

GROW: The Seed of the Word

Dr. John Carmichael

[Mar 4:13-14 NASB95] 13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? 14 "The sower sows the word.

- Jesus tells a parable... then stops and says something shocking:
- "If you don't understand this... you won't understand anything else I'm saying."
- That means this is not just another teaching: This is the key to the Kingdom.
- David Guzik notes: "Jesus considered this parable essential to understanding His others."
- The New Bible Commentary says: "...this parable is the key to all the other parables..."
- So if we miss this... we miss how the Kingdom works.
- And here is the core truth: Everything in the Kingdom starts with a seed—and that seed is the Word of God.

If I want real growth in my life...why does everything in the Kingdom start with the Word?

Jesus shows us that the Kingdom of God operates like a seed and if we want growth, we must understand how the Word is received and released.

I. THE WORD IS THE SEED OF ALL KINGDOM GROWTH

- a. [Mar 4:14 NASB95] 14 "The sower sows the word.
- b. [Luk 8:11 NASB95] 11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.
- c. Growth does not start with effort...Growth starts with seed.
- d. No seed = no harvest; No Word = no growth
- e. Everything God does in your life begins with His Word planted in you.
- f. Application: Make the Word your daily intake. Don't rely on occasional exposure—build consistency. Ask: "What seed am I planting in my life right now?"
- g. **You cannot grow beyond the Word you are receiving. If there's no seed, there's no growth.**

II. YOU MUST RECEIVE THE WORD

- a. [Mar 4:15-20 NASB95] 15 "These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. 16 "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky [places,] who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and they have no [firm] root in themselves, but are [only] temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."
- b. [Rom 10:17 NASB95] 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
- c. The seed must be received into good soil.
- d. Jesus shows four types of hearts: Hardened, Shallow, Distracted, Good soil
- e. The difference is not the seed. It is the condition of the heart.
- f. The seed... has to be released and received. It is spoken and heard.
- g. Application: Prepare your heart before hearing the Word. Remove distractions and hardness. Stay consistent in hearing (church, teaching, Scripture).

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- h. Hearing is not passive, it is intentional. The Word works but only if it gets into your heart.**

III. YOU MUST RELEASE THE WORD

- a. [Pro 18:20-21 NASB95] 20 With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied [with] the product of his lips. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.
- b. [Mar 11:22-24 NASB95] 22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be [granted] him. 24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be [granted] you.
- c. The Word is not just meant to be heard; it is meant to be spoken.
- d. As we speak the Word we hear from Him, great harvests of miracles occur in our lives.
- e. Receiving plants the seed. Speaking activates the harvest.
- f. Application: Speak what God says, not what you feel. Declare Scripture over your life daily. Stop reinforcing problems with your words.
- g. Learn to say what you want, not what you fear.
- h. You are either planting life or planting death with your words.**

IV. THE HARVEST FOLLOWS THE WORD

- a. [Gal 6:7 NASB95] 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
- b. [Mar 4:26-29 NASB95] 26 And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; 27 and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know. 28 "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. 29 "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."
- c. The Kingdom operates on seedtime and harvest.
- d. Positive examples
 - i. Ezekiel accomplishing God's Will. - [Eze 37:1-7 NASB] 1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.' 5 "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. 6 'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'" 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
 - ii. Jesus - declaring His identity. [Luk 4:14-21 NASB] 14 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. 15 And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. 16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

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TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." 20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

- iii. Timothy - fulfilling the purpose of God. [1Ti 1:18 NASB] 18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,
- e. Negative examples
 - i. Ten spies - A forgotten bunch. [Num 14:31-33 NASB] 31 'Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey--I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected. 32 'But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. 33 'Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.
 - ii. Royal officer - A left-out doubter. [2Ki 7:1-2, 19-20 NASB] 1 Then Elisha said, "Listen to the word of the LORD; thus says the LORD, 'Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.'" 2 The royal officer on whose hand the king was leaning answered the man of God and said, "Behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" Then he said, "Behold, you will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat of it." ... 19 Then the royal officer answered the man of God and said, "Now behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he said, "Behold, you will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat of it." 20 And so it happened to him, for the people trampled on him at the gate and he died.
- f. The difference was not God; it was what they believed and spoke.
- g. Application: Take responsibility for what you are sowing. Be intentional with your words and thoughts. Stay consistent harvest takes time. Speak what God has spoken over your situation Biblically and prophetically.
- h. You will eventually eat the fruit of your words.
- i. **Your harvest is already in your seed.**

- **If you want Kingdom growth, you must consistently receive and release the Word of God as seed.**
- Jesus made it clear: If you don't understand this...You won't understand how the Kingdom works.
- Everything starts here: The Word is the seed, You receive it, You release it, And God brings the harvest,
- Even salvation works this way: Romans 10:8-10; Believe in your heart; Confess with your mouth