

Receive, Retain, Release

Purpose: To teach children the biblical principles of receive, retain, and release.

Before you can ever give anything away, you must have received it first. You cannot give something away unless you have it in your possession. Let's say that you just received a birthday gift, a new blue ball. Once you received it, you could take it to your friend's house and play catch. However, you couldn't have done that if you hadn't received it. The same thing is true of God's word. We must receive God's gifts before we can do anything with them.

(James 1:21 KJV) Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

A haughty person is someone who pretend to be something that he is not. A meek



person is someone who wants to better himself and is not afraid to change. We go to God's word with great meekness because we know his word. Those same words teach us the right way to live. This is why we want to think and act according to God's word. We receive the word with meekness because it is the engrafted word.

Once we receive God's word with meekness, we must retain it in our minds.

(Titus 1:9 KJV) Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

To retain means to hold or to keep. We hold onto God's thoughts because his word is faithful. What God has promised in his word he will do. We can trust God's word because it is truth.

How do we retain God's word? The answer is—with conviction. Conviction means we believe that it is absolutely true. This is why we retain the thoughts of God's word. We don't allow anyone to talk us out of believing it. Even if your best friend says God's word is not true, you still believe what God's word says and do not let anyone talk you out of believing it. We retain God's word with conviction because it is a faithful word.

Once you have received God's word with meekness and are retaining it with conviction, you release it. This means that you share God's word with others! It is just like that new blue ball. First, you receive the ball. Next, you retain that ball. And

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then you can use it—that is releasing it. You took it to your friend's house. You would not throw it away. You would take care of it. You played with it at your friend's house. We boldly release God's word by sharing it with others.

(Phil 2:16 KJV) Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

To be bold means to be fearless. It does not mean to shout or be disorderly. We speak the word of God fearlessly and with great confidence because we are convinced it is true. We speak God's word with boldness because it is the word of Life!

Lets remember to receive the word with meekness, retain it with conviction, and to release the word with boldness.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown