

## The Invitation

Lesson Three • Isaiah 55:10-11

### An Invitation Too Powerful to Resist

#### How Does God Fulfill His Invitation to All People?

By the **POWER** of His *spoken* and *written* Word!

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10-11

#### God's Word Is Too Powerful to Resist

### 1. God's Word **SPANS** the Distance Between Him and Us.

*"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth...so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth..."*

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. Hebrews 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

### 2. God's Word Is the **SEED** of Eternal Life.

*"... and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void...and it shall prosper..."*

since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."  
And this word is the good news that was preached to you. 1Peter 1:23-25 and Isaiah 40:6-8

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1Peter 2:1-3

### 3. God's Word Is **SOVEREIGN** in Fulfilling His Purposes.

*"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*

#### If God's Word Is Too Powerful to Resist, Then Why Do So Many Seem to Resist It?

### 1. God's Purpose Is to Soften Some and to **HARDEN** Others.

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills. Romans 9:14-18 and Exodus 33:19

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? Romans 9:22-24

### 2. God's Ways Are **HIGHER** than Our Ways.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:33-36 and Isaiah 40:13

### 3. God's Sovereign Purpose Still Requires **EFFORT**: Sowing and Eating.

### 4. God's Saving Power Still Calls for a **RESPONSE**: The Soil of Receptive Hearts.

And [Jesus] was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow...But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." Mark 4:2-3, 20

As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. Luke 8:15

### 5. God's Purposes Often Take **TIME** and Require Longsuffering.

Be patient, therefore, brothers...See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient...As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. James 5:7-8, 10

#### An Invitation Too Powerful to Resist

- Receive the Word of Life: *Trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord!*
- Be an Eater of the Bread of Life: *Delight in God's Word on a daily basis!*
- Be a Sower of the Seed of Life: *Share the gospel with bold abandon!*