

15 October 2017

The actions of a believer (Pt.1 hear, receive & search the scriptures).

This is a new topic in our series of teachings in the format of milk. Today we establish from the scriptures that a person born of the Spirit of God hears His words, receives them with all readiness of mind, and searches the scriptures as to whether what they are being taught is truth.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. A person born of the Spirit of God hears His words.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he can not enter into the kingdom of God” (Jn.3: 5), c.f. – Jn.8: 47 “He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God”.

For a person to become a Christian they must hear God's word and “how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom.10: 15). Hence they hear the gospel from the preacher and then are encouraged to continue on their journey and hear God's words. Because if they do not, then they are not of God, and have believed the gospel in vain (1Cor.15: 2).

2. A believer receives God's words with all readiness of mind.

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind...” (Acts 17: 10).

For a person to become a Christian they must receive the gospel (1Cor.15: 1) which the risen Lord Jesus gave to Paul (the gospel of Christ crucified – 1Cor.1: 23), and then are encouraged to continue their journey and receive the words of God with all readiness of mind. In other words be prepared, be ready to take action on the words they have heard and received.

3. A believer searches the scriptures to establish if what they are taught is truth.

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17: 11).

When the young believer hears the word of God, receives His words from a teacher or preacher, how do they do so today where there are many “false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies” (2Pet.2: 1)? According to our verse from Acts we are all responsible for checking out what we are taught – “whether those things be so”.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

I know of a believer that has sat under a minister that used four different corrupt copies of the scriptures in their message, and during the delivery of their sermon would only provide one or two scripture references to support their teaching. The believer took action and left the church.

Questions to think about.

- i) How does such a believer search the scriptures as to whether those things they are being taught be so if there is very little scriptural support?
- ii) Why do so many people remain under ministers that do not have the scriptures, and do not even teach from the corrupt copies that they have?

My answer to our questions from the scriptures.

- i) A believer can **not** search the scriptures where a preacher's message is not supported from God's word.
- ii) And why do so many people flock to such churches – because we are in a time “when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2Tim.4: 3).

Today believers are without excuse as the scriptures in the English text of the Authorised Bible are readily available. So be encouraged to, not just hear and receive God's words, but also search the “scriptures daily, whether those things be so”, and then take action on what is shown to be truth.