

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

GOD BRINGS HIS GOOD NEWS TO PEOPLE

Romans 10:17 “. . .faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

“The Gospel is not a static concept or dogma (teaching.) It is the dynamic saving power of God imparting salvation in the form of words spoken out of mouths into ears. The Good News of Jesus is put into the hearts and mouths of people—men and women, young and old—so that it may be believed and proclaimed by all. The Gospel demands to be broadcast, lest the good news of Christ's victory over sin and death remains unknown and hidden. . .the Holy Spirit works both at the mouth and at the ear to deliver the words of forgiveness, life, and salvation in the death and resurrection of Jesus so that all might hear and believe.” (Large Catechism, p. 392)

Romans 1:16 says “the Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” God has chosen to bring people to faith in Jesus for their salvation by His Holy Spirit working through the Gospel. Luther says of the Holy Spirit's work, He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies and keeps people in the true faith through the power of the Gospel. (Small Catechism, page 147)

Here in Romans 10, St. Paul raises the question, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:14-15) And Jesus says to you, “. . .you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. “

You may feel inadequate to give your witness. The Hymn writer says to your inadequacies, “So the Lord sends forth His promise, Words of life and joy and peace—Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.” You are the sower of the seed. The seed germinates, sprouts, and grows by God's power.

Prayer: Use me Lord to spread Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—Who will bear the sheaves away?”

Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?

Some take up His task in morning, To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday, Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting, Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty That God's Word so richly yields.

For as rain and snow from heaven Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower, Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.

Hearken to the Lord whose coming Marks the tie when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest; Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered Shall enjoy His sabbath peace.
(LSB 827)