

I often speak of God's Word as a seed. I believe it is one of the most important lessons we need to comprehend in order to successfully understand and propagate the GOSPEL of the KINGDOM. Believers for centuries have limited the gospel to the message of salvation and the "church". We were never told to preach this gospel. We were told to go into all the world and preach the message of the Kingdom.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.
Matthew 9:35 (KJV)

Seedtime and harvest are foundational in the gospel of the Kingdom. In the very beginning of time, God instructed the law of seedtime and harvest and declared it would not end as long as the earth existed. God created life to display this wonderful truth because it was a key concept to the foundational truth of the Spirit realm as well. First the natural then the spiritual.

We quote the following verses and use them in light of the current belief that the gospel is all about salvation and the number of souls we win to Christ.

I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither is he who plants nor he who waters anything, but God who gives the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6,7 (MEV)

The basic understanding of this verse in most "church" settings is that an apostle, in this case, Paul, planted the seed of a new "church" and Apollos, as assigned pastor, through his teaching watered what was started by Paul. But it was God who would increase the size of their congregation.

These verses, however, are not about establishing "churches". They are about establishing the true Ekklesia, what Jesus is building or establishing (some call the CHURCH - global).

To understand why Paul is saying what he is saying, we must go back and read the opening verses of this chapter.

Brothers, I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to worldly, even as to babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk and not with solid food. For to this day you were not able to endure it. Nor are you able now, for you are still worldly. Since there is envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not worldly and behaving as mere men? For while one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not worldly?
1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (MEV)

These verses are not about salvation. They are about maturity. The purpose of the leaders, the ones God has gifted to lead, is to help the saints to mature. The increase Paul is writing about is not about more people, it is about more maturity.

The Greek word for "increase" in verse 6 and 7 is more often translated in other passages as "growth". It is all about maturity, growing up in God.

The seed is the word of God. It can come from anyone who hears God speak to them. He speaks in a variety of ways. One way is through what scripture calls "quickenings".

The word for “quicken” means “to come to life”. I Corinthians 15:36 says that a seed that is not “quickened” dies.

Paul told the Corinthians that one of the foundational truths in maturing the saints and for leaders to understand, was not the sowing or watering of the seed that matter as much as the growing. We can stand in a pulpit in a “church” and preach our hearts out; another can come and preach the same thing, but if the heart is not quickened to receive, that seed dies. God does the work of quickening. God reacts to the faith in our hearts that we are truly planting and watering a seed from His heart and that He will do the rest. The listener must have the soil of their heart prepared to receive the seed.

Let’s go back to a familiar passage we call the parable of the sower found in Luke chapter 8.

A sower went out to sow his seed: Luke 8:5a (MEV)

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Luke 8:11a (MEV)

We are the ones sowing the seed, which is the word of God. If God speaks something to you, believe it and plant the seed by speaking it. Continue to water it. Find others who believe and will water it by declaring it with you. Have faith that you have heard God and He will do what He says He will do and watch it grow. This is how we mature. We learn to hear the voice of God speaking to us and we obey.

We can hear God’s voice through reading the Bible. Many have talked about the experience of having a verse seem to jump off the page at them. That is the quickening, the bringing to life of that verse for you. Plant it, water it, and believe God will bring increase or growth through the word He gave to you and eventually in God’s time and His way, you will reap a harvest.

In recent days, I have thought much about what scripture has to say about our children (and our grandchildren). One particular verse stirred in my spirit as I read it. The verse is found in the middle of chapter 49 of Isaiah. Isaiah is looking forward to a day when the Messiah would come and as a result God’s people would be set free, a day when even the Gentiles would see the light of God.

We live in that day and the light is getting brighter each and every day! We often miss that fact because our eyes are focused on the darkness around us.

I love these verses:

Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. Isaiah 49:8-10 (KJV)

The Passion Bible says it this way:

Yahweh says: "When the time of showing you favor has come, I will answer your heart's cry. I will help you in the day of salvation, for I have fixed my eyes on you. I have made you a covenant people to restore the land and to resettle families on forgotten inheritances. You will declare to prisoners, 'You're free!' and to those in darkness, 'Step out into the light!' They will be like sheep that graze beside the roads and find pasture on the barren hillside. They will never be hungry or thirsty. Neither scorching sun nor desert wind will hurt them, for he, the Loving One, will guide them and lead them to restful, renewing streams of water.
Isaiah 49:8-10 (TPT)

We live in a day when God's favor is upon us and He answers our heart's cry. Why? Because God has fixed His eyes of love on us, His children. For many of us, that is the cry for our children and our grandchildren to return and follow God.

We are beginning to understand that we are a covenant people, given a directive even from the garden to restore the land, the earth and to understand and claim our inheritance that Jesus, by His death, procured for us.

We are a generation that will declare freedom to those held in bondage. Many of those are our own flesh and blood. That is abundantly apparent in the day we live. There is so much division, but you, my dear saint, hold the remedy. We will DECLARE the word of God that God sets them free. We will declare that they will step into the light and no longer trust in the darkness.

We make these declarations with a heart of faith in it being the will of God, knowing we cannot change the situation on our own. Whenever we talk to the wayward ones, we become frustrated, and discouraged and they become angry. But we stand and declare it in the presence of God, when no one else hears us but we know He hears us. And heaven responds by sending forth angels to do our Father's bidding and bring them into freedom, bring them into the light.

When we declare in faith, we are planting and watering the seed, and we know our God will cause the seed to grow and produce a harvest. No one else has to hear us, only God. We cannot build a godly heritage or restore our land without our children. The enemy is doing everything he can to destroy our children. It is time we fight back, not only for our children, but all the children who have been deceived.

If you want the neighborhoods to be safe and healthy again, declare freedom and a coming out of darkness for the children. God goes on in this chapter to say that there are people that feel like God has forsaken them. He speaks about how a loving mother cannot forsake her child. Some do, so He says the love between Him and His children is even greater than a mother's love and He will never forsake us. Your name is written on the palm of His hand.

Verse 17 is icing on the cake of JOY.

Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.
Isaiah 49:17 (KJV)

It is interesting that the word for “children” in this verse comes from a root word that means “builder”. Our children and our grandchildren are the builders of our families, our future. God has promised as a result of our planting and watering the seed for our children, He will bring the children back in haste, and those who have tried to destroy, those who have tried to tear our family apart, will run away in defeat. Let’s plant and water God’s word and believe for the increase today! Increase and growth are a part of every area of our lives. Let’s believe in faith for the impossible. Let’s reap our harvest!

