

The Kingdom Of God Pt 3

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

MightyFortressChurch.org

Scripture Study

Preparing The Soil

In order to produce a good harvest it is very important to spend time preparing the soil. Soil that is hard, crusty and over grown with weeds will not produce much of a harvest, if any at all.

Matthew 13:5-7

5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. (NIV)

Luke 8:15

But as for that [seed] in the good soil, these are [the people] who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in a just (noble, virtuous) and worthy heart, and steadily bring forth fruit with patience. (AMP)

Noble - Having or showing qualities of high moral character, such as courage, generosity, or honor. Proceeding from or indicative of such a character; showing magnanimity.

Magnanimous - Courageously noble in mind and heart. Generous in forgiving; eschewing resentment or revenge; unselfish.

Virtuous - Having or showing virtue, especially moral excellence. Possessing or characterized by chastity; pure.

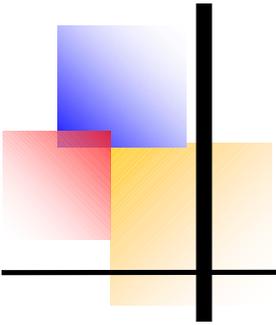
✠ To determine the condition of the soil [heart] we must know what to look for. Jesus is giving us a place to start in Luke 8:15. God's seed must have good soil in order to produce a harvest.

Hebrews 13:9

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (KJV)

Establish - To set up; found. To bring about; generate. To place or settle in a secure position or condition; install. To make firm or secure. To cause to be recognized and accepted. To prove the validity or truth of.

✠ In order to establish anything with God it must be done in faith and on His Word. It is imperative that our hearts be established on the Word of God.



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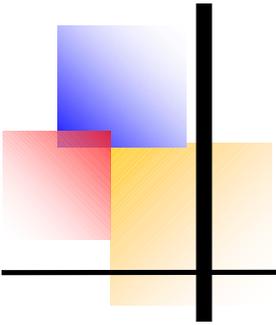
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Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (KJV)



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Romans 14:23

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin. (KJV)

✠ The Amplified Bible says whatever does not originate and proceed from faith is sin.

Hebrews 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (KJV)

✠ Remember what Jesus said about hearing? The way you hear is the way you measure and the way you measure is the way you receive. The Word did not profit those that heard because it was not mixed with faith. God's seed must have soil that is rich in faith in order to produce.

Hebrews 3:10-13

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (KJV)

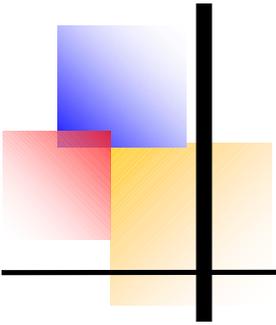
✠ By not knowing God's ways we err in our hearts. The opposite of believing is unbelieving. Unbelief originates and proceeds from the heart. Faith also originates and proceeds from the heart. A heart of unbelief is evil in the sight of God. The deceitfulness of sin will cause the soil to be hard. Anything that does not originate and proceed from faith is sin. We must have a heart that is quick to believe, full of faith and full of the knowledge of God's Word.

Luke 24:25

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: (KJV)

Luke 6:45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. (KJV)



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- ✠ Pray and ask God to open your ears to hear what your mouth is really saying in the light of His Word. You will know the condition of the soil [heart] by what the mouth is speaking. Make note of the word abundance. The mouth speaks out of the overflow of the heart. Your heart is a container, but there is only so much room in it. The seed of God's Word won't grow in an over crowded heart. What comes through the eyes, ears and through the thought realm is what enters into the heart. Whatever you give the most of your attention to, is what will determine what is in your heart in abundance.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (KJV)

- ✠ The Word of God is alive and it will pierce and divide the soul and spirit. It discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart [soil]. The Word will uncover and reveal the true condition of the soil [heart].

Luke 12:34

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (KJV)

- ✠ Another way to determine the condition of the soil is to see where your treasure is. What do you love? What do you follow after? There are a lot of Christians with big mouths, they say Lord, Lord but their actions don't line up with their words. How much time do we really spend seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness? God wants people with big hearts, not big mouths.

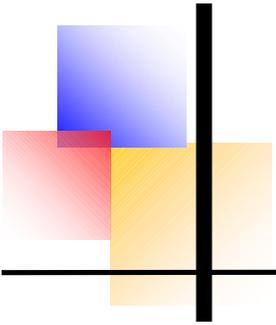
Luke 8:50

But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. (KJV)

- ✠ Jesus said don't fear only believe. A heart full of fear cannot grow the seed of God's Word. Keep fear out of your heart at all costs.

