

***Do you have a DDJ this morning? – [ Briefly Review It ]***

**This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Msg – in our “Alone With God” series**

& **today** we get to the **CRUX** of the Matter  
**RESPONDING to God’s Word**

**(1) We began** by creating  
a **Time** & a **Place** to **Get Alone with God**

**(2) Then we learned** to what it **meant** – to **Meditate on God’s Word**  
(**Marinate** in it) – **ENGAGING** God in & **thru** His **Word**

**(3) Then (1st wk)** – We Looked at **APPLYING God’s Word**  
Having “**Ears to Hear**” what the **Holy Spirit**  
is **saying** to us, personally – **In-Line with His Word**

**(4) Today** – we **DO something** with all that

**Today** we **put** our **ENGAGING GOD**  
(In His **Word** & By His **Spirit**) - **INTO ACTION**

**Let’s Pray**

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& **We said** (last week) that **APPLYING God’s Word**

is the **INWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of **what** the **Holy Spirit**  
is **Specifically Addressing** in your Life  
**In-Line** with the **correct meaning** of The **Word**

Today – we MOVE to RESPONDING to God's Word

& RESPONDING to God's Word

is the OUTWARD ACTION you take

as a Result of that - Inward Acknowledgement of

what God is addressing in your life

during your time with Him in His Word

RESPONDING is about taking

OBEDIENT – FAITHFUL – ACTION – On God's Truth

F.W. Robertson – A great Preacher of 1800's said;

*It is perilous to separate thinking rightly from acting rightly. He is already half false who speculates on truth and does not do it.*

*Truth is given, not to be contemplated, but to be done.*

God has GIVEN YOU His truth

NOT to be Contemplated, Considered, or Mused . . .

But to be DONE

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MAYBE - In our devotion time – Maybe we're just looking

for that "Hallmark thought" - to get us thru the day

You know – something that would go great on a Hallmark Card –

something from God's Word to inspire us for the day

& - don't get me wrong – those quick – One Line encouragements

are Great – for what they are →

they're just a shot in the arm reminder

that God is with us, & that he loves us

**But** – We need **MORE** than a **Hallmark Card**  
In our **Relationship** with the **Lord**

**We've** Got to **Alone with God**  
**Purposefully MEETING Him in His Word**

**& Intentionally listening to The Holy Spirit**  
For **How** He would **Have** US - **APPLY His Word**

We **need** to be **ready** for **God to reveal** to us  
what **HE** is **Specifically DOING** in our **Lives**

We **need** to have “**ears to hear**” what the **Spirit of God**  
is **SAYING** to us - **in & thru** His Word

& we **need** to bring **ALL of that** to a point of  
**OBEDIENT – FAITHFUL – ACTION** in our Lives

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**God speaks** - with a **Specific Purpose**  
& God speaks - at a **Specific Time**

& **when God speaks**  
**According** to His **Purpose** - & **According** to His Time  
There is **ALWAYS** - a **Response Required** !!

***Your ongoing Relationship with Jesus Christ, or lack thereof,  
is a direct RESULT of your RESPONSE to Him***

***Your relationship with Jesus will either INCREASE or  
DECREASE based on your Response to Him***

***Where Jesus Christ is concerned, there is always  
a “Response Required.” (no response = no relationship)***

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& when I say – RESPONSE I'm always talking about  
a Response of OBEDIENT – FAITHFUL – ACTION

So – I have this Computer Program that I can type a SUBJECT into

& it will recommend SECTIONS of Bible text  
that I can use to teach that SUBJECT

Not individual Vs's – Sections of Scripture

So – I typed in Obedience to God's Word

& the Program gave me 506 Different Sections of Scripture I could  
use to teach Responding in Obedience to God's Word

So – This is going to be – a Very, Very LONG Message

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I could easily read you Scripture ALL DAY - showing you  
the Requirement of a RESPONSE when God speaks to you

But let's turn to One Great Example in NEH CH 8  
(*Kings, Chron, Ezra, Nehemiah*)

This is part of our Nehemiah Series  
(Msg#13) – (Same Msg Title) - Responding to God's Word

In Neh Ch 8 – A Genuine Revival is started  
By the People of Israel - RESPONDING to God's Word

The Rebuilding of The Wall is finished  
& EZRA Brings out "The Book of the Law of Moses"

& he **READS God's Word** to the **People**

From **Early Morning** - until NOON – (*so stop complaining . . .*)

