

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: MYSTERY OF CHRIST REVEALED



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THE TRUTH OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

The parable of the Sower is one of the most well-known passages in the entire Bible. It has been discussed and taught for generations. Virtually, without exception, the admonition expressed regarding this parable was one of greater dedication and focus on the word of God. Attention and focus that will lead to our heart being good ground so the harvest of His word would come forth. You simply had to be committed enough to make sure your heart was not stony ground. You had to get serious and put forth a little more effort, so the word would have deeper roots.



All of this can no doubt be true, but this is difficult to implement on a consistent basis. It seems no matter what extra effort of dedication and commitment we put forth we will still come up a bit short. The cares of this life and the desires for other things mentioned by Jesus in this parable are consistent and formidable foes. Trying to overcome the worries and anxieties of life by achieving a greater commitment to hearing His word resulted in a never-ending saga of striving and persistence.

This was the case until the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to a greater dimension of this foundational parable. It is this illumination that I would like to share with you, and I trust after absorbing this truth not only will the parable of the sower be a rich source of power in your life, but will become the foundation to understanding the mystery of Christ. Why does it seem like some of our prayers go unanswered? Why does it seem as though some things do not quite align with our hopes or

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turn out the way we were thinking God was leading? Am I in the will of God? How can you know for sure? Am I asking "amiss" or with wrong motives spoken of in James? *"You have not because you ask not and you have not when you ask because you ask amiss that you may spend it on your lust or (own desires)."* James 4:3. What about that scripture that says, *"You will ask what you will, and it shall be done for you"* from John 15:7? Is this to be taken literally? Is this even truly possible? Is not God sovereign and going to do His will no matter what?

These are all questions I have had at one time during my life and it has taken time to truly receive spirit-breathed answers to these questions. I can honestly say that my heart is at peace with the light that has shined on all this confusion. In discovering the truth about these questions, we discover the unsearchable riches of Christ and our union with His inheritance in us. Deeply understanding the parable of the Sower is the foundation to begin to find answers to these questions asked by generations.

Understanding the Parable of the Sower is the Foundation to All

There are three accounts of this parable listed in the gospels. Mark 4, Luke 8 and Matthew 13. Each account offers insight into this vital parable of which Jesus said, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?" We will soon see this parable contains the very essence of Christ. We will most certainly examine this parable and look closely at all aspects. However, before jumping right into the first part of the parable of the Sower, let us establish a foundational truth concerning the words of Jesus. In explaining the parable of the Sower to the disciples, Jesus said to them, *"Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"* (Mark 4:13 NKJV)

Jesus says that understanding the parable of the sower is the vital prerequisite to understanding *all* parables. Essentially, He was saying if you do not understand this parable you are going to be confused and not understand the nature of God and how He works. When he said *all* parables, he could easily be saying all... period.

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I express it in this way because this parable is the parable of the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of God is all that Christ is and has accomplished. A closer look reveals that the parable of the Sower contains the mystery of the kingdom or secrets of the kingdom. This choice of the word mystery is not just any mystery or secret - it is THE MYSTERY. Look at the words of Jesus in [Mark 4:10](#)... *"But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 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..."*

Jesus clearly states that the parable of the sower contains the mystery of the kingdom of God. As we will soon see this word "mystery" is the key to understanding this truth. Understanding the "mystery" of the kingdom is why Jesus made this emphatic and powerful statement regarding this parable, *"Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? If you do not understand the mystery that is latent in this parable you will not understand anything in the kingdom of God.*

As I mentioned the accounts of this parable are in [Mark 4](#), [Luke 8](#), and [Matthew 13](#). Each account offers unique insight and provides a rich view and understanding. Before continuing, I would suggest reading them prior to the study of the book or having them available on your screen or having your Bible available as you read. Each version is powerful, but we have included the account from [Mark 4:1-32](#) at the conclusion for your reference. Of course, I will be placing segments of the parable throughout as we address specific thoughts and points of emphasis. Additionally, all scriptures are provided as a hyperlink for you to reference while reading if you are enjoying this digitally. Feel free to bring your Bible if you are reading a print version to deepen your understanding of His Word. It is my intention, from the outset, to establish the most important foundational truths before going deeply into the parable. We will look closely at the various grounds and the interpretation in Jesus' own words as to the meaning of this parable. However, first, I want to clearly establish the light in which this parable should be viewed, and it is not the perspective of "try harder to focus on scriptures and cram

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them into your thinking." Look at Mark's account of this parable from Mark 4:4-8: *"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."*

Then a bit later in Mark 4:13-20, Jesus breaks it down for the disciples: *And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 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. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 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 mentioned at the outset of this writing; this parable has long been taught in the following way: If you do not receive or sow the word of God on the good ground of your heart, then you will not receive the harvest.

The various grounds are discussed: 1.) Wayside ground that is vulnerable to be stolen by the birds of the air, 2) Rocky or stony ground that have no root, 3) Thorny ground or seed sown among the worry and cares of this age, and, finally, 4) Good ground whereby we receive the harvest 30, 60, or a 100-fold.

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Consequently, these faulty interpretations make us strive for good ground, but never really permit us to know how good it was or if it qualified for blessing. I felt this pressure to give constant attention to my heart so it would not be bad ground. So, the emphasis became reading my Bible and trying to focus and remember all the things in the Word of God. Primarily to focus and try extremely hard to have good ground and not let all this other stuff steal the word out of my heart. If I am totally honest, the "thorny ground" that represents the cares and worries of the day along with not having desires for other things (than the word) was a never ending pursuit. It was extremely difficult to make the word/promises bigger than the worry and the problems of life. This is basically the big picture of the way this has been taught throughout my lifetime. Although, there have been many revelations of this parable that are perceptive and meaningful, the majority of the interpretations have left me with confusion and frustration.

