

Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Genesis 1:26-29

- And God said, Let us make man in our image, *after our likeness*: and *let them have dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

 "Blessed" empowered to increase
- And God said, Behold, *I have given you every herb bearing seed*, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

BELOVED: We were created BY GOD for increase! Not to stay put, but to increase! Not to decrease, but increase!

<u>Genesis 8:22</u> – "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

As long as the earth remains there God will work through seedtime and harvest!

Why? Because God wants us (His people, His creation) to live in increase! As much today as

He did at creation!

BELOVED: The planting of seed is the key to your increase!

Here is the absolute key for all seed:

John 12:24-26

- Verily, verily, I say unto you, *Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much* fruit.
- He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.
- If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

UNDERSTAND: The most important thing about a seed working is that that seed must stop being a seed to you.

- * It must die!
- * It must be removed from your control to do what you want to with it!
- * As long as it is in your control (in your hand) it will never increase! You must take your hands off of the seed...and let it work!

You Are Seed

- When God began speaking to me about teaching on seed (for this series), I was pretty much guessing (as many of you were guessing) that it was going to be about finances or good works.
- As a matter of fact, He started with me with my challenge to you to sow EVERY DAY something for at least ONE MONTH. *How are y'all doing?*
- But as I was meditating and studying on the subject something, I believe, even greater rose up inside of me.
- The greatest seed you can sow is yourself! Most people don't truly increase in life because they have never sown themselves (truly sown themselves) in the places where they should be sown.
- <u>Galatians 3:29</u> "And if ye be Christ's, then **are ye Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise."
- **I KNOW:** This isn't necessarily talking about a seed like a seed, it is talking about a lineage. But it does say that we are a seed! Seed is seed!

Matthew 13:37-38

- (Jesus has been teaching parable after parable on seed and the kingdom of God...the disciples are confused by one of the parables, so they ask Jesus to explain it...here is what He says)
- 37 He answered and said unto them, *He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man*;
- The field is the world; **the good seed are the children of the kingdom**; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

So, we truly see that WE are seeds!

We may be in the world, we are just NOT of the world...we don't operate like the world.

- **PERHAPS** talk about Bill Winston in Haiti...the US Embassy was completely different than the rest of Haiti. A beautiful well landscaped property in the middle of poverty. Any US Embassy, houses US embassadors...(2 Corinthians 5:20)...a place that is a touch of home, though it is in another land.
- **BELOVED:** According to Matthew 13...we've been planted...WE HAVE been planted in this world to produce harvest...to increase!
- PERHAPS discuss a greenhouse in the winter! Still produces increase!
- **NOW UNDERSTAND:** We are good seed! We are God's image!

God don't plant junk!

Genesis 1:26,27 – We were created in His image!

<u>James 3:9</u> – "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God."

If we are created in God's image...we are good seed.

- <u>Jeremiah 29:11</u> "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."
- (NASB) "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

God knows what you are suppose to produce! He knows the plans He has for you! He has seed the picture on the front of the seed packet!

BELOVED: God has a plan for you!

He has a specific idea for you to increase. Absolutely a general plan of financial increase and health and peace.

Also a specific increase of gifting and abilities.

Romans 11:29 - "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

We each have our position, our place to produce!

THE QUESTION BECOMES why are some producing and many not producing? Some are increasing and many are not increasing!

HOWEVER: Many are not seeing any of these increases! They are not seeing their gifts manifest, they are stuck!

WELL...QUESTION...are you good seed? Yes!

Then you better make sure you are planted in the right place!

<u>Psalm 126:6</u> – "He that goeth forth and weepeth, **bearing precious seed**, shall doubtless come again with **rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him**."

BELOVED: You are precious seed! Precious enough that God sent His Only Begotten Son to die for you!

If you will allow yourself to be planted where you need to be planted...where God wants you planted, you will reap the harvest that God has in store for you!

You will look like the picture on the front of the seed packet!

THINK ABOUT IT...we are seed, sent to this earth. But if we are just living in the world...acting like the world...doing what the world does...we will never produce what we are suppose to produce.

There are places/things/greenhouses in this WORLD where we are to be planted...and many of us are not...therefore we are not producing!

Where are you planting yourself?

ESSENTIAL THOUGHT: A seeds production is based on the soil it is sown into. A good seed, in good soil, brings for good increase!

REMEMBER: We are talking about us...us as seed!

The soil makes the difference!

ILLUSTRATION: What makes Colombian coffee and Brazilian coffee and other coffee taste different? **ANSWER:** The kind of soil that it is grown in!

