



Sunday January 27, 2019
God's Word Works
Part-3 : The Seed of the Word

Review:

There are two truths we emphasized as we began:

- 1, God works by His Word
- 2, God's Word carries God's power

Last Sunday we covered (were supposed to cover):

God's Word has varied effects in our lives.

Here are a few examples:

God's Word is like a hammer, it break down the hard and stubborn places.

God's Word is like fire, it ignites and purifies. It ignites passion for the right things. It purifies, refines and burn out what should not be there.

God Word is like water, it quenches, it cleans, it refreshes, it gives life.

God's Word is food (milk, water, meat) for our inner person.

Here is a short list of what the Word of God produces in the life of a believer (there are many more that can be added to this list).

- #1, The Word sets us free
- #2, The Word cleans us out
- #3, The Word heals us
- #4, The Word renews our mind
- #5, The Word enlightens us (brings revelation, guidance)
- #6, The Word builds faith
- #7, The Word empowers us

This week:

How do we get God's Word into our lives so that it can produce in us.

The Parable Of The Sower

Mark 4:1-20

Lets also read the parallel portions in **Matthew 13:18-23** and **Luke 8:11-15**

This parable like all other parables reveals mysteries (truths, secrets) about the Kingdom of God. This parable reveals important truths on how God's Kingdom operates. Jesus said that if we can understand this parable, we can understand all other parables He spoke about the Kingdom.

Lets summarize key insights from this parable:

- #1, God's word is like seed (Mark 4:14). Luke states "The seed is the word of God." (Luke 8:11)



#2, Our heart is the ground where the seed of God's word is to be sown (Mark 4:15). So the condition of our heart is important and determines is the seed will produce and how much.

#3, The seed must be protected and nurtured if it is to produce fruit.

#4, We must understand the word (i.e. get an understanding of spiritual truth, comprehend, put together) to keep satan from stealing the Word (Matthew 13:19). Only when we do not understand the Word, can satan steal the Word.

#5, We will face TRIBULATION (pressure) and PERSECUTION (opposition from people) and TEMPTATION (testing, inducement to sin) because of the Word we receive (Mark 4:17, Luke 8:13). Regardless of what hardship or persecution we face - from the world or the devil - we must hold fast to the word and allow it to take root in our hearts, so that it can produce.

#6, We must guard our hearts from the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lust for other things. When we do so, we are providing a suitable 'environment' for the word to produce (Mark 4:19). Interestingly in Matthew 13:22, it says "he becomes unfruitful". There is nothing wrong with the seed of the Word. But when we let cares, deceitfulness, lusts come in we become unfruitful.

#7, When we **UNDERSTAND** (Matthew 13:23), **RECEIVE** (Mark 4:20) and with a honest and good heart **RETAIN** (Luke 8:15) the Word, we will bring forth fruit in our lives. A honest and good heart (Luke 8:15) is a heart that is pure, sincere, diligent, committed to God and His Word. Keep your heart free from the negatives.

The Process Of Germination

Mark 4:26-29

Through this parable the Lord Jesus is teaching us the 'seed-principle' that operates across God's Kingdom. We apply this in the context of the seed of the Word of God.

- The seed must be sown
- There is a passage of time before any signs of growth manifest. We understand that there is a time factor involved - days and nights pass as the seed germinates - but eventually we will see it produce.
- The seed will produce - even if we do not know how
- When the harvest comes we have to put in the sickle and gather it in (in other words, we have a part to play in gathering the harvest)

Meditation – Sowing, Germinating and Nurturing - God's Word

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.



Meditation is a discipline given to us in Scripture that helps us lay-up God's Word in our heart (spirit) and soul (mind). There are numerous other references to meditation, especially in the Psalms.

Psalm 1:1-3

Scriptural meditation is not limited to meditating on God's Word. We find other "subjects" or "themes" upon which we may meditate. For instance we could meditate on the Lord Himself. The Lord, His character, His attributes, etc become the focus of our meditation.

Meditation – The Biblical Approach

There are two main Hebrew words used for the word "meditate" in the Old Testament.

The Hebrew word *hagah* (pronounced haw-gaw', Strong's # 1897) means "to reflect, imagine, ponder, moan, growl, mutter, murmur, to make a quiet sound such as sighing, to contemplate something as one repeats the words."

The other Hebrew word *siyach* (pronounced see'-akh, Strong's # 7878) used mainly in the 119th Psalm, once again means "to ponder, i.e. converse (with oneself, and hence aloud), utter, commune, complain, declare, muse, pray, speak, talk."

The Spirit-Filled Life Bible carries the following comments on the first word. It says: "Hagah represents something quite unlike the English "meditation," which may be a mental exercise only. In Hebrew thought, to meditate upon the Scriptures is to quietly repeat them in a soft, droning sound, while utterly abandoning outside distractions. From this tradition comes a specialized type of Jewish prayer called "davening," that is, reciting texts, praying intense prayers, or getting lost in communion with God while bowing or rocking back and forth. Evidently this dynamic form of meditation-prayer goes back to David's time" (pages 753-754, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991).

we would like to summarize the process of meditation by using three words – **contemplation, visualization and confession.**

Contemplation – Thinking Within Yourself

Psalm 143:5

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.

Visualization – Seeing With Your "Minds' Eye"

(Can mention this as an example: Genesis 15:1-6)

Confession – Saying What God Has Said

(Refer back to Joshua 1:8)



The Word Is Near You

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

11 "For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.

12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

God wants His Word to be in our mouth and in our heart.

Paul quotes this in Romans 10:6-8

So let us develop the discipline of meditating in God's Word.

Read and meditate in a passage of Scripture.

Or meditate on Scriptures on a particular theme.

(Scripture lists are put together for us in the TOOLKIT > FAITH BUILDERS of our Church App.)

Sow the seed of God's Word into your own life and see His Word produce in you!

MINISTRY TIME

SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday January 27, 2019
God's Word Works
Part-3 : The Seed of the Word

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Mark 4:1-20; Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) Review and discuss some of the key insights on how the seed of the Word produces in our lives - from the parable of the Sower

2) Review the three steps in the Biblical process of meditation. As a group take a Scripture passage (e.g. Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 112:1-8) and meditate in this passage individually - and then come back after 5-7 minutes to share each one's personal experience.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey



Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.