

Transformed by the Word of God and the Power of God And Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

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Reading the Word of God is our daily food from God.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone **but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God.**" Matthew 4:4

Jesus said, "**The Words that I speak to you are Spirit and Life.**" John 6:63

Jesus said, "**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them; they follow Me, and I give them eternal life,.....**" John 10:27,28

As we read the Word of God daily, the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Our eyes are attracted to certain words or phrases.

This is the Lord speaking to us. It is the "rhema" or spoken Word of God.

This is our daily food from God. Our "Manna." Exodus 16:15, Isaiah 55:2,3, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 119:50

The Word that the Lord speaks to us, brings into our lives the Holy Spirit and the Life of God. John 6:63

As we hold to this Word, believe it in our hearts, speak it with joy, we are changed into the Lord's image. John 8:31-36,

Deut 30:14, Romans 10:6-8, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, Luke 1:45, Hebrews 3:1, 4:14, 10:23, 2Corinthians 4:13

We are changed by the power of God, the Spirit of God and the Word of God, to be like Him. 2Cor 3:18, Romans 8:29

FAITH is a Word, Jesus and the Holy Spirit has spoken into our hearts. Romans 10:17, Galatians 3:5

The Word God speaks to us is full of the power of God. Luke 1:37. (In the Greek original. See Amp V.)

The Word that God speaks will not return empty. It will accomplish what God wills and prosper in it. Isaiah 55:11

The Word God speaks is the creative power of God. God said, "Let there be..... and it was so." Genesis 1:3, 6-7, etc, Jesus said to Peter, "Come", and Peter walked in the Word, over the water, as long as he believed what Jesus had said.

Disciples of Jesus Christ are made, by the transforming power of the Word, which is spoken by the Holy Spirit.

The parable of the Sower is in Mark 4:3-8, 13-20. (Also Matthew 13 and Luke 8.)

Jesus said that this parable is the key parable, and necessary to understanding all other parables. Mark 4:13

The Sower sows the seed of the Word of God into the hearts of people. Mark 4:14, 15

The Sower may be the Holy Spirit, as we read the Word, or some believer in Jesus speaking the Word to us.

1. **Some people have hearts where the seed falls on to hard ground, the footpath.** Satan comes immediately and takes the seed of the Word away. Mark 4:15
Hardness or unbelief is caused by believing untruth. Mark 16:11-14. (The disciples wrongly believed Jesus had not risen from the dead. Their hearts were hardened against the truth.)

For years I refused to be baptized as an adult believer. I had been baptized as a young child. I thought that I should honour my parents and that I could not be baptized a second time. **But one day, as I continued to read the Word, the Holy Spirit said to me,** "I do not want you to be baptized a second time, and I do not want you to dishonour your parents, but I want you to enter into your one baptism with full adult faith." **My hardness of heart was removed by hearing the living Word of God.** My heart became soft good ground and I went and got baptized. (I also had a similar struggle over Baptism with the Holy Spirit.)

2. **Some people have hearts where the seed falls on to rocky soil, where the soil is shallow.** Mark 4:16,17
The people, who hearts are like rocky soil, hear the Word and receive it with gladness. The seed grows a little, **but the rocks stop the roots from going deep enough.** The rocks are the sins of the flesh like fear, rejection, insecurity, anger, pride, legalism, self- righteousness, lust, unforgiveness, bitterness, and so on.

As a young husband and father, I struggled with fear, anger, insecurity and rejection. As I continued to read the Word each day, the Holy Spirit spoke into my life, Romans 6:6,11. "**The old nature of sin was crucified to**

death with Christ, the body of sin was destroyed and henceforth I do not serve sin. **I am dead to sin and I am alive to God through Jesus Christ.**” As I believed the Word and confessed it aloud for two weeks, a lot of the fear, anger, insecurity and rejection was removed from my life. Instead of being rocky soil my heart became good soil for the seed of God’s Word to grow in.

“When persecution arises because of the Word,” (Mark 4:17), those who have not removed the rocks find it too tough and give up. If the seed does not grow deeply in good soil, the plant dies in the heat of persecution. After we hear the Lord speak to us, we may experience persecution because of the Word. The Lord may call us to serve Him in some way. Others may not understand and so oppose us.

When the Lord called us to a travelling ministry of helping to plant and establish churches in Northland, New Zealand, we had to give up our right to earn a living, and **we had to trust God to supply all our needs.** We had four children and all the expenses of living. Philippians 4:19. **Many people opposed us strongly on this issue.** It was not easy at all. By God’s grace we kept going. As we kept reading the Word every day, the Holy Spirit keep speaking to us and feeding us on the Word. This gave us the strength and power of God to keep going.

3. **Some people have hearts where the seed falls on to thorny ground** and the thorns choke the seed and it becomes unfruitful. Mark 4:18,19. The thorns are the distractions of this world. They are the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the pleasures of the world. These distractions prevent the seed from bearing fruit.

At the time of being busy in ministry, I was also playing a lot of sport. One day the Holy Spirit spoke to me. He pointed out that the work of the ministry was being hindered, by most of Saturday being taken up with sport. Once the Lord had spoken to me, it was easy to give it up and put things right. As we hear the voice of the Lord the thorns are burnt up and we become good ground to grow the seed.

Jeremiah 23:29 says that the Word of the Lord is a hammer to remove the hardness and smash the rocks, and is a fire to burn up the thorns.

4. **Some people have hearts where the seed falls on to good deep soil.** The seed grows well in the good soil and produces much fruit, some thirty, some sixty and some one hundred fold. Mark 4:20. These are the believers in Christ, who hear the Word the Holy Spirit is speaking to them, believe it in their hearts, declare it with their mouths, and act on it to bring it to pass. **They live by faith and greatly advance the Kingdom of God.** Many are saved, healed, delivered, and brought to maturity in Christ. **They bring forth fruit, more fruit and much fruit. They abide in Christ the Life giving Vine.** John 15:2,4,5

Making disciples is helping other believers to become good soil, and produce much fruit for the Kingdom of God.

By reading the powerful, living, Word of God each day, and hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us, we are transformed. The Words He speaks to us are Spirit and Life. John 6:63

By hearing the anointed preaching of the Word on a regular basis we are also transformed.

The hard ground becomes good soil.

The rocky ground becomes good soil.

The thorny ground becomes good soil.

The disciple is good ground producing much fruit for the Kingdom of God.