



Not Just Hearing but Submitting

By Johnny Caruso January 29, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Acts 28

Submitting our hearts and minds to the authority of the Word of God goes far beyond ordinary listening. It is a good idea to listen, but a willing submission to The Truth is more important. Hearing and listening to the Word of God produces faith, but willing submission to its truths prepares us for greater tasks. It is only when we wholeheartedly submit ourselves to God's authority by upholding the truths of His Word, that we are set aside and commissioned for divine tasks.

In verses 17-20, Paul helps us understand the levels of opposition and challenge he was faced with. The many hardships he suffered on the way to Rome did not stop him from proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ!

God has a purpose for every circumstance in our lives. He uses circumstances to mold our character, to make us like Jesus. He depends on the circumstances we go through, along with our reading and studying of His Word. Reading and studying the Bible is important. It helps bring truths alive in different situations that help us grow in Him. We are face-to-face with different circumstances 24 hours a day, which gives ample opportunities to apply God's principles.

Jesus warned us that we would have problems in the world. No one is immune to pain or suffering, and no one gets to skate through life, problem-free! A willing submission to the truths of His Word brings us closely connected with the Lord, and His will and purpose become our desire. Our hope in difficult times is not based on positive thinking or natural optimism as the world would have us believe. God's plan for our lives involves everything

that happens to us, including our mistakes, sins, and hurts. God's sanctifying power can bring good out of the worst and most wicked situation.

Often God uses the chisel of adversity to chip off our rough edges so we can become useful for His design. God is always happy to have His submissive vessels go through the hard times of life to gain wisdom from those experiences. They become tools to mold us so we become effective proclaimers of His truth. Then the message of our Lord Jesus Christ's love for humanity and finished work on the cross is the thread weaved through the fabric of souls to bring glory to His name.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the promise, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

[Romans 8:28](#)

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 3

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