But then - **what Kicked off** the Revival – is the **Same thing**  
that has **Kicked** off **EVERY Revival** in Modern **History**

It is the **Correct & Genuine RESPONSE** to God's **Holy Word**

**That** kicked off **THE Revival** in **Nehemiah**  
& **EVERY** Revival since

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& this **Correct & Genuine RESPONSE** of the People  
is **SUMMARIZED** in just **1 verse** – **Neh 8:6**

It **comes** in **3-Steps**

So we'll **read** the **Entire Vs** – then **draw out** the **3-Steps**

**After reading God's Word (for hrs!) - Nehemiah 8:6 (NLT)**

***6 Then Ezra (Scribe & Priest) praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.***

This is **one** of the **Best Examples**

of **Responding to God's Word** - in the **Bible** – (*Let's break it down*)

**1<sup>st</sup> step - Nehemiah 8:6(a) (NLT)**

***6 Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" . . .***

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The word **AMEN** means - ***YES Lord, I agree,  
May it be so - & may it be so in MY life***

This is the Beginning of a **Correct Response** to God's Word  
***Yes, Lord, I AGREE - May it be so, in My Life***

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**Then – 2<sup>nd</sup> step - Nehemiah 8:6(b) (NLT)**

***... and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands ...***

This – is a **SIGN of SURRENDER** (as they **lifted** their hands)

The **Lifting of Hands** (in **Scripture** - & in **History**)  
Has **ALWAYS** been - a **Sign of Surrender**

***I Give Up Lord – I Give Up My Ways - I SURRENDER to YOU***

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So - **1<sup>st</sup>** it's - ***I AGREE, Lord - & May it be so, in My Life***  
**Then** it's - ***I SURRENDER to YOU, Lord***

**& Finally - Nehemiah 8:6(c) (NLT)**

***... Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.***

**Bowing down** to the Lord – with your **face to the ground**  
Is an **Act** of **Total Submission** to the **Will of God**

It is the **Physical Act** of saying  
**I will Bow to your will Lord- I will DO what you say**

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**THAT** – is the **perfect picture** of **Responding to God's Word**

- 1) - **I AGREE** with you, Lord - & **May it be so, in My Life**
  - 2) - **I SURRENDER** to YOU, Lord
  - 3) - **I WILL BOW** to your will Lord - **I will DO what you say**
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& **did** you **notice** in **Neh 8:6**  
that the **People's RESPONSE** - Led to **WORSHIP**

**Rom 12:1 says** – **Give ALL that you are**

**ALL** your **FACULTIES** - (Mental, Emotional, Spiritual)  
& **ALL** your **MEMBERS** - (Your Actions) . . .

**To God** – as a **Living Sacrifice** (for **His Will** & for **His Glory**)

& the **END** of **Rom 12:1** says  
**This is truly the way to worship him**

**RESPONDING to God** – In **OBEDIENT** – **FAITHFUL** – **ACTION**  
Is **Ultimately** – the **TRUEST WAY** – **to WORSHIP Him**

**That famous Vs - 1 Samuel 15:22 – IN the (NLT)**

**22 . . . “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.**

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**Sometimes** our **Response** is a **PHYSICAL** action

**Sometimes** our **Response** is taking our **THOUGHTS** captive

**Sometimes** our **Response** is a **RENEWING** of our heart & our mind  
to be **ALIGNED** with God's Word

**But** – There is **ONE PHRASE** – that is **ALWAYS** involved  
In **Correctly Responding** to **God's Word**

**OBEDIENT – FAITHFUL – ACTION**

**AGREEING** with the Lord

**SURRENDERING** to the Lord

**BOWING** to His Will – & ***Doing what He says***

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Our **Key Text** today is

**James 1:22–25 (NLT)**

***22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.***

***23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.***

***24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.***

***25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.***

Guys – **Our life** with **Jesus Christ** is **NOT** a string of  
**"Hallmark Card Sayings"** **meant** to make us **feel good**  
**While** we go on **doing** whatever **WE want to do**

**Our Life** with **Jesus** Christ is **MEANT** to **BE**  
a **RADICAL Transformation** - of **ALL that** we are

a **RADICAL Transformation** of **How** we **THINK**  
of **How** we **SEE** Things  
of **How** we **ACT**  
of **How** we **REACT**

