What Does It Mean To Receive The Word

Intro: Luke speaks of those on the day of Pentecost who were receiving the word; Acts 2:41 “...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” What does it mean to receive the Word?

I. THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE WORD ON PENTECOST

A. Acts 2:36-41 “...Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

1. It means they believed.
   a. They had faith that God is; Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
   b. They had faith in Jesus as God’s Son:
      (1) John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
      (2) Acts 2:14-36
         a. Acts 2:32 “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”
         b. Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

2. It means they repented.
   a. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   b. It means to have a change of heart to turn from sin and to God; 1 The. 1:9 “For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;”

3. It means they were baptized.
   a. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   b. Baptism is immersion in water for the remission of sins.

B. God added those who received the Word to the church; Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

II. IN RECEIVING THE WORD MAN SAVES HIMSELF.

A. Acts 2:40-41 “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

B. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

C. In rejecting the word man condemns himself.
   1. Acts 13:46 “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of
II. The wayside hearer is the one who does not receive the Word.
   a. Mat. 13:3-9 “And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 4Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 5And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up, and choked them: 8But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

   b. Mat. 13:18-23 “Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside. 20But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

III. It Means To Receive All Of It.
   A. Jam. 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”
   B. We must have a different spirit from that in Isa 30:9-10 “That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: 10Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:”

IV. Receiving the Word necessitates man’s giving up error.
   A. The Truth is all important.
      1. John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
      2. John 8:31-32 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   B. Phi. 3:4-7 “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 4Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 5Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 6But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.”

V. Some people who think they want to receive the Word actually do not.
   A. The cost is more than they are willing to pay.
   B. Mat. 19:16-22 “And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 20The young man saith unto
him. All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”

C. Mat. 10:34-38

“34Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. 37He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

VI. FOR MAN TO BE ETERNALLY SAVED, HE MUST DO MORE THAN RECEIVE THE WORD—HE MUST ALLOW IT TO ABIDE IN HIS HEART.

A. Mat. 13:20-23

“20But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

B. Steadfastness

1. Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

2. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Conclusion: Have you received God’s Word to the saving of your soul and have you continued to abide in that Word?