

“The Amazing Word Works Amazingly!”

Isaiah 55:10-11

If you are a TV remote surfer, there may have been times you tuned in to the infomercial that caught your attention. Supposedly the products which are advertised work so absolutely amazingly that you can't live without ordering one within the 29 minute time clock ticking down in the lower right corner.

There's the green frying pan where nothing sticks. The rubber-looking fried egg is twirled around and around to show you how anything you fry just will not stick. **“AMAZING!”** There's the weed-whip with blades that never break. They show you how it cuts right through high grass and even huge branches with the greatest of ease. **“AMAZING!”** There's the Oreck vacuum that sucks air so hard you can pick up a bowling ball. I don't know how it works on your carpet, but it makes carrying your ball a lot easier. **“AMAZING!”** There's the home roaster oven where you plop your frozen turkey, chops, or ribs...anything into it and it comes out perfect. **“AMAZING!”**

Most claims are backed up with a **money back guarantee** that the product will work just as well as the infomercial shows on TV. But most of us have been around long enough to make us skeptical and cynical of such products and claims. Because often time when you get the product at home and use it awhile, it doesn't work so amazingly.

Isaiah makes a verbal infomercial today about another product that is able to do great and amazing things. In fact, the claim is nearly unbelievable. And yes, there is even a guarantee attached to it. We are told that this product will do exactly what we are told it will do – although we can't always measure its success.

We're talking of the Word of the Lord. There is no money-back offer with this product, but what it does is absolutely amazing. So listen as the Lord speaks through Isaiah today and never forget how...

“The Amazing Word Works Amazingly!”

1. It accomplishes what God wants
2. It produces what we need

1

Isaiah is an interesting OT book. There are 66 chapters in it just like there are 66 books in the entire Bible. The first 39 chapters are heavy on law while the remaining 27 chapters focus on the gospel and the comfort of forgiveness through the coming Messiah. **Isaiah is God's prophet** speaking His Word to His people who had been carried off into captivity to Babylon, away from their homeland, and pretty much living **“doom & gloom”** lives.

So to keep his people from becoming too discouraged, the Lord gives them promise after promise of a Child born of a virgin named **Immanuel** {Is 7:14}, a Savior who would be **pierced for our transgressions** {Is 53:5}, and a Redeemer who would be **numbered with the transgressors** {Is 53:12} and yet he would **see the light of life** in his resurrection. {Is 53:11} No where in the O.T. do we get a clearer picture of the Christ.

To impress on Isaiah and us today, the Lord uses the pictures of nature (something we can understand) to teach us how **the Amazing Word Works Amazingly**: **As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater...** Rain is absolutely effective. With proper rainfall, the farmer's crop grow, our lawns are green, our gardens flourish, trees are plump with leaves and nature just soaks in this liquid nectar God provides. *(I believe that's why we have such a gorgeous tapestry of fall colors – our late summer rains make our early fall trees explode.)* Then that beautiful white stuff called **snow** actually works amazingly too in blanketing our land with an insulation to keep moisture in and provide moisture when it melts. It does make the earth bud and flourish.

What does that have to do with Isaiah or us today in God's house? Well, like rains that loosen the hard dry soil, so **God's law pricks our hearts**. God uses His word to point out our sins to lead us to repent of them and turn to Jesus. God uses His Word like seed that springs up in hearts and grows into a strong crop that produces fruits of faith.

How do we know that? Well this product comes with a guarantee that's not “money backed”, but “backed by God Himself”: **so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.** Just as rain and snow water the earth and helps crops grow, so when God's amazing Word is thrown out there like seed, **God will cause it go grow in the way He wants.** This is God's promise. It's as certain as your salvation, for that same Word that is powerful enough to wake a soul up from spiritual apathy, that same Word that rips you apart for your sins is the same word that puts your sinful heart back together again and removes your fears of punishment in hell. **God's amazing Word works amazingly when it accomplishes what God wants.**

We need this reminder. Some believe (even in our WELS circles) that the church must get more with it, get up to speed with our modern world, change its tactics by becoming more entertaining to the listeners, more social with its message, more attractive with its worship. We have to come up with new & innovative ways to save people, the old ways of liturgical worship simply don't cut it anymore.

