

The Mind, The Word, The Spirit and The Condition of Your Heart

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” (Matthew 6:21).

What you INVEST in tells you about yourself. Our checkbooks for example: We can tell where our ‘treasures’ are oftentimes when we look inside our checkbooks.

How important is it for us to invest in the Word of God; getting that Word on the inside of us?

1 Peter 1:23-NLT: For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever **because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.**

Romans 10:14-KJV: How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:17-ESV: So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing through the word of Christ.**

Psalms 107:20 ESV-He **sent out his word** and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction

Romans 15:4-NIV: For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance **taught in the Scriptures** and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

*Salvation, faith, healing, deliverance, hope, comfort, peace, wisdom, inheritance, strength, transformation, truth, intimacy with God, reproof, instruction, etc. **equipping for a life of faith, all come from the Word of God!**

The Word of God: Reprograms us, Retrains us, Re-educates us, Cleanses our Mind (washing all the ‘junk’ out of our thought life) Purges and Purifies our THINKING, Changes our Attitudes, Pulls down Strongholds in our Minds, Transforms our Mind, etc.

We cannot live a fruitful, victorious and effective Christian life without renewing our minds in God’s Word and without abiding in God’s Word. (**John 15:1-7**-Vine/branch illustration) Norman Robertson-*Walking in Victory*

2 Timothy 3:16-All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Isaiah 55:11-NIV-so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Hebrews 4:12-For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Mark 4:13

The Parable of the Sower.

Mark 4:13-20-And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The Sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones by **the wayside** where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. ¹⁶ These likewise are the ones sown on

stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they *have no root in themselves*, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. ¹⁸ Now these are the ones sown among **thorns**; they are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ and the *cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word*, and it becomes unfruitful. ²⁰ But these are the ones sown on **good ground**, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

***THIS is the king of all parables! THIS is how the Kingdom of God works!**

Our Heart! The soil into which the 'seed' goes into! "A man's reception of God's Word is determined by the condition of his heart."

Mark 4:3-8

Mark 4:9-And He said to them, ^[b] "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Heart #1-Wayside-Pathway-Hard Ground-Unplowed, unprepared ground-could not receive seed, or grow...not broken up –

Hard:

1. **refused the truth**...the birds could easily devour it.
2. **sin**-can make the heart hard...limestone-packed in on the path...could be someone who is familiar with the Word...a **"careless listener"**...The Word lies loosely on the heart..."I've heard that before"...I've tried that..."**then Satan's #1 business-devour it up!**

Hebrews 3:7-8-Today if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness

3. **Had been trampled on so many times**, that a **"hard" path is worn on it...callouses** on it...**scar tissue** from wounds...(look up footpaths)...

Heart #2-Stony Ground-Partially prepared ground...Not much earth...a thin surface of the earth covers a rock...the seed springs up immediately...**shallowness** of the soil, no depth of earth... no consecration..."", no root, no moisture ...no stability to stand persecution or trial ,no root to endure "heat"; the sun comes and beats on it... "tribulation misunderstanding...and these things are sure to come...superficial heart, receives the Word, but because there is no depth, when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word...it dried up...read recently Isaiah 41:10-"...hardening you to difficulties..."

Heart #3-Thorny Ground-Ground not thoroughly cleaned of the thistles-the thistles rise above the good seed, and choke it...smother it. Hence, unfruitful-Notice-It grows, but its growth is checked and it never ripens.

Thorns:

1. **Cares of this world**-the business of this present life...distractions...(lusts of the flesh)

2. **Deceitfulness of Riches**-Riches that come from the business of this present life..."If I can just get that, then I will be happy..."(pride of life)
3. **Lust for other things**...pleasures...drawing away your time, energy, and resources...only time left for God is a small amount...(lust of the eyes)

***Note-Bring no fruit to perfection-had what it takes! It was growing! But stopped...**

Heart #4-Good Ground...soft, tender, receives the seed...cherishes it and allows it to take root...fruit, 30,60, 100 fold according to the measure that the soil is prepared...whether it be 30, 60, or 100 % ready to receive and act upon...

***We are at all times one of the types of soils described by Jesus in this parable.**

The Word is supernatural! God's Word will push aside all trash. IT IS SUPERNATURAL! (Rock and then the Word of God 'pushing' the rock off.

Word-Seed-Supernatural-stone on top of the seed...but then...Seed looks up-"I'm supernatural! I've got life in me! Seed keeps growing and pushing the stone aside. Eventually the 'seed' looks down at that puny rock; obstacle; etc. "You little stone!" Hang on! Your 'seed' is growing!

Proverbs 4:20-23-My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh. Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life. Those who receive the promise, the fruit, are those who accept the Word-Luke adds, those who GUARD the Word....

Kingdom Parable

Mark 4:26-29-And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

The Power of the Seed of the Word of God!

1. A seed is alive: it contains life.

Why is the Seed so powerful?

A. Jesus is the Word (Seed). (John 1:1,14) Cannot separate the two.

B. John 1:4-In the Word is Life; the Life of God! How do you release the life in that seed? **You plant it!** Psalm 119:130-The entrance of God's Word brings revelation. Light and understanding...**we need revelation.**

2. A seed must be planted. Seeds do not grow sitting in a sack on your shelf. They must be planted in the proper place. **Every seed is powerless unless it is planted. Mark 4:15, 16, 18, 20- Seed is planted by hearing it...**you can say it and not hear it...husbands and wives prove that out daily...you can be a parrot and never hear it! It's hearing it and hearing it and hearing it again, until it registers in your spirit. **Seeds must germinate!**
That husk must break!

***Hearing; abiding, is a posture before God.**

v.14-The 'seed' is the Word of God. When the Word comes to you, something else *also* comes to you-the enemy-to take away the Word. If he can take away the Word, *he takes away everything the Word of God does!* B. Conley

vs. 18-19-between every promise and its fulfillment, is rugged terrain that you and I will have to navigate. The devil will do everything to get you to quit! **That's his end game!**