

# God's Word—Valuable & Precious

Part Two-dated July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Reading :** Luke 8: 4-15; Mark 4:1-20; Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23

## **Introduction:**

Every true believer & follower of Yeshua—the Messiah is expected to have the fullness of Christ in him or her. Question of-course arises that how do we know it or how do we walk in it???

When I talk of the fullness of Christ, I am talking about being filled or knowing His will, experiencing His wisdom and understanding. Knowing His heart & knitted in His love. Knowing His rule & authority over our lives and obeying His commandments.{Col 1:9; 2:2-3& 9-10}. Jesus is the author & finisher of our faith and in John 10:10, He tells us that “...*I came that they (u/me) may have life and have it abundantly*”.

Revelation and understanding about Jesus and the abundant life that He gives, come through reading the Word of God (The Bible) and the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

Last time, I made a reference to Ephesians 6:17, where a piece of armor known as the “*Sword of the Spirit*” is mentioned. It 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 & situation.

In John 6:63, Jesus said “*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life*”. The Word by itself does not make us free unless, It is the Word we know, have stored in our hearts & speak- that will deliver us Remember Jesus said “ *If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free*”(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.

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; Jer 5:21; Isa 42:20; Ezk 12:1-2).

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.

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.

Worldly cares are thorns (V14).

The Third type of ground Jesus taught about in the parable of sower is characteristic of a large part of the body of Christ today. These are believers who have received God's Word and have the commitment to remain faithful in persecution, but they become preoccupied with the affairs of this life. The Word sown in their hearts is choked and no fruit is produced. Just as weeds in a garden will steal all of the nutrients and starve the plants, so both the worries and the pleasures of this life **stop** the

Word from bearing fruit because they have become consumed with the fear & desires of every day life.

Throughout history the church has always grown in size and strength during persecution. This is because during persecution we get our priorities straight. We realize that our lives are in Jesus (John 14:6), not in the things (Like 12: 15) and we focus all of our attention on Jesus. Prosperity has been far more damaging to the body of Christ for the exact reason stated here in this verse(V14). God wants to bless His children with material wealth (Ps35:27; Matt 6:P33), but a preoccupation with these things will choke God's Word and make it unfruitful.

Jesus said no fruit in this person was brought to perfection. They exhibited some fruit, but it was always small and short of what it could have been. Do we feel frustrated because we are just getting by and are not really experiencing the abundance Jesus had for us? We must examine our lifestyle and look for thorns and See if worries or pleasures of this life are choking God's Word in us. If we follow Jesus' formula for prosperity found in Matthew 6:19-34, seeking His Kingdom first in every area of life, our heart will be a good soil. The Word will bring forth fruit and we will enjoy all the blessings God wants to give us.

#### Use God's Word as directed

In the 4<sup>th</sup> type of ground, the seed gave fruit—it blossomed to various degrees (30%, 60% & 100%) but it had to be planted in the heart and was allowed to germinate before it released God's power. The Word is always the same, but the results are different because the condition of each person's heart is different. The variable in this parable is the condition of the heart—not God's Word. Like a seed planted in good soil, the Word will always grow and bear fruit if it is planted in a good heart.

How can we have a heart in which the seed of God's will grow and flourish? Good ground does not just happen; it **must be cultivated**.

This is the reason why only one out of four people in Jesus' parable brought forth fruit. It takes a lot of time, effort and diligence to be a fruitful and productive Christian. The Christian life is not like a 100-Meter dash but rather a 100,000KM marathon. Any farmer will tell you that it is quicker and easier to raise weeds than it is to raise fruits, corn and vegetables.

In this whole parable, it was the Word that produced the fruit. The ground simply gave it a good place to grow. If we will simply put God's Word in our hearts, protect it and give it priority in our lives, the Word will produce fruit of **itself**.

Satan has deceived many people into thinking they don't have the talents or abilities to be fruitful Christians, but they are not the ones who bring

forth fruit; it is God's Word in them that brings joy and success to their lives. It is all a matter of truly HEARING the Word. The Biblical hearing is obedience to the Word. It is never the fault of the seed of the Word. The fault is in the HEART CONDITION of the hearer.

There is always a need for "Ear Inspection" and "Heart examination" by the great Physician—the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Let us consult Him in prayer.....