



Lecture 3

The Power of the Word

PLANT THE SEED!!! GOD'S WORD IS ALWAYS FRUITFUL!

A believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has already planted and experienced the fruit of the seed of salvation, but there are many more seeds in God's Word, promises and provision to believe, receive and plant in our hearts.

The Gospel or Good News of the Kingdom of God has made provision for our sins, sicknesses and diseases, our sorrows and also for every need. We see this in both the Old and the New Testament:

Isaiah 53: 4,5 (AMP)

But (in fact] He has borne our griefs, and He has carried our sorrows *and* pains; yet we [ignorantly] assumed that He was stricken, Struck down by God and degraded *and* humiliated [by Him]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; the punishment [required] for our well-being *fell* on Him, and by His stripes (wounds) we are healed".

Matthew 8:17, quoting Isaiah 53:4, makes this very clear:

"in order that there might be fulfilled that which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet saying, He himself took away our infirmities and carried off our diseases."

We are justified by faith in Jesus' atonement (payment for us, as a ransom) at the Cross and not by our works.

Some teach a combination of Jesus' sacrifice plus our good works. That is, we're saved because of Jesus' death on the Cross, but we also need to live a certain way and do certain works in order to keep our salvation. If we take this approach, we declare that what Jesus did was not sufficient and therefore, that His sacrifice was in vain.

By having to "earn" our salvation we put ourselves under the law, consequently under the curse of the law:

1 Corinthians 15:56 (Wuest translation)

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law".

Galatians 3:14 (Wuest translation)

"In order that to the Gentiles the blessing of Abraham might come in Jesus Christ, to the end that the promise of the Spirit we [Jew and Gentile] might receive through faith".

Embracing the law means declaring that the cross was not good enough for us.

Romans 10:3-4 (Wuest translation)

"For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God and seeking to set up their own private righteousness, to the righteousness of God they have not subjected themselves. For the termination of the law is Christ for righteousness to everyone who believes".

When we intentionally choose to receive the Word (the seed) into our heart, God's Word always bears fruit. *How do we do it?* The seed cannot take root in a heart filled with "sin consciousness," but by faith we can choose to let go of guilt, condemnation, fear or anything else that is contaminating our hearts.

ANALYSING GOD'S INSTRUCTION FOR RECEIVING, KEEPING AND ACTING ON THE WORD

Proverbs 4:20-27 (Amplified Bible) [with additional comments in black]

“My son, pay attention [consider the power, importance of God's Word] **to my words** [The Word is Jesus] **and be willing to learn** [be humble, teachable, eager]; **Open your ears to my sayings** [listen with full attention, with your ears and with your heart]. **Do not let them escape from your sight** [contemplate the harvest, the answer, see it done]; **Keep them in the centre of your heart** [keep it like a treasure, thank God every day for His provision, cultivate expectation and excitement for the fruit which the seed will produce]. **For they are life to those who find them,** [declare His Word, don't allow any doubt, unbelief or fear] **and healing and health to all their flesh** [see yourself healed, body, soul and spirit]. **Watch over your heart with all diligence** [water the seed, don't let go of the assurance you have in God's Word], **for from it flow the springs of life** [it is Jesus's life, keep the “soil” of your heart clean for the harvest]. **Put away from you a deceitful (lying, misleading) mouth** [don't nullify the seed by speaking contrary to God's Word]. **And put devious lips far from you** [don't lie or don't gossip, speak well of others]. **Let your eyes look directly ahead [toward the path of moral courage]** [keep your eyes on Jesus, do not be distracted] **and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you [toward the path of integrity]** [speak the truth in love, honour Jesus with your integrity of heart]. **Consider well and watch carefully the path of your feet** [let God's Word and the Holy Spirit lead you, the Word is a path onto our feet, cf. Ps. 119:105], **and all your ways will be steadfast and sure** [then God takes care, He fulfils His promises]. **Do not turn away to the right nor to the left [where evil may lurk]; Turn your foot from [the path of] evil.** [don't enter into darkness, remain in the light, abiding in the Word].”

THE HARVEST IN OUR HEARTS:

In Proverbs 4:20-27, God teaches us in detail how to receive and plant the seed, how to water it and how to be certain we will experience a harvest.

Planting the seed of the Word of God in our hearts is imperative; **without a seed there is no harvest**

- a) Planting the seed is simply hearing, receiving and keeping God's Word.
- b) Watering the seed is thanksgiving, expectation and joy in seeing the harvest as a done thing.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

“As for myself, I planted, Apollos watered, but God has been causing that which was sown to grow. So that he who plants is not anything, nor he who waters, but God who causes things to grow”.

In this verse, Paul describes the way in which he planted the seed of the Gospel and Apollos “watered” it by continuing to encourage and teaching God's Word. For us believers, as we plant the seed for a particular need or promise of God, it is our responsibility to keep the seed alive in our hearts through our faith and trust in God and His Word, as described in Proverbs 4.

Nothing can take the place of the seed, not even prayer. Prayer is not the seed, the Word is the seed.

Contrary to an ordinary seed, the Word of God is the imperishable seed which never fails and never perishes. It is important to be certain of this powerful truth.

God's purpose in providing the seed is for us to plant it in “good soil”. Our hearts are the soil; we need to **keep our hearts fertile with humility, faith, hope, trust, free from any doubt, unbelief, fear, bitterness, guilt, condemnation.**