The Seed Planted in Our Hearts

It is important to understand some irrefutable aspects of this parable. First, of course, we understand that the seed is the word and the ground is the heart of man. The heart of man includes thoughts, feelings, emotions and intellect. It is the realm of the soul or mind. It is where we experience life. [Luke 8: 11-12](#) confirms this conclusion and is the best expression of this truth, "*Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.***"

It is clearly stated that the seed is the word of God, and it is sown in the ground of our hearts. The Greek word for heart in this passage is *kardia*. *Kardia* can be expressed in many ways. It can be translated to mean the actual physical organ of the heart itself, but, in this passage its meaning can contain all the following concepts from the Strong's: the center and seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors, of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence,

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of the will and character.¹I want to emphasize "**seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, and endeavors.**" The heart or *kardia* is where you live. It is where your feelings, emotions, motivations, perspectives and desires live. If your heart is not established in the word of God then we are defeated before we even start and are no match for the cares of this life, lust of other things and tribulations that arise. However, this never-ending quest to give attention to the word of God until it gains the preeminence over all these things was simply a marathon I did not appear to be winning.

The Kingdom of God IS AS

I wish to establish another foundational truth spoken by Christ that is important to understand before we go any further. There is an acceptance of a perverted view of the sovereignty of God. You hear statements such as: "God is in control." or "God is Sovereign". Sovereignty is defined by many as "everything that happens is something God allows".

The perspective that "everything happens for a reason" has become embedded in our present culture. This has seemingly become the catch phrase of the entire world. Christians are often interpreting Romans 8:28 that states that "All things work together for good," as scriptural reinforcement for the "everything happens for a reason" belief.

Other theological cliches have circulated like, "Nothing happens to Christians except if it first passes through Gods hand (i.e., permission). These are all erroneous perspectives that will open the door for bondage in your life.

You may be saying, "Wait... all things do work together for good because it is in the Bible." Romans 8:28 is not a declaration of the Sovereignty of God. It is not a belief that everything that happens to you was predestined by God so that He could turn it for good. We expound on this topic in fuller detail at our [website](https://speaktotherocktoday.com) <https://speaktotherocktoday.com> with the teaching "All Things" in four parts.

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Look closely at these words of Jesus from Mark 4:26-29,

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." This portion of the words of Christ is unquestionably some of the most profound revelations in all of scripture. If neglected or misunderstood, you will wander throughout the whole course of your life. Underlying confusion and questions will always be somewhere in your thinking. Jesus said, The Kingdom of God IS AS!

I think we should pay very close attention to this statement because He is about to tell us how this whole thing works; how God relates to us and how His entire creation operates. If we do not understand Mark 4:26-29, we will be destined to wander through life without any real foundation of the will of God.

We know that the word of God is the seed and the ground is the heart. We know what makes up the heart of man. With this truth in mind, look again at this monumental statement. "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground..." Essentially, Jesus is saying that the entire Kingdom of God, which means the King's dominion and our authority in this world, is as if a man should scatter or cast the word into their heart (**seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors**). So many Christians are interpreting their lives from the outside in instead of from the inside out. Your life and what has become your environment are because of the seeds you have planted in your heart. Do not take offense at this statement. I am not saying it is all your fault. There is good news ahead. Do not stop reading because you have heard all this before. There is a great revelation ahead if you will stick with me. Enlightenment that will elevate you beyond the past failure of trying to plant seed in good ground and receive the longings of your heart. Light will shine beyond our constant efforts to read and study the word with hopes that your heart would be good ground.

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Issues and situations arise in our life because of what we place in our hearts. What we plant in our thoughts become what we believe. What we believe is what we will speak. What we speak is what we will do. Or as my Pastor, Alex Montgomery said just the other day, "Belief drives behavior." A truer statement has never been said. What you believe and speak will become what you do. What you do will become your environment. In short, we could reduce the above progression to the scriptural phrase: A man reaps what he sows. Now, with that said, is *all* difficulty because of what I have planted in my thinking? No. If you have chosen to believe the promises of God for your life, we also know that affliction and persecution can arise to try to steal that promise from your heart and challenge your faith. Therefore, just because you are experiencing resistance does not mean that you planted the resistance. The Holy Spirit will show you if what is happening to you is a result of reaping what you have sown, or if it is resistance to the promise to which you are reaching. There is a completely different resonance or "feel" to issues that are satanic resistance to your faith and those issues that are a result of reaping what you have sown (i.e. what you have been thinking, saying and doing apart from the promises of God).

If the seed is the word and your heart is the ground and the entire Kingdom of God is as a man should cast or scatter seed into his heart then why are we attributing everything that is happening to us as the predestined, sovereign will of God? God is indeed sovereign, but He is sovereign according to His word. However, for the sovereign word of God to get into the earth it must be planted in your heart. Here is a phrase to consider: "No seed/word in your ground/heart = No dominion of the King in your life"! More simply put, "No seed...No harvest!" Yet, people continue to attribute or even blame it on the "Sovereignty of God" as the reason the promises are not producing.

A "Corny" Story

Let me relate a simple (somewhat ridiculous, yet profound) story to illustrate this concept. Two old farmers were sitting on the porch. We will call them John and Tom. Tom says, "John whatcha doing these days?" John answered, "I'm just sittin'

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here waiting for my corn crop to come up." "Oh yeah...", says Tom, "...when did you plant your corn?" "Oh, I didn't plant any seed", John exclaims. "I just asked God for some corn and if it's God's will, then it will come. If it's meant to be it will be." Tom says, "John, if you didn't plant no corn, you ain't gettin' no corn! As a matter of fact, all I see in your fields are weeds. You are going to have to cultivate this ground with good corn seed if you expect to see any harvest!" John becomes predictably offended and says, "No, if it's His will corn will come. Do you think you know more about farming than me? I don't see all the things that you plant come up either. I know farming as good as you do! Who do you think you are telling me how to live my life. If weeds come up then God must have allowed it for a reason that I will know in His time. I will let God be sovereign." Tom responds, "The sovereignty of God is in the corn seed...John! It is not in all the weeds that come up because you did not plant or cultivate the ground. The sovereign will of God is lying dormant in the seed waiting to be planted so it can be revealed."

As silly as this story is, it is exactly the way many people live. They will tell you in great detail all that is going wrong, but when you ask them what promises of the word of God they have placed in their heart (the soul or mind, thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors, understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence, of the will and character) many become offended for they cannot offer any seed that they have planted into their hearts. Is this because they are lazy? Or could it be because they do not understand the true meaning of casting the word into their hearts?