Acts 5:4

Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (KJV)



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✠ Our heart is a place of conception. It gives life to the seed and the seed gives life to the harvest. There is good seed and bad seed. The enemy is always trying to get you to let him plant his seed in your heart [soil]. The best way to control the type of seed that will be planted is to control the condition of the soil. Bad seed won't grow in a pure heart that is full of faith and love. Neither will good seed grow in a corrupt, evil heart that is full of fear and hate. God gave Adam authority to keep [shamar] the garden. It was up to Adam to keep the devil out of his garden and it is up to you to keep the devil out of yours. This Hebrew word for "keep" is "shamar" (shw-mar') it means to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; generally, to protect, attend to, etc. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. (Prov 4:23) The Hebrew word for keep in this usage is "natsar" (naw-tsar'); it means to guard, (to protect, maintain, obey, etc.) It is our responsibility to keep the garden not God's. God will teach you how to keep your heart but He won't do it for you.

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (NIV)

Hebrews 10:22-23

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (KJV)

✠ Let us follow after righteousness, faith, love and peace. Draw nigh to God with a pure and true heart.

Watering the seed

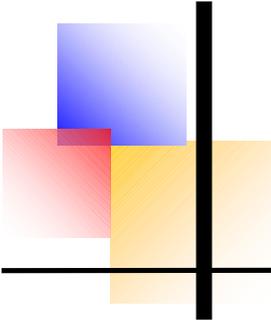
After you plant the Word in your heart it must be watered and protected. Put living water on the living seed. Let's see how to do this.

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (NIV)



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- ✠ First we must not walk in the counsel of the wicked or hang out with sinners and mockers. Meditation on the Word of God keeps you planted next to an endless water supply. When the devil comes with affliction and persecution it is like the heat of the sun trying to kill the seed. It takes more water to keep the seed alive during these times. The way to keep the sun from burning up the seed is to keep the soil wet. Sin will stop the rain. When affliction and persecution comes it is not the time to lay the Word down and watch TV. Doing this will cause the soil to become dry.

John 4:10-14

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (NIV)

- ✠ Jesus was telling the woman at the well about living water. Plant yourself in the spring of living water.

Proverbs 11:25

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. (KJV)

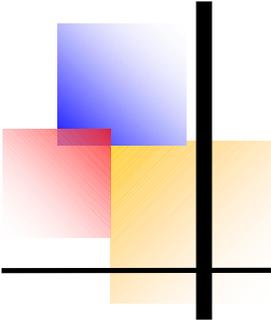
- ✠ Proverbs shows us another way that will help to keep the soil wet. When you share the living water that you have received with someone else you will be watered as well.

Isaiah 55:10-11

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (KJV)

- ✠ God's Word is alive, it is living and active. The Word that comes out of God's mouth will water the seed after it is planted. Be A Good Gardener



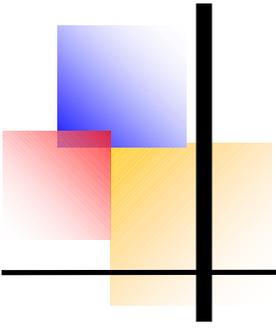
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- † 1. Always remember there is a time and a season to every purpose under heaven. Don't plant your garden in a snow storm, and don't try to harvest in spring. Gardening is not instant it is constant.
- † 2. We must spend time preparing the soil of our heart to receive the Word. Be quick to believe and have a pure heart full of faith and love. Our harvest will be determined largely by the amount of time we spend in preparing the soil.
- † 3. We have been given incorruptible seed to plant. It is certified seed, everything needed to produce a crop is in the seed. God provides seed for the sower. There is no shortage of seed, so use a big measure. Plant the right seed for the right harvest. If you need healing plant healing seed.
- † 4. Put living water on the living seed. Keep the soil wet! Let the seed and the soil do it's job, don't dig up your seed to see if it is growing.
- † 5. We must keep the devil out of our garden. Know your enemy and how he works. We must protect the seed until it produces a crop.
- † 6. We must keep the weeds out of our garden. They will choke the seed. Guard against having an over crowded heart. Cares [worries], deceitfulness of riches and lust of other things will prevent a harvest.
- † 7. Remember we have been given the measure, not God. If we give God 100 percent all the time He will return 100 percent. Always use a big measure, we serve a big God! "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Cor 9:6)
- † 8. Don't neglect your garden keep [shamar] it every day. The more skillful and experienced you become in the Word of God the better you become as a gardener. Experienced gardeners receive a better harvest than novice gardeners.

Note: As you read the extra blessing, notice that out of the twelve spies only two measured what the Lord said in faith, the rest measured what the Lord said in unbelief. Then they messed up again by trying to do what the Lord told them in the wrong season. Remember God's perfect will has a perfect timing.



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Study Questions

1. List the qualities of a good heart.
2. They heard the Word preached, so why didn't it profit them that heard it?
3. Expound on Luke 6:45.
4. Comment on Luke 12:34.
5. Find and list ways that the seed can be watered.
6. Summarize Psalms 1:1-3.
7. Share any insight that you received from reading Numbers Chapters 13 and 14.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?

Extra Blessing

(Study To Show Yourself Approved Unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)

Numbers Chapters 13, 14