

# **God's Word--Valuable and Precious**

Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019

Readings: Luke 8: 4-15 and/or Mark 4:1-20

## **Introduction:**

We have the fullness of Christ in us, but how do we walk in it? How do we come to know it??? Revelation and understanding come through reading the Word of God and the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

Many of us may not know what a privilege it is to have God's Word in our own language. More than Six hundred years ago there was no English translation of the Bible available to believers. Most of the manuscripts were in Latin, and only the clergy had access to them. However, thanks to the efforts of John Wycliffe (1384) and William Tyndale (1523), today we are able to read the writings of Prophets and Apostles for ourselves. These men gave their lives to bring English-speaking believers God's Word and we should see our Bibles as Valuable and Precious.

The piece of armor known as the "Sword of the Spirit" is the only piece that has the ability to cut, wound and hurt our enemy. It's not the Bible lying on our coffee table or shelves that makes the enemy flee, but it is the Word of God hidden in our hearts, activated by the power of the Holy Spirit and spoken in an appropriate manner and situation. It is similar to what was spoken by Jesus in John 6:63, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life". The Word by itself does not make us free. It is the Word we know & speak that will deliver us (John 8:32).

Why is word so effective? It's because it is **God's Word**. His Word carries His sovereign authority, which supersedes all authority of the church, religious institutions & organizations, human reasons and intelligence and most certainly Satan & demonic powers. When we speak God's Word in faith, the Holy Spirit goes into action to perform it. Today we must avail ourselves of God's Word by placing it in our hearts, guarding it as the most precious and valuable possession He has given us, and living by it. This way we will experience the fullness of Christ.

## **Understanding God's Word. (Luke 8:12)**

During His earthly ministry, Jesus often taught in parables, which were not always understood by everyone who heard them. A parable is a brief story that uses word pictures to teach a moral or spiritual lesson. Jesus' parables were meant to reveal truths about God's Kingdom to those whose hearts were prepared to hear. At the same time, the truths taught in these parables were hidden from those whose hearts were hardened and resistant to God (Isa 6:9-10).

In the parable of the sower, the **first kind of person** Jesus describes was someone who does not understand God's Word (Matt 13:19). Before God's Word can penetrate our heart, we have to have some comprehension of what it is saying. We must relate to it and embrace it. If we don't get it at all, it will be scattered (the wayside) because it does not mean anything to us. Then birds will eat the seed and there will be no fruit.

Mark 4:15 & Luke 8:12 make it clear that the birds represent Satan, and Mark says the devil comes immediately to steal the Word. Satan did not have direct access to the Word in any of the other heart-types that Jesus described. Satan cannot steal the Word from us if we hide it in our hearts (Ps 119:11). This first type of person simply hears the Word, but does not receive it. Because the Word is not received, it is lost.

Notice that the Luke links belief and salvation with the Word being sown in our hearts in the same way Paul describes in Romans 10:14-17. If there is no Word, there cannot be any belief or salvation (1-Peter 1:23). We must preach the Word—not just morality or social issues for people to be saved.

Luke's use of the word "saved" could include but is not necessarily limited to being born-again. This verse could describe a person who does not receive the Word and is never saved OR it could be describing a Christian who does not receive the Word in a certain area of their life and therefore does not experience the **deliverance, healing and victory** Jesus provided for him/her.

If we are not experiencing the abundant life Jesus died to give us, perhaps we need to plant the Word in our hearts, embrace it and allow it to direct our lives. Then we will begin to see the fruit of the Holy Spirit & Victory come forth.

### **No distractions please (Mark 4:16)**

The **second type of person** Jesus describes in the parable of sower is one who does receive the Word with great joy, but their commitment to the Word is shallow. The Word does not take root in their heart. Just as a plant must establish a strong root system to sustain its growth, we must become rooted in God's Word.

A seed planted in shallow earth will germinate & grow faster than a seed planted in deep soil because it has nowhere to grow but up. However, the seed in deep soil will put all of its energy toward developing the roots first. The plant in shallow soil will look like it is far ahead of the other

seed for a while, but that will not last. It soon withers and dies, while the seed which strong roots grow strong and bring forth fruits.

Remember that the affliction, persecutions and tribulations are the instruments of the devil used to stop God's Word from bearing fruit in our lives. They are not good things that God brings our way to improve us. They are instruments of Satan to take our attention off, from God's Word, thereby stopping the Word from taking root in us. It is like a runner who spends most of his time in the grandstand arguing with the hecklers over the way he is running the race. He may win an argument but he will lose the race.

The picture Christ is painting here is that of an incomplete spiritual conversion(not on God's part but on the individual's part).—one in which individuals realize they need Christ's forgiveness but they never really accept Christ as Lord(leader, guide and authority) of their lives and therefore, never really become part of His true church.

Others may at first accept Christ; however, they never allow the Holy Spirit to transform (completely change and make new) their lives. As a result, their commitment never becomes strong to endure life's trials. Even if they do become part of His church, they fail to show true commitment to Christ and true separation from the ungodly beliefs, behaviors and life styles that are so common in the world.

We must not let anything distract us from meditating on God's Word day & night; for only then will we make our way prosperous and have good success(Joshua 1:8). By consistently putting God's Word first in every area of our life, we will let the Word become so rooted in us, that nothing can remove it.

As we prepare ourselves for the Holy Communion, Let us examine ourselves and ask Jesus Christ to be the Lord of our life, so that not only we enjoy the **Salvation** that He provides, but also **Victory** that He brings through His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the grave (Isaiah 53:3-5).