ILLUSTRATION: Hydrageas...the type of soil they are grown in determines their color. Blue in acidic soils and Pink in neutral soils.

John 15:1 – Jesus defines His Father as the gardener...the One Who plants!

BELOVED: We must be PLANTED in the places where God wants us planted in order for us to be complete and finished and increase the way He wants us to increase!

THINK ABOUT IT: Everything Jesus did and was had to do with Him being planted in God. John 10:37,38

37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, *that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

1.) We must be PLANTED in HIM!

<u>2 Corinthians 5:17</u> – "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

"new" - unheard or unseen before; brand new

When you are born-again you were planted IN HIM...you went from being a seed to being something that NEVER existed before.

BELOVED: If you want to become what God has created you to become...do what He created you to do...you MUST be born-again!

Acts 17:28 – "**For in him** we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."

2 Corinthians 1:20 – "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

<u>2 Corinthians 2:14</u> – "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph *in Christ,* and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

When we are planted IN HIM a life is NOW flowing from God into man that is something different than anything we have ever experienced in the natural realm.

We become partakers in the God-life, suddenly!

2 Peter 1:3-4

- According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
- Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

We now enter into the life called eternal life!

Eternal life is the INJECTION into the realm of time of something of the realm of eternity...the life of God.

We have eternal life, now...IN HIM!

"Life" - zoe - Life like God has it...life in the absolute sense!

Jesus' primary purpose for coming to earth was to give us life! Zoe life! To impart HIS LIFE into ours!

God is overflowing with ZOE LIFE!

We can have as much of this life as we want.

QUESTION: How deep are we spreading our roots.

Colossians 2:6-10

- 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:
- 7 **Rooted and built up in him**, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
- 8 **Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit**, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
- 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
- 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

We complete the picture on the cover of the seed packet...when we are IN HIM!

- **YOU MAY ASK:** Well, Pastor Thad, that is all good and stuff...but I have been born-again and I still seem to have the same stuff.
- **FIRST ANSWER:** Did you think it would be any different? Most of the time we get planted IN HIM to get to heaven and be right with Him, but we don't really know what it means in an everyday sense!
- **SECOND ANSWER:** When you've been planted IN HIM, you are a new person (fact); but if you don't see yourself as that new person, you will NOT experience all that you have been given and provided.

YES...this is where faith comes in!

If you keep talking old and living old...you are not going to get new!

ESSENTIAL THOUGHT: Remember, the key point of seed...it must die...it must quit being what it used to be...it must yield completely to the soil!

Ephesians 4:23,24

- 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
- And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Most people's faith stops with them going to heaven (must be included)...but there is so much more in Him...

<u>2 Corinthians 5:21</u> – "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be *made the righteousness of God in him.*"

BELOVED: God sees you through the blood of Jesus! Not through what you've done!

- We can stand in God's presence confidently.
- * We can face life confidently.
- * We can pray confidently.
- * You have full access to everything that Jesus has.

IN CHRIST we are right with God. Not just in good standing...but in IDENTICAL standing with the Father as Jesus is!

BELOVED: Dare to see yourself this way!

You are IN HIM (that is Truth)...renew your mind to seeing yourself this way!

Dare to act like the Bible is true, and it will become real...manifest...in your life!

Confession:

I am a new creature in Christ Jesus. I am planted in Him.

I have God's very own life and nature in me.

The life of God is in me now!

I know I have eternal life!

In Christ, I am redeemed, blessed and victorious.

I am delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of God.

In Christ I have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

In Him, I live and move and have my being!

I am precious seed...bringing forth a magnificent harvest!

2.) We must be PLANTED in the Word!

Many will say...well, I read the Bible, I go to church and listen to the preaching...I am in the Word!

But a seed STAYS firmly fixed in the soil in order for it to become what it is to become!

<u>John 1:1</u> – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

This is essential, because it identifies the Word as Jesus, Himself!

John 15:1-9

1 I am the true vine, **and my Father is the husbandman**.

God the father is the gardener...He knows where you need to be planted. He knows where you need to be sown, so you can produce your greatest harvest.

Too often, we think we know better!

We do what we THINK is better!

James 1:21 talks about the ENGRAFTED Word of God...that the Word becomes a part of us! But if understand the idea of being GRAFTED into the vine...we can understand that our old ways of thinking no longer can come through us.

If we don't start thinking differently...harvesting differently...we need to at least question if we've been planted ANYWHERE!

