
Vineyard Harvest

Home Church - Isa 58.11

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT



THE WORD OF GOD

The Good Soil - Matt 13.3:9 & 18:23



The pursuit of the Christian life is the pursuit of good soil. The word of God is the seed God has given us to plant and grow thereby. The seed needs good soil. The good soil is the heart of an individual which is compartmentalized into four different soils. When we sow the word into our hearts or the heart of another, the seed finds itself on one of the four types of soil. The fruit or harvest that the soil will then produce out of that seed will determine the effectiveness of the word in that heart.

At any given time, the word of God is seeking to enter the heart with life and fruit. The fruit is already in the seed but will only manifest when the seed dies in good soil. When we read the Bible, listen to preachers, counsel, prophecies, watch something on television or even when we are about our daily business, the word of God is trying to reach us. At night time, the word seeks to get in via dreams and visions. Often time, the word is attempting to reach us even without our own efforts because the word is interested in letting us know what we need to know.

However, we tend not to receive that word because we receive according to our convenience and how busy we are. Therefore, the word is often taken away by satan, or we get offended when the word comes to us at what we may consider is an inappropriate time or way. Finally, the cares of the world engulf the word causing us to fall away. When the word finally falls on good soil if it ever gets there, it produces some 30, 60 or a hundredfold as God gives it increase. This makes me believe, God only gives what we can take and grow thereby.

In the Sower's parable, we find 4 types of soil that the Sower spends time seeking to produce out of what he has in the word as seed. However, it seems that he finds that his sowing only finds true growth in good soil. This parable is a central theme known as the mother of all parables. Jesus said; "If you understand this parable you will be able to understand all parables".

The harvest is dependent on what happens to the seed because of the type of soil. So it seems that the preparation of the soil is important and secondly, nurturing that soil. However, we also find sometimes, no matter what we do to the soil, the seed is rejected. There is no problem with the seed and so no one can find fault with the word of God. When anybody butts up against the word they find that their hearts are exposed and the true nature of what lays in the heart is evidenced by the fruit they produce. I have seen many accept Christ as Saviour only to fall away instantly, or be offended at some stage of their walk causing them to walk away from God and His people. Then I have seen many in whom I have invested years of my time to nurture them in the word only to find that they walk away from God through the cares of the world. They get so involved in their jobs, business or daily living that they soon forget the priority they should give God. **Success in this life**

is a real destroyer of the need for God. God then becomes second placed or worse still, forgotten. Then when some tragedy strikes or they have a desperate need, they come looking for solutions from Him. When they cannot find it, they blame Him and walk away.

One lady said to me that I could not judge her. She was a woman who had accepted the Lord and was a Christian for many years. She even knew what the word said about her lifestyle of sin. Yet, she wanted to live in open sin indulging in all the worldly pleasure that it provided and still come to Church. Furthermore, she wanted to sit there under the word of God, partake of communion and fellowship with righteous people while justifying her position expecting to be accepted without question.

No one need tell you that the word of God was ineffective in her life and that she was going to hell not only because she took the word of God lightly but because she trod under the blood of Jesus.

Heb 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

In the pursuit of the word of God to fall on good soil in our hearts, we have to first and foremost accept what it said that we should do to live a holy and righteous life. While this is a journey one must go through in life, it is imperative (a must) that one submits to the word. We may not like it because it defies our flesh but when we overcome our flesh we are able to breakthrough into the Spirit of the word which produces life. This life is so tasty and valuable *it becomes the rain* that the seed and the soil need to nurture growth. In life, we find that the attacks of the enemy to rob the word and the offense that comes are quite incredible. Added to this, the temptations that follow are equally difficult to handle. ***Temptations are simply distractions into the things of the world.*** They do not necessarily have to be something like a deliberate sin of fornication, lies or some other type of overt sin. When satan tempted Jesus, he used three close things to the heart of man. Food, security (assurance) and pride. Daily living produces all three needs of the flesh in large quantities. We have to allow the word to overcome what satan tries to do with us just like Jesus did. He replied scripture for scripture and defeated His enemy. For us to use scripture we must have it on good soil. Any other soil will not have the foundation of conviction we need for the power of the word. Our enemy will easily defeat us on other soils because we stand on shaky ground not being rooted and grounded in the word of God which is Jesus.

Even though there is going to be a major outpouring of God's Spirit on earth there will also be a counter move of satan to take out as much harvest as he can. This is what the Church must guard against. Jesus trained His twelve disciples to guard against the wiles of the enemy and gave them His word. This word is what Jesus has also given us. We must employ this word on good soil as much as possible. There will be times of battle with laziness, discouragement, temptation, strife and outright attacks of the enemy but we have to stand against all the wiles of the enemy with the word and what the word says.

My encouragement to you as we find ourselves on this new ship of a house Church is stay strong in the word and let the word have sway in your life not looking upon circumstances in life. I can see that you are ready for the next phase of the journey. May God' word be the guiding light for all of us and not our thoughts and plans, woes, or expectations. We have the word the seed of God. Let us use it wisely and grow thereby. ***If we seek Him we will find Him.***

Love

Pastor Noble

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