

WHEN THE WORD OF GOD MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

What explains the impact of the ministries of Luther and Calvin in the Reformation?

What explains the impact of the ministries of Whitefield and Edwards in the Great Awakening?

What explains the impact of the ministries of Spurgeon and MacArthur?

Nehemiah 8:1–18 highlights **5 elements** that must characterize **our attitude** toward the Word of God so that it makes a difference in our lives.

1. The Enthusiasm for the Word
2. The Exaltation of the Word
3. The Exegesis of the Word
4. The Effect of the Word
5. The Execution of the Word

A Little Context:

Assyrian captivity (722 BC)

Northern Kingdom of Israel (Samaria)

Babylonian captivity (605, 597, and 586 BC; Deut 29:24–28)

Southern Kingdom of Israel (Jerusalem)

Return to land (538, 458, and 444 BC; Deut 30:4; Jer 25:11; 29:10)

Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and Sheshbazzar: rebuilding of the Temple

Ezra: establishment of civil magistrates

Nehemiah: rebuilding of the walls

1) THE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE WORD (vv. 1–3)

2) THE EXALTATION OF THE WORD (vv. 4–6)

The Preparation for Word

The Position of the Word

The Prostration before the Word

3) THE EXEGESIS OF THE WORD (vv. 7–8)

4) THE EFFECT OF THE WORD (vv. 9–12)

5) THE EXECUTION OF THE WORD (vv. 13–18)

CONCLUSION

Commit before the Lord to verify and cultivate these attitudes toward to the Word of God in your heart. He honors those who are faithful and committed to His Word and uses them in mighty and unexpected ways.