

# NEWBIRTH

## EMPOWERMENT SESSION

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

**Scripture Review** (Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Services)

Isaiah 28:13 But the word of the LORD was to them, "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little," That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught.

- Luke 2:41-49
- Romans 12:2
- Ephesians 5:16
- Proverbs 23:7
- 1 Corinthians 9:27
- Philippians 4:12
- Matthew 13:1-9
- Hebrews 4:12
- Isaiah 55:8-11
- John 2:23-25
- Romans 10:17

### All the Right Ingredients and the Right Environment

**The written word of God**, **the Holy Spirit**, and **the preached word of God** represent the Sower (2 Timothy 3:16; John 16:7-15; Romans 10:14-15)

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- John 16:7-15 ¶ "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

**The word (thought)** represents the Seed (Mark 4: 11-14; Luke 8: 9-11)

- **Mark 4: 11-14** - And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, "so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'" And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? "The sower sows the word.

**Luke 8: 9-11** - Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' "Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word** of God.

**Our heart** represents the Soil (*Jeremiah 17:9-10; Hebrews 4:12*)

- Jeremiah 17:9-10 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Our circumstances** represent the Process (*Romans 12:2*)

- Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed **by** the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- By is a preposition ... a preposition is a function word function word .... It's a linking word.
- A preposition links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence.
- In order for your sentence to be completed in God, it requires a **by**
- *Psalms 139:6 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.*
- A preposition usually indicates the temporal or spatial – which means, it won't last forever and it is defined to a specific dimension of time

## Matthew 13

- 1 On the same day *Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.*

**A subtle transition occurred and we didn't even know it ... Jesus changed his perspective**

- 2 And *great multitudes were gathered together to Him*, so that *He got into a boat and sat*; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

**There is a crowd and he separates himself.**

- 3 Then He *spoke many things to them in parables*

In the New Testament, a comparison of earthly with heavenly things, "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning," as in the parables of our Lord.

Seed by the **wayside** are **devoured** (*Matthew 13:4, 19*)

4 "And as he sowed, some seed fell by *the wayside*; and the birds came and *devoured* them. "When anyone *hears the word of the kingdom*, **and** *does not understand it*, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside (verse 19).

- Wayside – en route, journey; devour (not just to eat, but to eat with intensity)
- Understanding in the text means union - with or together by association, companionship, process, resemblance, possession. It means completeness.

Seed on **stony place** immediately spring up **with no depth** (*Matthew 13:5, 20-21*)

5 "Some fell on *stony places*, where they *did not have* much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had *no depth* of earth. "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because *they had no* root they withered away.

Seed on **thorns** is **choked**.  
(*Matthew 13:7, 22*)

7 "And some fell among *thorns*, and the thorns sprang up and *choked* them. "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Seed on **good ground** yields **crop** (*Matthew 13:8, 23*)

8 "But others fell on *good ground* and yielded a *crop*: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

**Good ground is prepared or tilled soil that encourages growth**

## Sowing conditions

- Seeds need warm, moist conditions for germination - to cause to sprout or develop.
- They must have air too, or they might rot without sprouting.
- Seeds are sown outdoors only when the soil is warm and moist enough, but since conditions can be controlled indoors, seed sowing is possible all year round.
- Seeds can contain a hard seedcoat, or chemical contained within, that prevents seeds germinating. Dormancy is usually broken by a period of exposure to cold, leaving the seeds ready to germinate right at the start of the growing season.
- Seed packets usually carry instructions about breaking dormancy, if this is a factor for a particular type of seed.
- Certain seeds have certain sowing dates

## Godly Fruit

The fruit is not a car, a house, money or any other form of material thing. Instead, fruit —

1. Is the **test** of **salvation** – **We are known by our fruit** (*Matthew 7:16*)  
You will **know them by their fruits**. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?
2. Includes **holiness** - (*Romans 6:22*)  
But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, **you have your fruit to holiness, and** the end, everlasting life.
3. Includes good **character** (*Galatians 5:22*)  
But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
4. Includes good **work** (*Colossians 1:10*)  
that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, **being fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;
5. **Winning** others to Christ (*Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 3:3*)  
Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

2Co 3:3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

6. **Sharing** what we have with others (*Romans 15:22-29*)  
For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you.  
But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you,  
whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while.  
But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.  
For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.

It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

7. **Praising** God (*Hebrews 13:15*)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to His name

John 2:23-25

But when He was in Jerusalem during the Passover Feast, many believed in His name [identified themselves with His party] after seeing His signs (wonders, miracles) which He was doing.

<sup>24</sup>But Jesus [for His part] did not trust Himself to them, because He knew all [men]; <sup>25</sup>And He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man [needed no evidence from anyone about men], for He Himself knew what was in human nature. [He could read men's hearts.]