

The Requirements part 5

The first two parts of the series were about the requirement of Salvation.

The third part of the series was about the requirement of Sanctification (holiness).

The fourth requirement in the series was Consecration (surrender).

Receiving is a Requirement

If you can't receive, it doesn't matter what is being poured out.

If you can't receive, the abundant life is out of reach. We can't earn it. We can't work for it. We must receive it.

There was a time when we were able to receive. When we were children, we received everything. It was only as we got older that we started refusing.

John 1:10–13 NKJV

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Receive

Greek Word used 258 times in the NT

It means, to take hold of something; grasping onto something; embracing something so tightly that it becomes your very own.

Worthless If You Don't Receive

What God offers us may be of infinite value and of our greatest need but if we will not receive it then it is worthless or meaningless to us.

James 1:17 NKJV

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

The gifts of God are invaluable. They can not be bought.

God Desires to Give, We are not Always Willing to Receive

God's desire is to give (it is even His nature, e.g. John 3:16). It is our responsibility to receive. Yet many are not willing to receive what God is giving.

How receptive am I daily to what God is trying to give me?

Adam and Eve were fine as long as they continued to receive from God. It was when they refused Him and went to another source that they fell. It is amazing how we will reject or refuse the good things that God offers us but readily receive the bad things that the world or the devil offers.

Matthew 23:37 NKJV

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**

God Sends Messages to Us

God sends messages to us through people that He chooses, but we aren't forced to receive them, or the messages.

Some Treat God's Word Like a Joke

Genesis 19:12–14 NKJV

12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! **13** For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it." **14** So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

Some Find God's Word Offensive

2 Kings 5:9–14 NKJV

9 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. **10** And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." **11** But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'" **12** Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. **13** And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" **14** So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

As long as Naaman refused to receive, the leprosy remained. But when he received the word of God and dipped in the river, he was healed.

Some Receive The Word of God Immediately

Sometimes the people who receive aren't the ones that you would expect. Sometimes religious people, church people, are not as quick to receive as those who are not.

Jonah 3:4-5 NKJV

4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" **5** So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

Bad Receivers Often Blame God

Many people get mad at God or blame Him for what they don't have.

Lot's sons-in-law died because they did not receive the warning. It wasn't God's will for them to do so.

Sometimes God will offer something that we don't understand or seems hard to us. This is to test our resolve to receive (see John 6).

Naaman started out leaving as he came. He left angry and leprous. This wasn't God's will. Then he changed his mind and went back and received his healing, which was God's will. Because of grace we can start out a bad receiver and end up a good one. Naaman's ability to

receive is what determines his outcome.

The King of Nineveh and all his people immediately repented and received the word of God. And this was God's will.

Conclusion

What good is healing if we won't receive?

How will I be blessed by wisdom if I won't receive it?

What good is great relationships if I won't receive them?

What good is the local church if I won't receive it and join?

Whatever blessing that is attached to the thing we will not receive will be lost to us.

What are we missing out on because we are unwilling to receive the things that God is trying to give us?