**In Christ** - **Every Area** of our Lives - is **MEANT to be Transformed**



If you were born with a Sin Nature like I was

Then – Everything about Us – MUST be Transformed  
Into the IMAGE of Jesus Christ

**& That Will ONLY BEGIN**

When YOU Begin - RESPONDING in Obedience  
Within a Growing Relationship with the Lord

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So – Let's Look at another Completed Example of the DDJ  
But we're going to do something a little different today

If you haven't been with us – we've been putting up an example  
of the Daily Devotion Journal in each msg

TODAY – I want to show you MY DDJ  
on THESE Vs's (Jas 1:22-25)

BUT THEN – I'm going to put the Vs's Back up on the Screen

& Ask you to take a minute to RESPOND to God's Word Yourself  
Right where you're at . . . ok?

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We JUST Read these Vs's

So I'm going to put MY DDJ up for you - on these Vs's

(I meant to ask someone else to do one like last week – sorry)

Ok – Here is MY “MEDITATE Section” on these Vs's

[VIDEO] – File = Jas\_Ch1\_Meditate.jpg

& Here is MY “**APPLY Section**”

[**VIDEO**] – File = **Jas\_Ch1\_Apply.jpg**

& Here is MY “**RESPOND Section**”

[**VIDEO**] – File = **Jas\_Ch1\_Respond.jpg**

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### **Now – it’s YOUR Turn**

(Again) **I know** if you **haven’t been here** for the series  
this **might be** difficult – but . . . *let’s do it anyway*

I’m **going** to **Put up** those **SAME Vs’s**

& **I’m going** to “**Walk**” you **thru** the **process**

[**VIDEO**] – File = **James\_1\_22-25\_ScreenShot.jpg** - (*walk thru*)

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My **NUMBER ONE Prayer** for this **Church** (& the **WBM** Family) is;

- 1) - **We would** Learn to **MEET God** in a Way  
that He can **SPEAK to us** - (*Thru His Word & By His Spirit*)
- 2) - **We would** have “**Ears to Hear**”  
**In order** to - Rightly **APPLY God’s Word**
- 3) – **We would RESPOND in Obedience** to God’s Word

**THEREBY** – having our Lives – **Genuinely TRANSFORMED**  
For **THIS Life** - & For **ETERNITY**

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**As we've referred to before - 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)**  
***18 . . . And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.***

**Our Transformation is PROGRESSIVE**  
***As the Lord – Who is the Spirit –  
changes us more & more into His image***

**But (again) that Transformation will **NEVER begin**  
**Until we start RESPONDING to God's Word****

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**We have a HEAVENLY FATHER who loves us Unconditionally**

**We have a SAVIOR in Jesus Christ – Who has paid the full penalty  
for ALL our Sin - & GIVEN us HIS Righteousness**

**We have the Same Power that Rose Jesus from the Grave  
living inside us – in the Person of THE HOLY SPIRIT**

& The **TRIGGER** that **IGNITES** all of this **Power of God** inside us  
Is **OBEDIENT - FAITHFUL - ACTION**

**God DID NOT part the red sea**  
until **Israel marched** right up to it  
& **Moses placed his Staff** into the water

**The Jordan River DID NOT part**  
**until** the **FEET** of the **priests**  
were **actually STANDING IN** the **water**

**& Peter did NOT Walk on Water**  
**Until** he **Faithfully Stepped OUT** of the **Boat**

The **Supernatural Power** of the **Holy Spirit**  
is **Triggered** by your **OBEDIENT - FAITHFUL - ACTION**

**The very moment** you **Obey Him**,  
**He gives you the Power to Obey Him**

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**What we are talking about is a daily lifestyle**

**WHERE** you **Genuinely meet God** - **MEDITATING** on His **Word**  
**Engaging God** – **Interacting** with him

**WHERE** you have “**Ears to Hear**” - & **APPLY**  
what **God** is **saying to you** - **Personally & Specifically**

**WHERE** you Begin **RESPONDING** in **Obedience**  
within an ‘**Always Growing**’ relationship with **Jesus** Christ

**You can DO THIS**

**Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)**

***16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.***

**Jesus Christ** has **made** the **way** – for **us** to come **BOLDLY**  
**Before the Throne** of our **Gracious God**

**God** has **Provided ALL** we **need**

The **Only Question** is - **Will** we **CHOOSE**  
to **RESPOND to Him** – IN **OBEDIENT - FAITHFUL - ACTION**

**Let's Pray**