

Introduction:

- Recognizing the Word, Receiving the Word, Releasing the Word
- The Word Works for those who work the Word...how to.
- The Integrity of the Word. The Faith is essential to the Christian life. The Word is essential to faith. And Integrity is essential to the Word.
- The Word Works! So what does it do? Luke 8:5,8,11

I. The Word is Like a Seed

- A. Seeds have life in them. It is one of those things that scientists understand but don't understand. It is the nature of a seed to have life in it. Even old seeds will/can grow. IE. The dead sea scrolls when they were found...from early shortly after the birth of the church. Seeds were found there as well and in Masada. They planted the seed and it grew. Seed has life in it. Jesus wants us to plant the seed in our heart so that our lives can be filled with life.
1. Jesus said this of His Words: John 6:63. *"The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, NLT)
 - a) Pneuma - breath of God or Wind of God. OT is 'ruach'
 - b) Zoe - is the indestructible life of God.
 - c) *"This word Gr. 'sperma' (seed) occurs in the NT only in 1 Pet. 1:23, where it denotes the living and abiding word by which believers are born again. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT(p. 1067). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. "For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God."* (1 Peter 1:23, NLT)
 2. Jesus was saying that the Pneuma (of God) gives Zoe! Human effort accomplishes nothing. You can't save yourself. My words are pneuma and zoe!
- B. Seeds lie dormant until the right conditions surround them.
1. We must plant the Word in our heart and minds. Conception cannot take place without first planting the seed.
 2. Add faith and prayer (confession) and the seed will begin to germinate.
 3. Nurture that seed and it will bear fruit.
- C. Seeds produce after their own kind. Gen 1:11-12 God speaks of seed producing after its own kind. You will get what you sow.
- D. Seeds take time to produce. This is the law of seed time and harvest: *"As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."* (Genesis 8:22, NLT) The verse itself speaks of the planting and growing cycle.

II. What did Jesus have to say about seeds? Mark 4; Luke 8; Mt 13 Parable of sower.

- A. Jesus had some powerful things to say about Word as compared to seeds.

1. In Luke 8:4-10, He told a parable. Mt 13:3-9; MK 4:3-9 Jesus explained that the kingdom of God works like a seed. So, if we are to understand God's kingdom and how He operates, we need to understand seeds.
 2. In Luke 8:11-ff, He told the meaning of the parable. MT 13:18-23; MK 4:13-20
- B. He clearly said "If you do not understand this parable you will not understand any parable. *"Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?"*" (Mark 4:13, NLT)
1. Because Jesus said this, we should give ourselves whole heartedly to these scriptures until we "get it."
 2. Matthew Mark and Luke's purpose is to communicate to the reader that those who live in pursuit of the kingdom will find it and that it will grow extensively in their lives if they continue to look for and receive it. We do that by receiving the Word.
 3. The parable of the sower is to encourage us to see what the life of person going after God looks like...30, 60, 100 fold return.
- C. *"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word."* (Luke 8:11, NLT) What do we know about the seed so far?
1. It has life in it. Gods Word is alive just like a seed. The words in your Bible may look lifeless and powerless, but so do seeds. But they are not without power or life!
 2. It produces after its own kind.
 - a) So we have to find what God has said and bring ourselves into agreement with it. That is what confession is...homo logia=to say the same thing.
 - b) The seed is much smaller than what it produces.
 3. It has to have the right conditions to grow....faith and prayer.
 - a) They grow in secret underground until the shoot appears.
 4. It takes time. How long? Unknown. Sometimes quick sometimes longer.
 - a) What we learn from the parable is that we need to be sowing so that as seasons change we are harvesting.
 - b) Amos 9:13 speaks of day when the plowman will overtake the harvester."
 5. Luke 1:37 *"For the word of God will never fail."*
- D. What is Jesus saying? There is life in my Word. Sow it into your life. Sow it into the life of others.
- III. **What Are The Works Of The Word?** This is by no means exhaustive.
- A. Salvation, the born again new creation experience! *"For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God."* (1 Peter 1:23, NLT)
 - B. Overcoming temptation.
 1. *"Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"* (Luke 4:3-4, NLT)

2. *"How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word."* (Psalm 119:9, NLT)
- C. David declared: The Word is light. It brings illumination/understanding/revelation. *"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."* (Psalm 119:105, NLT) It give me insight for living. Sun, moon and stars are to help us navigate. It is what the light does. No wonder so many have lost their way in life. They have not light by which to navigate so they stumble in darkness.
- D. The angel said to Mary, *"For the word of God will never fail."* Luke 1:37
- E. Paul in the Book of Hebrews says that the Word keeps us from drifting: *"So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it."* (Hebrews 2:1, NLT)
- F. The Word heals. *"He sent out his word and healed them, snatching them from the door of death."* (Psalm 107:20, NLT)
- G. The Word is like medicine: *"My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."* (Proverbs 4:20-23, NLT) If you do not take it does you no good. Sometime it taste bad but it works great. And you have to take the right medicine for the right disease or affliction.
- H. The Word is sweet to those who know it value. It leaves you wanting more. *"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey."* (Psalm 119:103, NLT) *To the person who understands its value, the word becomes honey to our lips.*
- I. Eph 6:17 *Take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The word attacks the enemy.*
- J. The Word leads me to success and prosperity. *"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do."* (Joshua 1:7-8, NLT)

Conclusion:

- The Word Works! The Word has potential to change your life.
- Jesus said the Word is like seed. And the first thing you have to learn is that seed must be sown and nurtured to produce a harvest.
- What do you need the Word to do for you? Get you some seed and plant it.