



Lecture 1

The Power of the Word

INTRODUCTION

Before we study this foundational topic, 'The Power of the Word,' we need to recognise it is not new for the believer: the seed of the Word of God has already impacted us. As children of God, we received God's Word, namely the seed of salvation, and planted it in our hearts, and have seen the fruit it produced in our lives. When we understand we have already experienced how the seed of the Word works, then we can begin to understand our loving Father's intent in giving us so many seeds (every promise within His Word) for us to receive and plant within our hearts and expect a harvest (fruit).

We already received God's Word (the seed) at salvation:

God chose you and sent His Word (Jesus), the seed of salvation for you to receive;

The Holy Spirit gave you divine faith to believe the Gospel, the supernatural;

You have purposely kept the seed of salvation every day and watered it through your relationship with your Heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit and the Word, Jesus.

IMPORTANT TRUTHS

The following truths are so important for us to receive:

1. Once we belong to Jesus, God has sealed us with His Holy Spirit and has positioned us to be **heirs of His Kingdom**. We are no longer mere servants, but have become esteemed sons and daughters. We belong to the Royal Family of God. God is no longer our Judge but is now our Father in Heaven.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (Wuest translation)

"In whom also, as for you, having heard and believed the word of the truth, the good news of your salvation, you were sealed with the Spirit of the promise, the Holy Spirit, who is the keeper of our inheritance guaranteeing the full payment of all the redemption. The Holy Spirit preserves us because we are God's possession."

2. Salvation, which includes healing and deliverance, is comprised of three parts:

Justification, the removal of the guilt and penalty of sin and the gift of God's righteousness placed within the believer (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:22). Jesus Christ comes into your heart at the moment you put your faith in the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

Sanctification, the progressive work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we are changed into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). We have now become God's possession. God has eliminated sin once for all from us (Romans 6:6-8) and the Holy Spirit now continues to produce His own fruit within us (Hebrews 13:21).

Glorification, the act of God in transforming the present physical bodies of believers into perfect, sinless, deathless bodies. This will happen, when Jesus comes back to receive us and to change us.

In the same way, we hear and receive the seed of God's promises and, if we keep the seed planted in our hearts as we did with salvation, we will experience the fruit and power of the Holy Spirit.

THE SEED = GOD'S PROVISION FOR A HARVEST

We believe this topic, "The Power of the Word," is the foundational truth needed to prepare the "soil" of our hearts to receive the seed.

John 1:1 (Wuest translation)

"In the beginning the Word was existing. And the Word was in fellowship with God the Father. And the Word was as to His essence absolute deity".

Jesus made reference to the seed (the Word). Actually, He was referring to Himself, since Jesus *is* the Word:

The Seed = the Word ⇒ planted in our heart ⇒ faith ⇒ bears fruit

Matthew 13:3-23 and Mark 4:3-29

Proverbs 4:20-27 (Amplified Bible)

"My son, pay attention to my words *and* be willing to learn; Open your ears to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; Keep them in the centre of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing *and* health to all their flesh. Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it *flow* the springs of life. Put away from you a deceitful (lying, misleading) mouth. And put devious lips far from you. Let your eyes look directly ahead [toward the path of moral courage] and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you [toward the path of integrity]. Consider well *and* watch carefully the path of your feet, and all your ways will be steadfast *and* sure. Do not turn away to the right nor to the left [where evil may lurk]; Turn your foot from [the path of] evil."

For the seed of the Word to bear fruit in our lives, the soil needs to be prepared. *What is the soil?* Our hearts. God longs for us to plant seeds into our hearts, but the seed of the Word cannot bear good fruit unless the soil of our heart has first been prepared with the truth. Until we come to understand who we now are in Christ, we will struggle to trust and receive the seed (the Word) for ourselves personally, and it will be unable to produce its fruit.

Faith and trust in Christ alone and knowing deep in our hearts what we have become now as believers is the proper ground. We are now in Christ, and what we have received from Jesus has actually changed our whole being so that we are no longer 'only human,' we are now citizens of heaven.

The Bible says that when we confess with our mouth and believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord, we are born again of the Spirit of God (Romans 10:17) and are now new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), that is, whole 'new species of beings' according to the original Greek.

Most of us stop there, but this is only the beginning!