



# The Work of the Word

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# **Main Point**

When God's Word is received and believed for what it truly is, it does the work of gospel transformation that God intends.

# The Work of the Word

The word of God is *God's Word*.

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**The Word is *God's Word***

It was declared *by* men  
but is not *from* men.

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The message to the Thessalonians was delivered *by* Paul but was not *from Paul*.

God chose to use human agents to deliver *His Word*.

**2 Peter 1:21**

For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke *from* God.



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Though the Word had come to them through Paul, it was not Paul's word.

It came *from* God;  
it is *God's* Word.





# The Word is *God's* Word

It is declared *by* men but is not *from* men.

As such, it has *all* authority  
in *all* that it says.

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If God is *The Sovereign* possessing  
*all* knowledge and having *all*  
authority, and this word is from Him,  
how ought we to think of it?

## **Hebrews 2:1-4**

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

**Titus 2:15**

These things speak and exhort  
and reprove with all authority.

Let no one disregard you.

**Do you see God's Word  
for what it really is?**

# The Work of the Word

The word of God is *God's* Word.

God's Word must be heard,  
received, and believed.

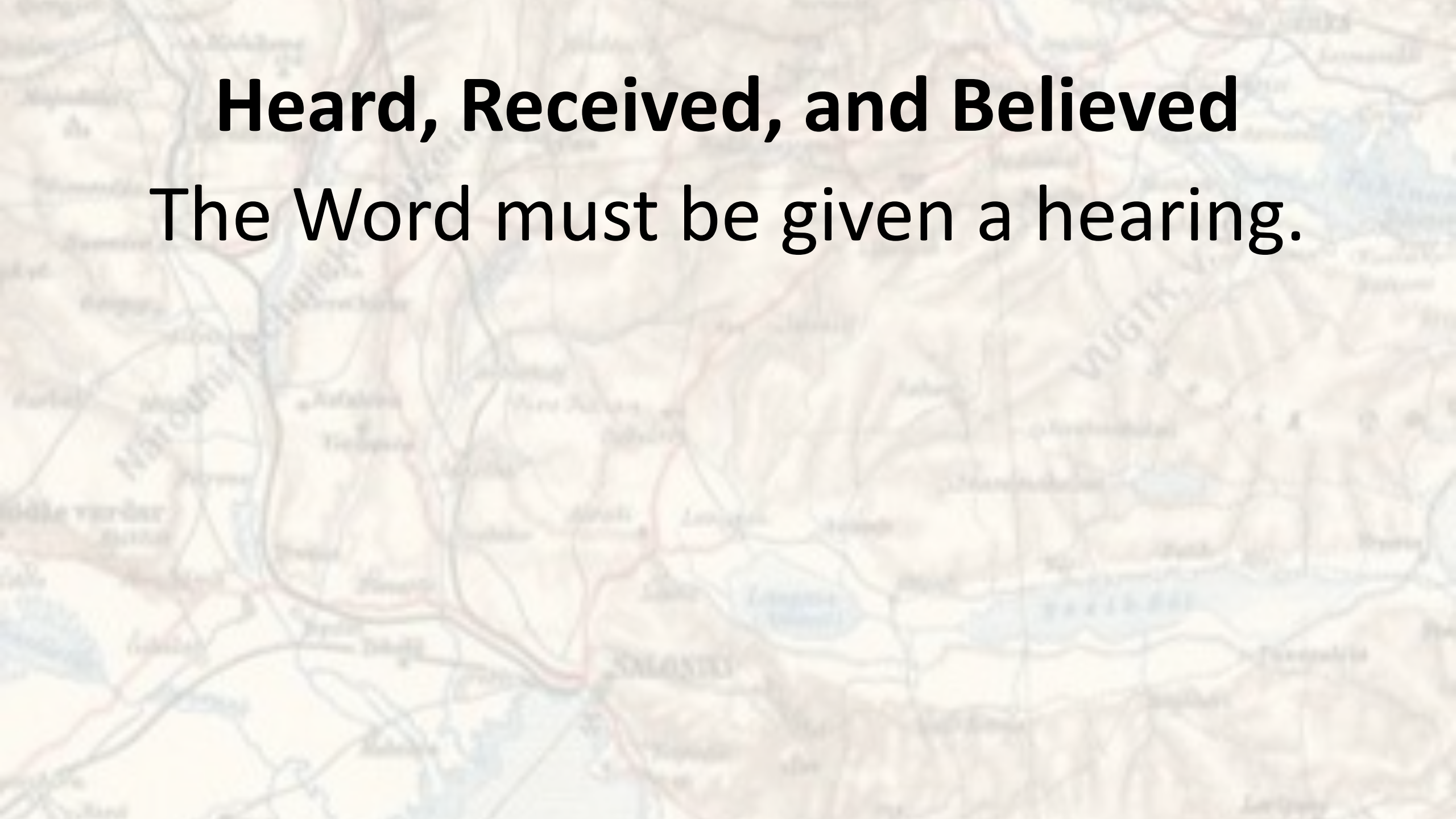


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**Heard, Received, and Believed**  
The Word must be given a hearing.



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These Thessalonians gave a hearing to Paul and his companions, meaning they made time to listen, and they opened their minds to consider.



The background of the image is a faded, light-colored map. It shows a network of roads, rivers, and geographical features. Some place names are visible, such as 'Narouhi' on the left and 'SALONKI' at the bottom center. The map is rendered in a low-contrast, almost monochromatic style, with light blues for water and light browns for land.

# Heard, Received, and Believed

The Word must be given a hearing.

The Word must be received  
for what it is.

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They didn't just hear the Word  
and assent to it; they took it in  
and made it their own.