You may say, "I have tried my best to put His promises in my heart and pray them, but it still does not seem to be working. I believe what you are saying is true, but it still has not worked for me. As a result, I find myself gravitating back to just simply believing this is really about the sovereignty of God." Believe me when I tell you I know full well this feeling. The Holy Spirit revealed a greater illumination regarding this effort of always trying to put the word in our hearts to outflank wayside ground, rocky ground and thorny ground. There is an answer to having good ground without sweat and toil.

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So, with these things in mind, let us discover this marvelous revelation light of Christ resting in the parable of the sower! Let me pose this question: What is the word being sown in this parable? We know the seed is the word but is the word simply every passage in the Bible, every scripture? The big picture answer to this question is of course, yes. The Bible is the Word of God, but in this parable, as in other places in the scriptures, the reference to the word of God has a specific, vital meaning. As we have briefly mentioned earlier, why would Jesus infer that this parable was the parable of all parables?



Why would He say that if we do not understand this parable, we will not understand all parables? Is it because putting the word in our hearts and keeping it there is how we find victory? Is the key emphasis on bulldog tenacity whereby we cannot let the word be stolen out of our hearts? Is it simply an admonition to plant in good ground as so many have taught? The Holy Spirit will begin to reveal this parable in a new light to see the vast revelation it possesses. Revelation that results in us having good ground all the time and receive 30, 60 and a hundredfold of the promises of God. Mark 4:10-12 says this, *But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 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."* Please focus on the phrase ... *"To you it has been given to know he mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all*

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things come in parables. Again, this shows us the weight of this parable. It clearly states that this parable contains the mystery of the Kingdom of God. What exactly is this mystery? Where else is the term "mystery" used over and over in the New Testament? Does it simply mean many things that are secret? Or is it a definitive term that has a powerful, specific meaning? The revelation of the parable of the sower is not just a metaphorical, agricultural analogy, nor is it simply doctrinal instruction admonishing us to keep the ground of our heart pure and productive as has been taught for generations.

Rather, it reaches far beyond these perspectives and is a prophetic foreshadowing of the Word of the Mystery of Christ that would be later revealed in the Epistles by the Apostle Paul to all men. The word that is spoken of in the parable of the Sower is the prophetic foreshadowing of the message of faith in Christ. It is the gospel of Christ. Jesus was speaking of the mystery that would be revealed to the church. It is NOT simply every passage of scripture. Let me share why this is such a monumental truth that will revolutionize both how you view this parable and the affect this parable will now have on your life. Understanding what is being referred to as the mystery of the kingdom of God in this parable will reveal why Jesus said, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

The word that is spoken of in the parable of the Sower is the prophetic foreshadowing of the message of faith in Christ.

This mystery, hidden from ages and past generations, (spoken of by Paul in Colossians and Ephesians) but now revealed is the same mystery of the kingdom Jesus proclaims in the parable of the Sower. This is so powerful because the word that Jesus is referring to in the parable of the sower is the revelation of Christ in us the hope of glory. It is the Word of Christ. It is the gospel of Christ. It is the message of the cross. It is not just individual promises that we sometimes tend to treat like a rabbit's foot or a charm. It is the revelation of our union with His death and resurrection. *This* is the word being sown!

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Make no mistake. Yes! It is most certainly every promise of God from Genesis to Revelation, but every promise must contain the revelation of Christ in us. Your understanding must be injected with the Word of Christ when embracing each promise. The revelation of this mystery must be understood in every promise that has been made "yes and amen" in Christ. If this sounds a bit ethereal, please keep reading and it will gain a clearer focus.

I understand these statements must be spiritually discerned and are not easily understood by the natural mind. How do we relate this to our everyday circumstances? Why is this the difference maker? Why is this truth the "Game Changer". I am going to do my best to practically express how viewing the word of God as the Word of Christ will completely change your life. I endeavor to show you how to see the revelation of the cross and the person of Christ in every promise instead of simply quoting promises and hoping they come to pass. Take these statements to prayer and the Holy Spirit will illumine a whole new insight into the word of God. I am going to repeat these truths throughout this book. It takes repetition of delicate illuminations before they become a working part of our mindset; until our minds are renewed.

New Covenant Definition of the Word of God

Please read with me this powerful insight into the true meaning of "the word of God" throughout scripture. Colossians 1:25-28 offers the most powerful expression of what has been stated. Please read and meditate these passages carefully, *I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill **the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*** Several beautiful truths begin to emerge and galvanize the conclusion that the word of God spoken of in the parable of the Sower is the same

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word of God/Christ that has been hidden since the foundation of the world spoken of here by the Apostle Paul. First, notice the phrase "the word of God." The word of God is not referring to the Bible or scripture in this passage but has a specific meaning in this context. It is precisely defined by the very next line: "the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations." The word of God is called "The Mystery" which has been hidden. He then goes on to further define what he means by the "word of God" and the "mystery" when he says, "*the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*"

The word of God is the mystery of Christ in you the hope of Glory! Christ in us the hope of glory is the message of our union with His death and resurrection. It is the message of the cross of Christ. The mystery is the gospel of Christ which is the power of God. Return and meditate on these things. The word of God is the message of Christ in us. This is all that Paul spoke in Ephesians 1-3, Colossians and Galatians. This is the gospel. This is the mystery of Christ. Let's move forward into this beautiful revelation of His truth The beautiful truth of the word of God identified in the parable of the sower is in fact a prophetic declaration of the mystery of Christ that would be revealed to all people. The same mystery of which Paul speaks.

Paul's Mystery is the Same Mystery of the Parable of the Sower

Let us further solidify this concept in our hearts. The mystery that has been hidden from ages and past generations, but now revealed (described in Ephesians and Colossians) is the same mystery of the kingdom described in the parable of the Sower. At the time Jesus introduced the parable of the Sower, he said it has been hidden from the prophets. Yet, now revealed unto the Jews but to no one else. However, Jesus says just a few verses later that nothing would be kept secret but revealed to all. This makes the word Jesus is referring to in the parable far more than the volume of scriptures, but in fact the revelation of the mystery of Christ to be seen in all scriptures. Understanding this truth will make the difference in how the Word being sown in good ground will bring forth a harvest instead of being stolen or choked. What we are about to reveal is the connection between the words of Christ

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spoken in the Parable of the Sower and the revelation of the mystery of Christ spoken by Paul in all of the epistles. In [Luke 8:10](#) it says, *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.'* Who is the "You" and who is the "Rest" Jesus is referring to in this verse? The "You" is Israel... the descendants of Abraham, while the "Rest" is everyone else or the Gentiles. This is going to be important as we begin to unveil further the revelation of the parable of the Sower.

