

"WEEKLY WISDOM"  
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 06.21.10

"HOW GOD'S WORD WORKS - PART #3"

Mark 4:20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

As we begin our third week studying together on "How God's Word Works" just a quick review of what we have covered. There are three key things that are important to this study. The sower, the seed, and the soil. The sower represents God's minister whom He has given to you to teach you the Word of God. Along with your pastor you should also have times in your church where you get to hear from other anointed teachers, apostles, evangelists, and prophets. The primary sower of God's Word in our lives is the pastor. Also important is the seed that is sown. It must be all of God's Word if we want a full harvest. Last but not least is the soil in which it is planted, which refers to our hearts.

Last week we covered the "wayside soil" heart condition, which primarily refers to having a hardened heart. What many believers don't realize is that there are many more things than just sin that can harden a believer's heart. Being focused on and consumed with other things will harden one's heart toward God and therefore make His Word of no effect in their life. When you truly understand these four heart conditions it becomes an eye opener to how many who have gone to good churches and heard God's Word preached have seen very little to no true fruit produced in their life. If you aren't hearing the truth of God's Word, or your heart is not good ground, God's Word will be nothing more than another sermon you heard.

Mark 4:16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; Mark 4:17 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.

This week we are going to cover the second type of soil that Jesus spoke about which is stony ground. The very first thing I want to point out here is that when one has a stony ground heart they immediately receive the Word with gladness, but only endure for a time and then stumble. Someone who seems to be growing rather rapidly in their walk with God does not always have healthy growth. Once a seed is planted in good ground it does not first grow upward, it grows downward first reaching forth for the nutrients in the earth, and the water it needs to grow. As it

does, it is establishing a healthy root system that will be there to sustain its growth and development in challenging times. This can often frustrate believers today because we want instant results in whatever we do, but to grow a life of true maturity in Christ takes time.

I don't know if you have ever seen a flower or some type of plant begin to grow on a rock but I have. It looks pretty good for a while and can even be kind of an amazing looking site to see a flower growing on top of a rock. But when the heat begins to increase from the sun it won't take long until that flower withers and dies. This is the next important point to make about stony ground. Tribulation and persecution are a part of life. God often gets credit for doing such things, but the truth is God is not going to do anything to try and kill the very life of His Word growing up in you. These things come as Jesus clearly states above for the Word sakes. The result as the devil all well knows is another seed that began to produce in one's life what God wanted, but it is now destroyed.

Jesus tells us in the Word of God that storms come to those who hear God's Word and do nothing as well as those who hear God's Word and do what it says. Those who do not respond to the Word of God are going to be knocked over by these storms. But those who respond to God's Word are going to not only make it through the storm, but not even be shaken because as Jesus states they took the time to dig deep and lay a proper foundation. This is similar to what is being said about having a heart with stony ground. Notice in verse 17 above Jesus states that those who are stony ground have no root in themselves. Because they don't have a good foundation, when the heat is on they are going to be overcome by life and its circumstances. So what must one do to not be stony ground?

2 Tim. 2:15 Study *and* be eager *and* do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing *and* accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

One of the key things about your walk with God is that God wants you to hear from Him for yourself. God wants you to develop the personal relationship He has given you. To do that you need to be rooted in Christ, not in the world. Many believers today try to live off of the faith of their pastor or someone else. Often the only revelation they hear from God's Word is what they hear preached, but it does not take root in them because they don't take time to study in out for themselves. Every believer if they want to make it through times of tribulation or persecution needs to know what God's Word says. Yet far too often people have no idea what scripture to stand on in the challenges they face in life because they don't study the Word of God.

We can be unfortunately put to shame by our enemies if we don't know what God's Word says. Satan is a master deceiver and the primary work he has that he uses against Christians is deception. If you don't know

what God's Word says about His love for you it doesn't take much for the devil to convince you that God doesn't love you. If you don't understand your rights as a child of God the devil goes to work to take advantage of your life getting you to agree with him and confess what he wants to come to pass in your life simply because you may not know what God's Word says. Every Christian has many weapons given to them by God to deal with these demonic attacks and to overcome the things of this life, but if you haven't take time to dig in and not only find out what those weapons are or how they work you are going to stumble.

The number one excuse why people don't have time to study God's Word for themselves, come to church, spend time in prayer with God etc., is because they don't have time. Yet there are many believers who work jobs just like everyone else who have the same 24 hours in a day and they do learn what they have in Christ and how to use it. They do learn who they are in Christ and what He made them to be. The problem is not the need for more time. If God gave us 48 hours in a day it wouldn't change things. If we currently don't take the time to do those things that will help us to know Him and what He has given us the ability to do, having more time in a day wouldn't change anything. Because the problem is where our priorities lie. What is a priority in your life you make time for. We have simply gotten our priorities mixed up.

Col. 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Col. 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Col. 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

The biggest problem in this area is the fact that to some extent we have fallen for the lie that our worth or value in life is based in the creation and not the Creator. This drives us to try and do more, or to be consumed with things that ultimately result in us trying to find our value in something other than God. One moment in God's presence cannot be equaled by anything you have or do in this world. When we get rooted in our relationship with Christ we begin to live life on a whole new level. God's Word begins to take root in us individually and we begin to grow spiritually. We become less vulnerable to the deceitful work of satan in using the traditions of men to keep us in bondage. To get rooted in Christ you must find your value in Him, not what you have or what others may or may not think about you. Life's circumstances that we cannot control are a part of the tribulation and persecution that comes to destroy the seed of God's Word.

The more we find our worth in anything other than God the less we will go to church, or get out of church what God intended when we go. The less we will take time to draw near to God, or study His Word finding out

all He has done for us and desires for us to be. What you have a passion for you will make time for. In my life when my passion was not God but riding bulls my life revolved around getting on another bull. Nothing kept me from doing what I back then was in love with. The more I have acknowledge God as the One I love and made Him the priority in my life the more I have pursued the things of God. I can testify that it is worth it.

My dad used to tell me anything worth having is worth working for. This is true. Having a relationship with God will take effort on our part, but it is definitely worth it. Getting to know God you can then learn how to do things the way God designed us to do them and it sure makes living life a lot better. To not be stony ground we must get rooted and grounded in our walk with God. When we do, growth will come and we will stand through the storms of life.

See You Again Next Week For More  
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MAY GOD'S VERY BEST BE YOURS!  
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