- Every branch in **me that beareth not fruit** he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, **he purgeth it,** that it may bring forth more fruit.
 - If you are not bearing fruit (Galatians 5:22-24), it is because you are not in the Word!
- Now ye are *clean through the word* which I have spoken unto you.

BELOVED: I know the picture here is pruning...the taking off of old things that are not producing, through the Word.

If we can see this in light of what we are seeing...

The MORE WORD that is pulsing through you...the MORE Word that you have sunk yourself into...the more that fruitless life is eradicated!

- 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
 - This verse is the epitome of what we've learned from John 12:24-26...the seed must die... it cannot bear fruit of itself...it must be planted in the Word.
 - When you live based on your traditions and how you've grown up...what mom and dad told you...what you think...what you've learned from the world's system...YOU WILL NOT BEAR THE RIGHT KIND OF FRUIT.

You are not planted...you most likely are like the seed that falls into the wrong kind of soil.

You have to disregard the old thoughts and take up the new thoughts.

Have your mind transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2); so you can live out God's perfect plan for your life.

- I am the vine, ye are the branches: *He that abideth in me*, and I in him, the *same bringeth forth much fruit*: for without me ye can do nothing.
- If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
 BELOVED: We must be planted to bring forth harvest!
- If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
 - When you are IN THE WORD...you know the Word and know the WILL of the Father! So when you ask...it will be done what He is obligated to do!
- Herein is my Father glorified, *that ye bear much fruit;* so shall ye be my disciples. **ILLUSTRATION:** Pastor Mike and his garden! I am amazed by his garden. I am not sure

I would have the patience and the gumption to do it. To do the little things!

HOWEVER: When I see the vegetables that he produces...I am like WOW, Mike is amazing!

NOTICE: The Father is the gardener...He is the ONE who plants you...who places you where you will grow. THEREFORE: When you become what the Word says you are to become...when you become the plan that God has for you...HE IS GLORIFIED!

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

BELOVED: We must STAY in the Word…live in the WORD. Be immersed in the Word! Daily! Live, listen, read, sermons!

BELOVED: The temptation is to take days off...I don't feel like it! I have things to do! **Well,** beloved do those things, but do them immersed in the Word.

REMEMBER: We must die to our flesh and live as the seed! Don't dig ourselves up and replant ourselves daily…keep going!

- <u>Joshua 1:8</u> "This book of the law shall **not depart out of thy mouth**; but thou **shalt meditate therein** day and night, that thou **mayest observe to do according** to all that is written therein: for **then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**"
- 1.) "Depart out of your mouth" that is how you know what you are planted in...whatever you are planted in, will come out of your mouth!
- 2.) Meditate (day and night)
 - Keep in operating in your system...day and night. Like a cow chewing cud! Keep it working! Don't forget about it!

LITERAL...Meditate IN IT! Marinade!

- 3.) Do what the Word says!
 - **AGAIN**...how do you know if you are marinating (meditating) in it? You will do what it says!
- 4.) Increase!
 - "You will produce and do what you've been created to do...be what you are created to be...because of where you are planted!"

Psalm 1:2,3

- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and *in his law doth he meditate day and night*.
- And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- **BILL JOHNSON:** The trees along the Sacremento River were never informed that California had been in a drought for over three years! They were still blooming and looking beautiful.

BELOVED: Get IN THE WORD...not just on Sundays and Wednesdays...everyday! Read it! Say it! Replace your old words with the Word! Listen to it over and over again! Read books about it! Think about it! Marinate in it!

3.) We must be planted in the Body!

<u>Ephesians 4:16</u> – "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Psalm 133:1-3

- Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to *dwell together in unity!*
- It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
- As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

- Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.
- For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

"not discerning" - to withdraw form; separate; oppose

BELOVED: When you dig up your seed and relocate...or don't participate...you will dry up your self!

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – We are the Body of Christ...you as a specific limb in the Body cannot be effective on your own!

Conclusion

BELOVED: Where you are planted matters! You may think that you have a lot of information... AND YOU DO...but it will never replace where God wants you planted.

- * You can't do it by yourself.
- * You can't do it without your husbandman (gardner).
- * You can't do it as a LONE SEED doing its own thing!

You must be planted!

- 1.) Planted in Him...a personal relationship with Him.
- 2.) Planted in the Word...totally immersed in the Word. Let it consume you!
- 3.) Planted in the Body...not a visitor, not part time, now when it is convenient! All the time... big time...doing your part in the body!