What we are about to reveal is the connection between the words of Christ spoken in the Parable of the Sower and the revelation of the mystery of Christ spoken by Paul in all of the epistles.

Then a few verses later Jesus says in [Luke 8:16-17](#), *"No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Jesus has just stated prophetically what the Apostle Paul states on numerous occasions in Colossians and Ephesians. The mystery that has been hidden even from the prophets and righteous men in past ages is now being revealed to the Jews and ultimately to all men. Jesus stated that many prophets and righteous men have longed to see this mystery but did not. At the time of this parable, it is beginning to be revealed to the Jews. However, this mystery of the Kingdom remains hidden from the Gentiles. The mystery is the message of Christ in you the hope of Glory. Yet, Jesus is truly clear that the mystery shall not be hidden forever because everything that is secret or a mystery shall be brought to light. Jesus then said a lamp is not to be put under a bed or table, but on the table so the light could be seen by all. Look at the passages from Colossians again and selections from Ephesians to see the revelatory connection between the words of Jesus as He offers the parable of the sower and the words of the Apostle Paul as the mystery of Christ is unveiled to him. Please look once again at this passage in [Colossians 1:25-27](#). Focus on the bolded text.*

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*...of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, **the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***"

As you read the passage above, please compare it with the words of Jesus when He called the word that was being sown the mystery of the kingdom or the secret of the kingdom. He explains the parable to His disciples because it is given for them to know the mystery, but to those without (Gentiles) it is not given. Then Jesus says a lamp should not be kept under a table but should be put on the table so all who enter may walk in the light. The lamp is the revelation of Christ that would come to the Gentiles. Jesus is clearly saying that this mystery has been hidden, but now it is being revealed to the children of Abraham. However, it is still hidden from the Gentiles, but this lamp will soon be put on the table and all will see, even the Gentiles. Colossians 1:25-27 is the prophetic fulfillment of Mark 4:10-11, 21-23.

Colossians 1:25-27, *of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Mark 4:10-11, *But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 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,*

Mark 4:21-23, *Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.*

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Let's take these next few passages and place them in the context of the words of Christ. Ephesians 3:3-9 states this, *How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my **knowledge in the mystery of Christ**), **which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:** that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; by the effective working of His power.*

All of these passages, including Mark 4:1-20, Colossians 1:25-27, and Ephesians 3:3-9, are all a fulfillment of Isaiah 49:6: *Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, **And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'** "*

The Word Jesus is spoken of in this parable is the revelation of Christ Himself – the mystery of Christ in you the hope of glory! It is the revelation of Christ. The revelation that has been hidden from the foundation of the world but now is revealed.

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Now, let us progress to why this truth is so vitally important. What does this mean to us as we endeavor to understand what Jesus meant when He said, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?" The Parable of the Sower must be viewed in the post-cross revelation of the mystery of Christ! We are doomed to failure if this is viewed as doctrinal instruction admonishing us to be diligent about studying the word to get more information. We will continue to struggle if it is viewed in the traditional way of our effort and diligence to keeping the word in our hearts against the cares of this world and the lust of other things.



Contrarily, if the Word sown in our hearts is understood as the mystery, of Christ in us the hope of glory, then we will bring forth the harvest that is in every promise made "Yes and Amen in Christ". In the New Testament, the phrase "Word of God" and "Word of Christ" are used interchangeably. To a New Testament believer, when one heard the phrase "Word of God", they were hearing the message of the mystery, of Christ in them the hope of Glory. The "Word of God" was clearly understood as the word or message of the gospel of Christ. I am fully aware that I have made two contradictory statements with one being that the word of God is not just individual scriptures, and the second being that it is indeed individual promises as well. So, how can we reconcile these contradictions or theological theses to my everyday life? How do we reconcile these things for our hearts to be good ground and bring forth a harvest of 30, 60, and hundredfold?

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We do so by placing the revelation of the mystery of Christ **IN EVERY PROMISE!** This is the light that will cause you to cease from struggling to receive all that He has promised you. The finished work of the cross of Christ is now declared in 1 Corinthians 1:20, ***For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*** The Amplified Bible states this scripture in this way: ***For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] "Yes." So, through Him we say our "Amen" to the glory of God.*** In the death and resurrection of Christ every promise has been made yes to us by faith in Christ. Every promise is **IN HIM!** Every promise from Genesis to Revelation has been freely given to us by faith in Christ. There is no prerequisite for their fulfillment to us except to believe in the sacrifice of Christ. We do not have to clean up our life or behavior before in order for the promises to be "yes and amen" to us. Remember the promise in 2 Peter 1:4, ***by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***

We offer our faith in Christ through the promises. As a result, we then partake of the divine nature escaping the lust of the world. The promises contain the "Word of Christ", the very person of Christ. We are not just declaring scriptures we are declaring the Spirit of Christ. This is what Jesus was saying when He said sow the word in your heart. This word is the mystery of Christ in every promise. Please keep reading and this truth will become increasingly clear. When we take any promise in the entire scriptures, they have been made yes and forged in the blood of Christ. All the promises are made yes to us. They are made to the seed of Abraham. Galatians 3:29 says, ***and if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*** Be aware that some people will try to tell you that promises in Isaiah and Jeremiah must be viewed contextually as they were made to Israel. They contend that when we apply Old Testament scriptures to our lives we do so erroneously. This is erroneous doctrine and must be discarded because it defies the entire work of the cross. We could go to multiple places and disprove this view, but Galatians 3:29 mentioned previously explains this beautifully!

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All the promises are Yes and Amen IN CHRIST...to ALL PEOPLE who believe!

Embracing the Mystery in Every Promise

Let us endeavor to put this into a practical application in hopes that it would be seen and understood clearly. When the Holy Spirit makes a promise alive (*Rhema*) in my heart. For example, Isaiah 45:1-3, *"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—To subdue nations before him, And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: 'I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze, And cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness. And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.* This promise is part of *all* the promises made "Yes" in Christ. Therefore, I replace Cyrus with my name. Place your name in this promise. I now place the revelation of the mystery of Christ in this promise because this promise is *in Christ*. This promise is Christ Himself. The scriptures were breathed by the Spirit of Christ. Every promise contains the very person of Christ.

