

Ezekiel 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

Analysis

"Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears." God commands comprehensive reception—both heart and ears. Intellectual apprehension alone is insufficient; truth must penetrate the heart. This emphasizes that knowing God's Word requires more than academic study—it demands personal application and transformation. The sequence matters: first receive internally, then proclaim externally. Ministers must embody truth before teaching others. The Reformed emphasis on heart knowledge versus mere head knowledge appears.

Historical Context

Ezekiel's commission (593 BC) required total absorption of God's message. Prophets couldn't merely memorize words externally but must internalize them deeply. This shaped prophetic authenticity—speaking from conviction, not mere repetition. The principle applies to all gospel ministry: preachers must first receive truth transformatively before proclaiming it authoritatively. Personal spiritual vitality precedes effective ministry.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does receiving God's Word in heart and ears differ from mere intellectual assent?
2. What is the relationship between personal transformation and effective witness to others?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלַי	בֶּן	אָדָם	אֶת	כָּל	דִּבְרֵי	אֲשֶׁר
Moreover he said	H413	unto me Son	of man	H853	H3605	all my words	H834
H559		H1121	H120			H1697	
אֲדַבֵּר	אֵלַי	וְהָ	בְּלִבְךָ	וּבְאָזְנְךָ			
that I shall speak	H413	unto thee receive	in thine heart	with thine ears			
H1696		H3947	H3824	H241			
וְשָׁמַעַ:							
and hear							
H8085							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:11 (Word): Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Job 22:22 (Word): Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

Proverbs 8:10 (Parallel theme): Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

Proverbs 19:20 (Parallel theme): Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Word): For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Luke 8:15 (Word): But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Ezekiel 2:8 (Parallel theme): But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.