

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Listen Carefully My City Detroit February 6, 2024 Suzi Armstrong

Just like we want our children to absorb or take in what will build their character and make them thrive in life, we want the same for our communities, families, and the City. The Lord is speaking to us about life and how to live life out of the book of Proverbs. Many times over, the Lord says listen to My instructions. Proverbs 1.1 says, "These are words to live by." God is speaking to us words to live by. We want to absorb His words.

In the wilderness Jesus told satan, man does not live on bread alone but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Proverbs 2.2 says, train your heart to listen when I speak.

Part of listening is taking the words in – not rejecting what God speaks or letting it go in one ear and out the other, but absorbing it, take it in. Many blessings and promises of God have been spoken over Detroit. We want Detroit to absorb the promises of God and His blessings.

Absorb:

- It is a transfer of energy.
- Take in or soak up; drink in; to become a container and receive within; be one with.
- To be engrossed with; engaged in; occupied with; gripped by; immersed in.
- To include so that there is no longer separation.

In a physical sense, buildings absorb the sounds and the fragrances that are in the atmosphere around them. In chemistry the process of absorption means that a substance captures and transforms energy. Our hearts absorb what we believe, what we trust. What we are absorbing gives us language and frames how we look at things. We become filled with what we receive in our hearts, and it produces fruit. As Christians we absorb the truth of the Gospel message; we are one with Christ, the hope of glory.

Psalm 119.98-99 TPT

⁹⁸ By considering your commands I have an edge over my enemies,
for **I take seriously everything you say.**

⁹⁹ You have given me more understanding than those who teach me,
for **I've absorbed your eye-opening revelation.**

James 1.21 TPT

²¹ So this is why we abandon everything morally impure and all forms of wicked conduct. Instead, **with a sensitive spirit we absorb God's Word, which has been implanted within our nature, for the Word of Life has power to continually deliver us.**

- We take God's Word into the core of our being. It forms our mindsets and belief system.
- The Word we encounter and absorb produces our testimony.
- What we absorb impacts the nature of who we are.
- The Word of God that we absorb releases deliverance and transforms us.
- An old adage is that you become like who you hang around with. Why? Because you absorb their energy, their narrative, their ways of thinking and speaking.
- We have all seen young children imitating the ways of their parents – they are actively absorbing the parents' ways of living.

Galatians 5:13, 16-18 TPT reworded for Detroit

¹³ Detroit, **God has called you** to live a life of freedom in the Holy Spirit. But don't view this wonderful freedom as an opportunity to set up a base of operations in the natural realm. Freedom means that Detroit becomes completely free of self-indulgence – that it becomes God's servant, expressing love in all it does.

¹⁶ Detroit, as you yield freely and fully to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, you will **abandon the cravings of your old self-absorbed life**. ¹⁷ For your self-absorbed life craves the things that offend the Holy Spirit and hinder him from living free within you! And the Holy Spirit's intense cravings hinder your old self-absorbed life from dominating you! So then, the two incompatible and conflicting forces within you are your self-life of the flesh and the new creation life of the Spirit. ¹⁸ But **when you are brought into the full freedom of the Spirit of grace, Detroit, you will no longer be living under the domination of the old Detroit but soaring above it!**

Ephesians 5.15-17 TPT reworded for Detroit

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ **So be very careful how you live, Detroit**, not being like those with no understanding, but live honorably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Detroit, take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes. ¹⁷ And **don't live foolishly** for then you will have discernment to fully understand God's will.

Philippians 3.12-14 TPT reworded for Detroit

¹² Detroit, you have not acquired the absolute fullness that God has for you, so **Detroit, run with passion into His abundance so that you may reach the purpose that God has called you to discover**.

¹³ Detroit, don't depend on your own strength to accomplish this; however Detroit, keep this compelling focus: **forget all of the past and fasten your heart to the future instead**. ¹⁴ Run straight for the divine invitation of reaching your full God-given potential and destiny.

Philippians 4.8 NIV reworded for Detroit

⁸ Finally, Detroit, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**be absorbed with such things**.

1 Thessalonians 1.8a NIV reworded for Detroit

⁸ **The Lord's message will ring out from you, Detroit**, not only in your nation but into the nations of the earth—your faith in God will become known everywhere...

2 Corinthians 4.18 NIV reworded for Detroit

¹⁸ So **Detroit, fix your eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen**, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Proverbs 4.20-22 TPT reworded for Detroit

²⁰ **Listen carefully my City, Detroit**, to everything that I speak to you, and pay attention to all that I have to say. ²¹ For **I am filling you with my words** until they penetrate deep into your land and the structures in this City. ²² Then, as the reality of my words bring new life, **they will impart true life and radiant health into the very core of this City**.

DECREE:

To Detroit we declare that the Word of Life has the power to continually bring deliverance in the streets and communities of this City – deliverance to the structures and spheres of influence in this City. We speak to our City and say, "Absorb the sound of Heaven. Receive in your innermost core the testimony of Jesus. Be filled with the fragrance of life, hope and truth. Resound the sound of the King of Glory. Release into the Nations the sound of life." Detroit, soak in, be filled with, immersed in your God-given destiny and purpose. Detroit, you are a birthing center and a place where revival will emerge and go out. The words that God has spoken to you Detroit are filled with the power to accomplish His purposes and your destiny. Absorb, drink in, be filled with His Words of life to you.