In 1 Peter 1:10-11 it says, *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, **the Spirit of Christ who was** in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.* The prophets wrote by the Spirit of Christ that was in them! These promises are the Spirit of Christ. The prophet Isaiah was moved by the Holy Spirit expressing the very Spirit of Christ that was in him when he prophesied Isaiah 45. Look at 2 Peter 1:20-21, ***knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***

We can be confident and assured that when we declare Isaiah 45, we are declaring the words of the Spirit of Christ expressed by the Holy Spirit. We are proclaiming the "Yes and Amen" promises to us, the seed of Abraham. We are declaring the finished work. We are declaring the will of God. We are declaring the destiny of that

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seed which is the life and expression of Christ. There is no lust in the promises. There is no asking amiss or with wrong motives. The promise will bring forth the works that he has prepared beforehand. **When I declare the promises, I am declaring the full mystery of Christ in me the hope of Glory.** I proclaim all the mystery spoken of in Ephesians chapters 1-3.

What is the mystery of Christ? Paul said in Ephesians 3:3-5, *how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:*

When I declare the promises, I am declaring the full mystery of Christ in me the hope of Glory.

Paul says he has briefly described the mystery in Ephesians chapters 1-3, so let us reference this mystery so we may understand and sow it in our hearts. It is understanding the mystery that will cause our heart to be good ground and bring forth the destiny. This destiny is the finished work that is latent in the seed of His word. This latent potential is in every promise. I have emphasized the promises as if it is only individual scriptures. The word of Christ sown in our hearts can be complete, revelatory dissertations downloaded by the Holy Spirit to us and not just individual promises. Many times, the Holy Spirit will make a particular scripture alive to you and this will be the ember or starting place to a much greater revelation of truth. One scripture can serve as a trigger or an anchor to a complete understanding of spiritual concepts. It is all the word of Christ.

2 Peter 1:4 says this, *by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

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This is just one individual scripture, but, for me, it led to a full revelation of the work of redemption. When I declare this promise it triggers that fullness. When the Holy Spirit begins to take promises and concepts, he will expand them into full revelatory mindsets. This is the renewing of your mind. This is the "Word of Christ" sown into your heart. When I proclaim his promises and the full revelatory concepts afforded me by the Spirit, I am declaring the mystery of Christ. The following references truths from Ephesians chapters 1-3.

When a promise is declared...

I am speaking the dominion of Christ from the right hand of the Father where I am seated with Him in heavenly places.

I am speaking as one who has been raised together with Him far above every principality, power, might and dominion and every name that is named.

I am speaking the manifold wisdom of God to all principalities and powers that which has been accomplished in Christ.

I am speaking as one to whom all things have been put under my feet.

I am speaking as one who is blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.

I am speaking as one who has been crucified with Him to the spirit of the world and raised together with Him in newness of life.

I am speaking as one who has been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins past, present and future.

I am speaking as one who has received the righteousness of God by faith in Christ.

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This is how the mystery of Christ is placed in every promise. Every promise contains the voice of the mystery of Christ. The voice of His dominion. The voice of His authority. The voice of His will. I invite you to pour over these truths until they are the revelation of the mystery of Christ in you. This is real and alive. Let these New Testament truths of the mystery of Christ ring in your heart connecting the mystery to the promises of Isaiah 45. The revelation of Christ is now in this promise. The dominion of Christ echoes in these words.

Look again at Isaiah 45 and connect these promises to the mystery of Christ in you the hope of glory. *Through the cross He has subdued nations before me. He has stripped or loosed Kings of their armor.* He triumphed over every principality. See the mystery of Christ in you expressed in these passages. The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets as these words were written.

The Holy Spirit was moving in them to express the Spirit of Christ. *He has opened doors before me that will not be shut. He is breaking down gates of bronze.* He is shattering the strongholds that have held you in bondage. *He is cutting through bars of iron. He goes before you making every crooked place straight. He is giving you treasures that have been obscured by darkness, riches that have been hidden in secret places.*

As you declare His promises the reality of these things will become etched in your heart and voice. This is just one promise. Take them all and see the mystery of Christ that is in them. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ in every promise he speaks to you. You will go far beyond simply quoting scriptures, but elevate you into prophetic declarations of the works that are finished and prepared beforehand just for you. You will be speaking by the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of Christ. You will be declaring the mystery of Christ, and nothing can withstand this voice. You are sowing seed on good ground. You are casting the seed of the mystery of the kingdom of God into the ground of your heart because you understand the mystery of Christ.

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The "More Sure Word" is the Morning Star

Let us go again to 2 Peter and look at the entire context of the Holy Spirit inspiring the word of God with the Spirit and mystery of Christ. The promises of God are the person of Christ Himself. *For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such a declaration as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory: "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" - and we ourselves heard this declaration made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

This is one of the most powerful and amazing revelations in all of scripture. Peter states that they heard the audible voice of God when they were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. They heard the voice of the Father say, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased". Amazingly, in the next verse Peter says, "We have the prophetic word made *more sure!* He goes on to tell us this "more sure word" is prophecy of scripture written by men moved by the Holy Spirit. The promise that we just proclaimed from the prophet Isaiah 45 is more sure than the audible voice of God according to 2 Peter. The promises have inherent in them this certainty and power if we will embrace them as such. In our natural man, there is no way the scriptures could carry with them the power and influence of actually hearing the audible voice of God. This is because we have not seen the word/promises as Christ; as the mystery of Christ fulfilled. The word inspired by the Holy Spirit expressing the Spirit of Christ has inherent in it the same power, influence, magnificence as if you just heard the audible voice of God! When we understand the revelation of Christ that is inherent in every promise, the promise has a greater potential of impact than if we heard the very audible voice of God! This magnificence is inherent in all the promises of God if we will draw out this revelation from the promises. Pay close attention and give priority to the word of Christ. Embrace this as a reality and renew

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your mind to this truth. If we do, then the word will become alive in us like we have never dreamed possible. Our heart will indeed be good ground and we will receive the 30, 60, hundredfold harvest of His promises.

