the place where we process the Word of God. The heart is the place where we make decisions about what we will do with the promises of God.

Romans 10:10 (KJV) 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

A sick heart is a heart that isn't functioning as it was designed to function. The heart was designed to believe God's Word. But sometimes hope deferred makes the heart sick.

Sometimes it is the disappointments in life that create a sick heart. You believed, but nothing happened. So now your heart is closed off to the Word! You had high hopes and then it came crashing down!!

In Mark 4, Jesus speaks about the way side soil. A soil that has been hardened. because it's been stomped on. So, because the heart is sick when the water or the seed of God's Word hits a hardened heart, it never sinks in.

Symptoms of a sick heart

- When our heart is made sick from deferred hope, we tend to blame God and judge Him unfaithful. Sometimes we say it out loud. Other times we internalize our judgement of God. When we judge God as unfaithful, we simultaneously judge ourselves as the faithful ones who did everything right and God is the one who didn't. (Job 33:8-11 MSG)
- The apparent safety of unbelief becomes more comfortable than the risk of faith. We live in a default state of unbelief.
- You become cynical. You no longer want to raise your hopes. You are wary of being hopeful

Overcoming a sick heart.

- **Revisit WHAT you believed, HOW you believed, WHY you believed.** Sometimes our hope is deferred because we hoped wrong. In Luke 24:13-35, there were two men who were so disappointed because their hopes in Christ appeared to have been deferred. He was supposed to be their saviour, but he was now dead and buried. It was only after Jesus had walked with them for a while that they understood that there was something about the WHAT, HOW & WHY of their hopes that wasn't quite aligned with what God had in mind. Once that was rectified, they found the strength to believe again! As we see in part, we can sometimes fall for thinking that our hope is deferred, when we just needed to tweak the WHAT, HOW & WHY of our hopes.
- **Keep walking with God.** In Luke 24, these two men got a clearer picture of the will of God as they continued walking with Jesus in their disappointment. In fact, God will I think this is one of the reasons why this story is in the Bible. It tells us that when we are disappointed, when it looks like your hopes have been deferred, God will come looking for you on the road to wherever you are heading at that moment. If you choose to listen, and keep walking with Him, He everything will be made clear. Sometimes we quit too early. Keep walking with God and He will make all things clear.
- **Understand that God is bigger and better than you can ever imagine.** In Job 33:12-14, Job's friend challenges his perception of God. He makes this seemingly obvious statement in verse 12, "God is greater than man". If the conclusions you have made, contradict the promise of God, choose to believe the promise of God. God is bigger than your conclusions. He is more faithful than we give Him credit for. He is wiser, has more understanding, more loving, just. He never misses a thing. Never let a disappointment cause you to see or judge God any less. He always bigger and better that we think.

- **Challenge every area of your life where your hope has been deferred. Jeremiah 4:3 For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: “Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns.** It is important that we learn to be courageous enough to confront every area of our lives where disappointments have made our hearts sick. Don't spend your life protecting areas of unbelief. Go there. Ask yourself hard questions. Compare what you believe to what God says. In every area of contradiction, decide to accept the word of God over your experience. That's one way to dig up fallow ground. eventually the Word will change your experience.
- **Ask for help with your unbelief. Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”** I love the man's honesty. When you have seen your child sick for so long, it's easy to struggle with unbelief. But when he heard Jesus (the Word), immediately he responded and asked for help with his unbelief. Don't allow pride to keep your heart sick. Ask for help. Be honest with God. He can handle your struggle.

Conclusion

One of the major shifts we need to make as we walk with God is to adjust our expectation of good. We must always expect good! But we must understand that the good we expect might not happen as we expected it to happen. When we fail to make this shift, we view every disappointment we face as a failure either on our part or on God's part. But the reality is that faith in God never fails. If you are standing on God's Word, and you face a disappointment, please know that the story is not yet over. Find the next appropriate thing to believe. Keep your hands firmly locked into His hands, and you will eventually see the end of your faith. May the Lord heal your sick heart today.

Prayer

Lord, I trust you. You are good. You are true. You are eternally just. You are always faithful. When it seems that my hopes have been deferred, I choose to keep trusting you.

Here are a couple of other things that hinder us from receiving God's Word

The cares of this world. Another reason why we don't receive the Word is that we are sometimes consumed by the cares of this world.

The reality is that we need things in this world. There are things we need to care about in this world. But the will of God is that we have our priorities in the correct order. When we put the cares of this world ahead of the promises of God, we end up rejecting the word of God, especially when it was obviously doesn't serve the things we care about.

“The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.” Mark 4:18-19 NLT

Our understanding. Sometimes we lean more on our understanding than we do on the Word of God. The problem with that is that God's thoughts and His ways are higher than our thought's and our



ways. The blessing or the benefits of God's word is often in the contradiction that it brings to our experience.

Further reading: Hebrews 3:12-15, 1 Peter 5:7, Proverbs 12:25, 2 Kings 7:1-2

Discussion questions

- Have you ever believed God for something that never happened? How did that affect your faith? How can you apply today's lesson to that situation?
- What other things make us less receptive to the Word of God.
- Which part of this study resonates with you the most and why?