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They embraced the instruction given to them as God's Word to them.

What would change if you truly embraced the word you hear or read as *God's Word* to you?





# Heard, Received, and Believed

The Word must be given a hearing.

The Word must be received for what it is.

**The Word must be believed.**



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which also performs its work in ***you who are believing.***

Christian believing is not a one-time thing;  
it is a *faith-life*; it is a mode of existence;  
it is a way of thinking and living.

Because the Word confronts us  
where our hearts are most enticed and  
often entangled, accepting it frequently  
requires believing it *against...*



**Are you believing it against  
all the other voices?**

# The Work of the Word

The word of God is *God's* Word.

God's Word must be heard, received, and believed.

When believed,  
the Word does its work.

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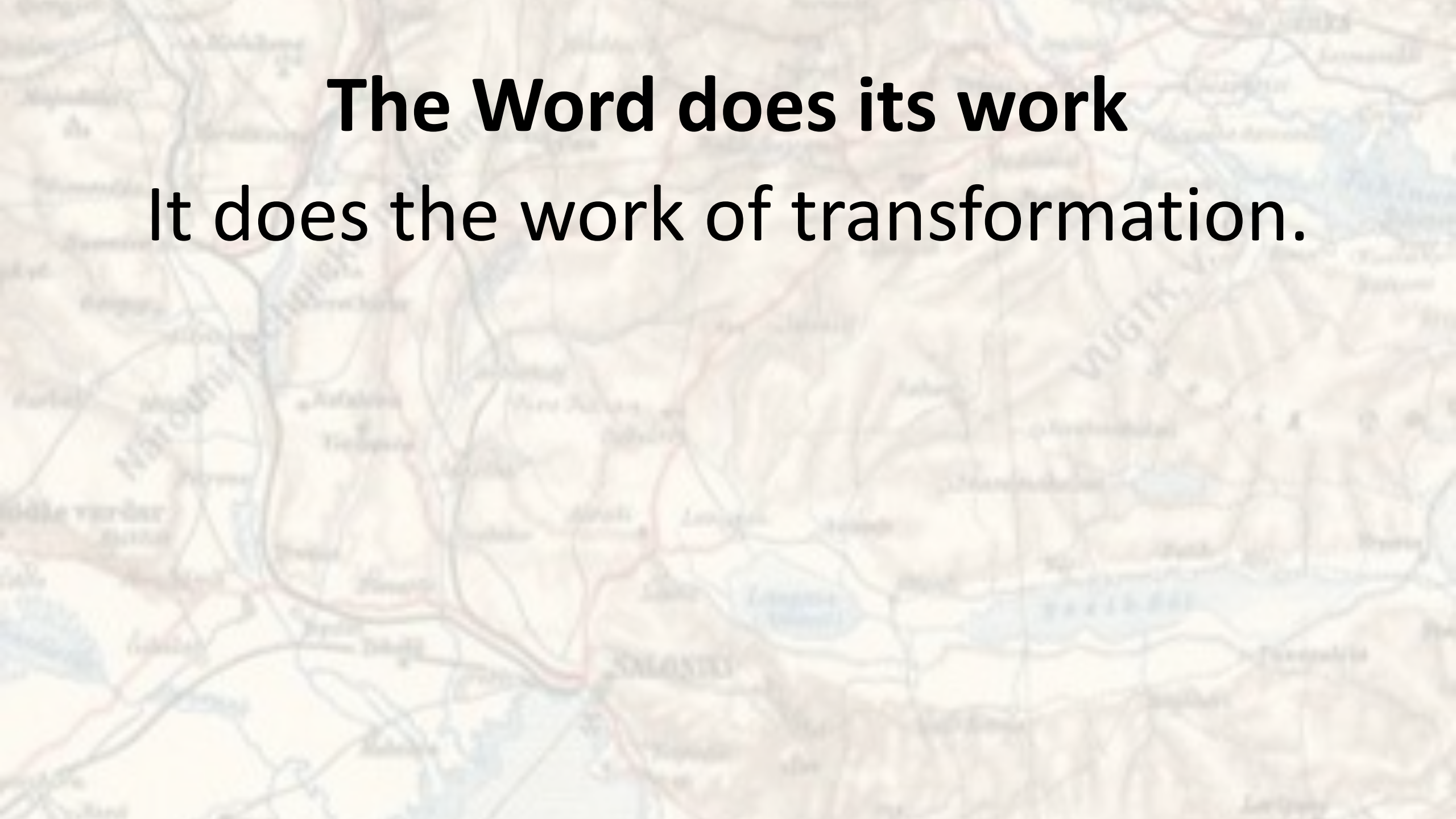


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**The Word does its work**  
It does the work of transformation.

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# What work does it perform?



## **1 Thessalonians 1:3, 6, 7, 9-10**

...bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ...

...you also became imitators of us and of the Lord...

...you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia...

...you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven...

# What is really happening?

**Romans 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

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And do not be conformed to this world,

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**Ephesians 5:1**

Therefore be imitators of God,  
as beloved children.

## How?

# What is really happening?

**Romans 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world,

but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind.**



The work the Word is doing is the work of transforming you into the image of God as explained, illustrated, and achieved by Jesus and as enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.



# **The Word does its work**

It does the work of transformation.

**It does its work in those  
who believe.**

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Transformation won't happen  
apart from faith.



## **James 1:5-8**

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

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Your transformation is a work of God  
through the means of His Word.

You hear, receive, and believe...  
and *He* renews and transforms.



# Conclusion

Are you giving God's Word a hearing?

Are you receiving the Word for what it is?

Are you believing the Word  
without doubting?