How could the scriptures be more sure than the audible voice of God? How could this even be possible? Because the promises are Christ Himself. They have been made "Yes and Amen" in the blood of the New Covenant. They are the result of His death and resurrection. The promises represent the death and resurrection of Christ. They are made "yes" in the blood of Jesus, the blood of the New Covenant. Look closer at this selection of scripture as this truth is revealed, ***so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.*** Peter is calling the prophetic word the Morning Star. Who is the Morning Star? Revelation 22:16, *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you of these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."*

Peter is calling the "more sure word of prophecy" the "Morning Star". The promises are spoken by the Holy Spirit through men by the Spirit of Christ within them, which is the very person of Christ Himself! The mystery of Christ is latent in every promise. I pray this is penetrating your heart and renewing your mind.

When we pay attention to this "more sure word" and focus on it above all else as "unto a lamp that is shining", the revelation of the risen Christ will emerge in the word and carry with it all the authority of Christ Himself. The promises are not to be separated in any way from the very person of our Savior. The promises are not something that He is telling us to do. They are not part of our spiritual activity or practice. They are not magical phrases that we put on our T-shirts or hang on our walls. They are Christ Himself! The powerful word from John 1:1-4 ***must be mentioned at this point, followed by verse 14.*** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was*

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made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (overcome) it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. When we do not see the promises in this revelation, they will lack the power and we will run out of gas. We find ourselves trying to make something happen, wishing and hoping, performing our spiritual tasks instead of declaring them as the finished work of our Savior.

The Lamp of the Parables is the Lamp of the Morning Star

Let us look deeper into this selection in 2 Peter 1:19. It is no accident that the word lamp is chosen. This passage in 2 Peter is a prophetic fulfillment of Mark 4:21-22, *And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, or under a bed, is it? Is it not brought to be put on the lampstand? For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light.* In both cases this word lamp used in 2 Peter 1:19 and Mark 4:21 is the Greek word *lychnos*. It means, a "lamp, candle, that is placed on a stand or candlestick".² What is the significance of *lychnos* as it is chosen in these two passages? In the parable, Jesus makes this statement regarding the lamp not to be put under a table but on a lampstand for all to see. Then in 2 Peter, the lamp is used to describe the light of the morning star or the revelation of Christ.

Jesus just finished telling the disciples that the parable of the sower was the mystery of the kingdom that has been hidden. Shortly thereafter, He says the lamp should be put on the table for all to see. Jesus had just spoken of the parable of the sower and how it is the mystery of the Kingdom of God. The lamp to put on the table is the lamp of the revelation of the mystery of Christ. Peter now tells us to look intently into the "more sure word" as a lamp. This lamp would reveal the Morningstar. The lamp in the parable of the Sower is the prophetic revealing of the mystery of Christ that would be unveiled after His resurrection. The lamp in Peter is that mystery revealed! Peter is declaring the lamp is the light or the revealing of this mystery. Christ-revealed in the "more sure word". Christ-revealed in all the promises. 2 Peter 1:19 positions you in the experience of this mystery which will

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infiltrate every condition of our lives. It is the revealing of how every promise of God contains the person of Christ, all that He is, and the entire work of redemption. The word of God (the "mystery" or "word of Christ") is in all the promises of God in the Old and New Testament. The blood of Jesus has made all the promises of God in the Old Testament become New Testament promises. No longer is obeying the law of commandments the prerequisite for receiving these promises, but rather believing in Christ our Savior. This is what is meant by "All the promises of God are Yes and Amen in Christ". My faith in Christ is my obedience. He has fulfilled all prerequisites for receiving the promises. Your faith is accounted as righteousness, not your own works.

Now, let us take an even closer look at this magnificent truth in 2 Peter 1:19 so that it affects the deepest places of our lives. *And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.* Peter tells us to "pay attention", which means to "focus, bring near, to devote thought, to take heed". Peter tells us to "pay attention", which means to "focus, bring near, to devote thought, to take heed".³ In other words, make of paramount priority the lamp that is shining. The light of the knowledge of the glory of God is always shining.

Give attention to it as it will shine in the dark places. Where does the revelation of Christ revealed as the lamp shining? It shines in the dark places until the Morningstar arises in your heart. This takes us back to the message of the parable of the Sower. The seed is the word and the ground is your heart. What is the sum of what is being said here? You may be dealing with great sorrow in your life. You may be experiencing marital strife that is driving you into severe depression. You may be tormented with financial pressure that has become chronic. You may be experiencing a lack of fulfillment and have no joy or vision for your life. There may be family issues and strife that is grieving your very soul. It does not matter what your issue is, the complexity of it, or how long it has been wrecking your life.

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There is a higher voice that will completely deliver and set you free. All these things mentioned can make your heart a dark place. Your feelings, attitude, emotions, thoughts, etc. are being deeply affected by sorrow, depression, torment, and worry. This is your heart. This is where the light of the revelation of Christ that is in every promise can shine until a new day dawns. The Morningstar, which is the revelation of the dominion of Christ, begins to shine in these dark thoughts, emotions and feelings until the Morningstar gains the preeminence and swallows up this death with resurrection life. The darkness is overwhelmed by the light. Hope emerges and replaces despair. Joy begins to gain the upper hand over depression. The day is dawning and the Morningstar is arising in your heart!

Come to the Father in prayer and ask Him to lead you to the promises that He wishes to speak to your life. Not too long ago, I was experiencing a heavy oppression. It would hit me almost every morning. I was not happy in my career, and I was experiencing some financial pressure. This thing would make its way into my feelings even when things were going well. It was maddening and it seemed no matter how much I prayed, nothing would change.

It is in these times where many gravitate to religion and all the mantras that go along with it, "I guess God is allowing this to grow and test me." Or, many just give up and learn to live with the malady. They learn to cope and function without ever being truly free. I knew the promises of God were true and I knew there was a way to be free. The Holy Spirit began to teach me these very things and give me promises. He began to teach me the mystery in the promise. He wanted my voice to become the voice of Christ in me to shatter all these strongholds. I remember Him elevating Isaiah 40:3-5 in my heart. This became a rhema word to me:

Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

He had taught me this was the "more sure word of prophecy".

