

Misunderstanding The Power Of The Gospel

I. Introduction:

A. One will immediately turn to **Romans 1:16**. One might yell that the Gospel is “*the power of God unto salvation.*” The Gospel is “*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...*”

1. “That believeth” is from the Greek word “πιστεύω”. Belief is a choice. Belief is not inevitable. Belief it is not a forced action (**Matthew 21:23-32**, **Matthew 24:23**, **Matthew 24:26**, **Mark 1:15**, **Mark 16:9-13**, **Jude 1:5**, etc.).

2. Belief, “πιστεύω” that pleases God is a continual faith (**Luke 8:13** and **John 8:30-32**).

B. The word of God has to be believed in order to be effective in the salvation of the soul (**Hebrews 4:1-2**).

1. It is ignorant to assume that someone with Scriptures in hand and an honest heart has all they need (**Acts 8:26-39**).

2. Even with the greatest teacher of all time, the Gospel is limited in effect based upon the hearer (**John 8:42-45**). That is true even with supernatural evidences in play (**John 12:36-43**; cf. **John 14:11**).

II. Body: Whether Or Not Obedience Occurs Comes Down To The Hearer (**Acts 8:12** and **I Corinthians 1:21**).

A. Upon the ear of one who desires to obey God, the word of God is very effective (**Psalms 119:9-16**, **Proverbs 15:31-32**, and **I Thessalonians 2:13**).

1. The key is one having an obedient ear (**Proverbs 25:12**).

2. However, to deny the word of God can be of no effect is outright false (**Matthew 15:1-9**; cf. **Mark 7:13**).

B. Let's address the misunderstanding of **Isaiah 55:11**

1. To understand this as though everyone who hears will obey is exceptionally ignorant, even in the book of Isaiah (**Isaiah 1:10-20**).

2. Through the will of Christ the Gospel was preached to the whole earth (**Luke 24:47** and **Colossians 1:5-6**; **1:23**). So, if the Gospel saves all that hears, what would that mean? Yet, that did not happen (**Acts 17:1-5**, **Acts 28:23-24**, and **Romans 10:16**).

3. God wants all to be saved (**Isaiah 45:22**, **I Timothy 2:3-4**, **II Peter 3:9**, and **I John 4:14**).

4. To assume the word of God forces salvation upon those that hear it, because it is God's will, is false (**Revelation 22:17**).

5. Even with those that truly have believed, they can chose to deviate even when it should be unlikely (**Acts 15:5** and **Romans 10:1-4**).

C. There are those that dismiss the effectiveness of false teachers because they have an ignorant confidence in the power of the Gospel. They say: "Is the Bible so weak that it can be damaged by a debate? Can people not read?" They say: "I am not afraid of false teachers. The Bible always defeats false teachings."

1. Yet, the word of God says that false teachers are effective against the truth (**Matthew 23:13, Luke 11:52, Romans 16:17-18, Galatians 1:6-7, Galatians 4:8-11, Titus 1:10-14, and II Peter 2:18-22**).

2. Even when the teacher is VERY CAPABLE, aided by the Spirit of God, people can revolt against the truth and turn people from the truth (**Acts 13:42-51**).

III. Conclusion: Whether it is you or someone else, the word of God will only do to you what YOU allow it to do (**Jeremiah 9:12-20, Mark 4:20, and James 1:21-25**).