God says: ...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire... We aren't commissioned with coming up with new and appealing ways to forgive people's sins – only Jesus can do that. He isn't asking us to market the Gospel in a way that's relevant – Jesus is already relevant. God simply wants us to preach, teach, share, and tell what He has done, ie. scatter the seed and that **AMAZING WORD WILL WORK AMAZINGLY** to accomplish what God wants it to accomplish!

Every pastor (every believer) has stories of how God's **amazing word worked amazingly**. I think of **Adeline** who was engaged to **71 yr old Lorenz** back in MN. They had both lost their spouses and the Lord led them to find each other. I had them in my office for wedding plans just a few weeks before I was called out to a nearby field because a tree that Lorenz cut with his chainsaw turned unexpectedly and fell on him and killed him on **Oct 17, 1986** [28 yrs ago]. I had to tell Adeline the news. After his funeral, Adeline kept coming to church as she had done with Lorenz. She took instructions. Almost one year to the day later on Oct. 25, 1987, Adeline was confirmed in the Christian faith at the age of 68. She was one of my most faithful members of our church coming to worship every Sunday some 30 miles one way through every bit of weather that MN could throw at her! I'll never forget Adeline and I look forward to seeing her in heaven. **God's amazing word worked amazingly in her and accomplished exactly what God wanted for her!**

And God still accomplishes what He wants...

- when a pastor preaches a sermon or reads God's Word or has a message with the little ones or teaches a Bible class...
- when a Sunday JAM leader teaches a Bible passage or practices a song to sing in church or a gives a lesson to 1st graders or studies a teen lesson with our young people...
- when a baby feels a few trickles of water on his forehead while 18 words are spoken...
- when a 13 yr old stands before God at the altar confessing his/her faith and promising to remain faithful to Jesus for a lifetime...
- when you stand together before the Lord as a family to receive the rich entrées of Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins...
- when your son/daughter stands before God with that soon-to-be spouse committing the rest of life until death separates them realizing the true God-pleasing commitment they are making in a world that desecrates/destroys marriage like it's a Battleship board game...
- when a grandson sits at the bed of his Grandpa reading Psalm 23 and other Scriptures before Grandpa takes his final breath and goes home to Jesus.

God's amazing word still works amazingly and still accomplishes what He wants.

2

Get with it? Become more entertaining? No, how about using God's amazing Word to see how **it produces what we need!**

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. What does God want to produce? Paul says in Romans 10: **Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.** {Rom 10:17} ...**who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.** {1 Tim 2:4} God produces the faith in our hearts through His Spirit to believe that Jesus is our only Savior and Redeemer who lived holy/perfect on earth only to be charged with our sins of apathy and disregard of God's Word. Jesus considered the Word so precious that he laid down his life on the cross stripped of his garments and righteousness so that the Father could blanket him with our ugly sinfulness and unrighteousness. Jesus fulfilled that Word to accomplish God's plan to lay down His life as a ransom for many as payment in full to buy us back from eternal death in hell.

Now **when we need courage**, we are not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believe. {Rom 1:16} Now **when we need strength** in temptation, we know **Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.** {2 Cor 5:15} **Now when we need comfort** facing troubles, we hear God say: **Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.** {Is 43:1}

God's Word produces exactly what we need in life because that's how amazing it works. Think of the seeds you've planted in your lifetime with family, friends, co-workers, even strangers. Words about Jesus' love and grace, and mercy – you may never know the faith you're are planting or watering. You may never see the effect of being a voice for the Savior. But you don't have to – because God's Word is powerful. It is never used in vain or uselessly. It's never a waste of time.

Stay in the Word and keep absorbing its nutrients so it produces a crop, yielding a 100, or 60, or 30 times what was sown. It works – because God guarantees 100% that **it accomplishes what He wants and produces what we need**. That's **AMAZING, isn't it?**
AMEN