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Of course, this was prophesied of John the Baptist, but He was telling me this was now spoken directly to me. This was His rhema voice to me. This promise has been made "Yes and Amen" in Christ to me as the seed of Abraham. I now began to focus and pay attention to this "more sure word of prophecy" for in it resides the mystery, dominion, power, authority of the resurrected Christ. This promise was to have greater affect in me than the audible voice of God. This promise contains the voice of Christ. The voice that laid the foundations of the world. The voice that was with the Father before the foundations of the world. The very voice that declared, "Let there be light"! I now pay attention to this word as the lamp, as the revelation of Christ in me the hope of Glory. The "more sure word of prophecy" spoken to you is not just sweet little scriptures to encourage you. Pay attention *until* the day dawns, until new light emerges into my deep oppression. My heart was filled with the darkness of that oppression. My feelings were a prisoner of this thing. My heart or feelings, emotions, thoughts, affections were in darkness, but the light of the lamp of the revelation of Christ began to emerge from this promise. I began to see Jesus in the promise. I felt an ember of hope arising.

Stay focused until. Let patience have its perfect work. It is through faith and patience we inherit the promises. It will come to pass. Faith is arising and the grace to walk in the fruit of patience will follow. As you set your gaze upon the mystery of Christ in the promise, all the patience and steadfastness necessary to bring it forth will be imparted to you by grace. You will not lose heart and give up. Rather, faith will grow into full assurance that what God has promised He is able to perform. Stay with it no matter how you feel. Your feelings will be swallowed up of life soon enough.

As I meditate and profess, the full revelation of Christ in me the Hope of Glory gains the preeminence in my heart. This no longer becomes just a scripture, but the very presence and person of the risen Christ. He has risen in my heart and now declarations will flow out of my mouth and salvation will be brought to every place in my life.

Now, I declare with great boldness Isaiah 40:4-5:

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Every valley shall be exalted or lifted up...every depressed place shall be lifted.

Every mountain...every high place that I cannot seem to overcome shall be brought low.

Every crooked place...every complex, convoluted place in my life that I cannot figure out, shall be made straight and resolved.

Every rough place... every difficult place that is causing me frustration and grief is made smooth.

The glory of the Lord shall be seen over my entire life for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

This is the "more sure word of prophecy". This is the person of Christ Himself. This is the revelation of the mystery of Christ.

I have now cast the seed of the word into my heart. It is good ground. It is not wayside.

It is not without root. It will withstand any affliction or persecution that arises to oppose it coming forth.

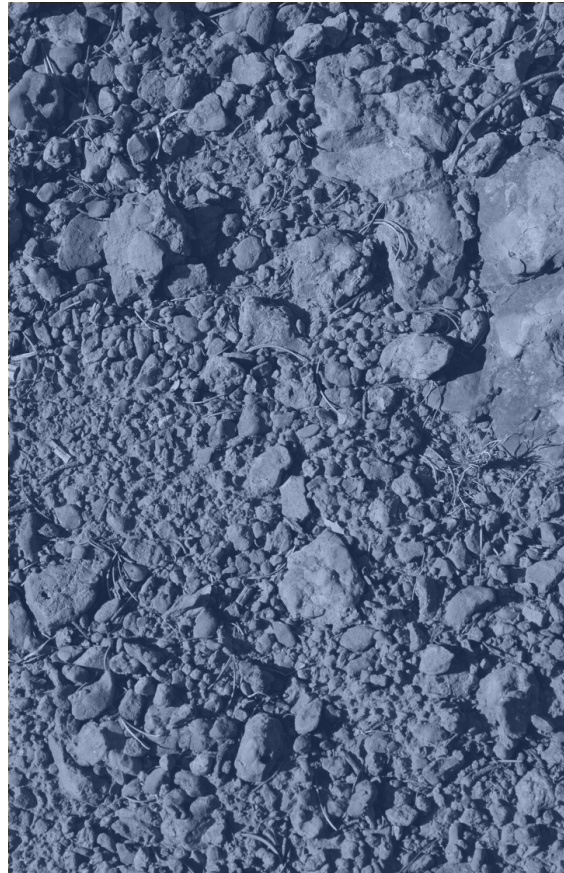
Now I will go to bed and get up and the ground will bring forth the destiny in the seed apart from my own works.

There will be works but not my own. The works of faith will follow.

CHAPTER 4

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD OF CHRIST

Why is this truth so confirmed and true to me? This is because the only ground in the parable that was stolen was those who did not understand the word that had been sown. They did not understand the mystery of Christ. Look at what is said in [Matthew 13:18](#) and how it expresses this parable, *"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 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. A bit later in [verse 23](#) of this same chapter He says, *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." This is so important to grasp because the only way you can have wayside ground, stony ground or ground among thorns that choke the word is if you do not understand. You are receiving deep understanding by reading these things that we have expressed and embracing them. The ground of your heart is being cultivated in the mystery of Christ. The ground of your heart is good ground and it will bring forth of itself 30, 60, and hundredfold of the completed destiny that is in the promise. The Apostle Paul prayed this prayer from [Ephesians 1:17-19](#): *...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...*

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The enlightenment to which he refers is the light of the mystery of Christ. Pray this prayer as a declaration over your heart as you meditate upon these things. You will most certainly have good ground and never have to fear otherwise. The Greek word "understanding" in this passage is *kardia* or heart. You have cast the seed of the word of Christ into your mind, thoughts, emotions, feelings and affections. Again, it is no coincidence that Jesus interjects this truth about understanding the word as the key component of whether we will have wayside, stony, thorny or good ground.

"Seeing they do not see and hearing they do not hear..."

He also ties one's ability to receive understanding to the true condition of their heart prior to the word being sown. What do I mean? Look at the verses just before Jesus speaks of gaining understanding as being the key to having good ground or not having good ground. Remember when the disciples asked Jesus why He spoke to them in parables. He responded, *Therefore, I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

At first glance, it appears as if Jesus is purposely keeping the truth from them. It seems He is saying, "I must talk in parables to these people because they will see, hear and understand with their hearts, and I would heal them. However, upon closer scrutiny we see a much different picture. This passage of scripture was taken from Isaiah 6 but was later quoted by Paul in Acts 28. Paul quotes this passage from Isaiah in response to those in Rome who rejected the word of

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Christ after Paul clearly reveals Christ in the Law of Moses and the Prophets. Acts 28:24-28 says, *And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."* Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

The conditions of a dull heart, deaf ear, and closed eyes (mind) shows the attitude and position of the heart. Their eyes have closed. Their heart is removed from seeking God. They could see with their eyes and hear and understand if they truly desired.

Let us look at a few other translations of verse 27:

Yes, the minds of these people are now closed. They have ears, but they don't listen. They have eyes, but they refuse to see. If their minds were not closed, they might see with their eyes; they might hear with their ears; they might understand with their minds. Then they might turn back to me and be healed.' Acts 28:27 (ERV).

For the heart (the understanding, the soul) of this people has grown dull (stupid, hardened, and calloused), and their ears are heavy and hard of hearing and they have shut tight their eyes, so that they may not perceive and have knowledge and become acquainted with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their souls and turn [to Me and be converted], that I may heal them.
Acts 28:27 (AMPC).

This same dullness of heart is prevalent in the New Testament church today. People hear but never understand what they are hearing. They see but do not

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understand. The mystery of Christ and Him crucified never becomes a revelatory reality. It is relegated to a religious mantra and is given cursory attention from a traditional sense, but is not the centerpiece and foundation of life.

With the Same Measure You Use

With these thoughts in mind go back again to Mark's account in Mark 4:24-25 that says, *Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."* The Greek word for "heed" in this passage is *blepo*. It means "to see" and can literally be expressed as "physical eyesight".⁴ However, in this context it means "to see, as in perceive or understand" or "see what you hear/understand what you hear". This admonition is followed by "*with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you*". A major insight emerges from this profound statement "the same measure you use, it will be measured to you." The measure of priority you give to the word of Christ will be the priority that it takes hold in your heart. The promises of God must be seen and understood in the context of the mystery of Christ. If they are the absolute focus of your thoughts and pursuits, then the fullness of the mystery of Christ will be revealed to you.

Do you recall earlier when we spoke of the reason the word is stolen out of the hearts of those who heard? The ground was only wayside, stony and thorny to those who heard the word but did not see or understand. Consider the admonition Paul gave in 2 Peter 1:19, "pay attention *until* the day dawns and the Morningstar arises in your heart". Those who have wayside, stony, or thorny ground and those of who Paul spoke to from Isaiah 6:9-10 did not understand or perceive. The only thing that can keep you from understanding and seeing is if you let go of it as the affection of your heart.

Do not see this as a work of the flesh or a product of tenacity. If you do, you will fail and the word will be of no effect. We all will fail. We view this as a deep affection and relationship with the lover of our soul. We love Him because He first

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loved us. Jesus knew that the enemy would be cunning and steal the word. He knew the only thing that would prevent this was a deep relationship with Him in realizing the love He has for us revealed in the mystery of Christ.

There is nothing that is hidden that will not be revealed. The Holy Spirit has come and will teach you all things. (John 14:26 NKJV). We have received an anointing from Him and He will teach us all things. (1 John 2:27 NKJV). We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God that He might show us the things freely given to us by God. (1 Cor. 2:12 NKJV). Things the eye has not seen, nor ear heard neither have they even entered your thoughts. (1 Cor. 2:9 NKJV). You have this ability inside you. Yes YOU! Believe it! There is nothing that He will not reveal to you. He will show you the unsearchable riches of Christ. You have the same ability as Christ to receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the true knowledge of Christ. (Eph. 1:17-18 NKJV). We have the mind of Christ. There is a second illumination that emerges from these words of Christ in the words: "*Take heed what you hear, for what measure you measure it shall be measured to you.*"

How shall you measure the promises? How shall you measure the mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory?

- Shall we measure it according to our own ability?
- Shall we measure according to what others have received or not received?
- Shall we measure it by the limitations that religion has set?
- Shall we measure it by what we have received up to this time?
- Shall we measure it according to how many times we prayed, and it did not happen?
- Shall we measure it according to how impossible it seems in the natural realm?
- Shall we measure it according to how long we have been dealing with these same issues?
-

Or, shall we measure it according to the **MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST!** Ephesians 4:13 states: *...till we all come to the unity of the*

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faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Shall we measure it according to the width, length, depth and height of the love of Christ? Ephesians 3:18-19 invites us, "to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Are these not measures? There is a greater dimension to the word of Christ that will shatter every previous stronghold and limitation in our lives. It will elevate you to a different paradigm. Your demeanor and expectation will elevate to the stature of the fullness of Christ. Dimension is a measure. The definition of dimension is (you guessed it) the width, length, height and depth.

Allow the unsearchable revelation of the mystery of Christ (latent in every promise) redefine your expectation of the dominion you already possess. The measure of this dominion is the width, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ. This measure is dependent on the stature of Christ's fullness, not the stature of what you have received at this point, or the limitations of what others have received.

Supersede Your Previous Mindset

In Luke's account of the "Parable of the Sower", in chapter 8 verse 18 he says, "*Therefore take heed how you hear.*" Mark says, "Take heed what you hear." As you hear the dominion of Christ, measure it according to his stature in you. Take heed what and how you hear. If you allow your past to affect your hearing then you will not know the width, length, height and depth of your dominion. **Do not allow others to define how you hear. Do not allow tradition and religion to define your hearing. Allow the voice of Christ to set the standard according to the measure of Christ's fullness.** By attending to the width, length, height and depth of the love of Christ, we will draw out the dominion of Christ that will supersede our previous mindsets. Many do not allow the dimension of the mystery of Christ to reset their minds and faith. If you permit Christ to reveal His love, you will begin to transition from an Ishmael expectancy to an Isaac expectancy. This simply means that promises you began to force to happen in your own strength or faith will be elevated to an established faith that knows the impossible will be

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birthed through you because you possess Christ's fullness and dominion.

If we understand that Christ is present in every promise, then the next part in Mark 4:25 is ours by inheritance: *"To him who has (understanding) more shall be given."* If we forfeit the understanding that Christ is present in every promise, then the next part in Mark 4:25 confirms that we will not receive more but less. *"To him who has not (understanding) even what he has will be taken from him."* If you do not understand or apply the promise to your heart, then what you have heard will most certainly be stolen. You will retreat into religion and the unbelief that lives there. Your heart will become dull and hard. The promises of God will just bounce off your heart never penetrating the unbelief and the strongholds that reside in the depths of your soul. We need a heart change, a continual heart change. Pregnant in the promise is the ability to remove the dead efforts, personal doubt, and fearful imaginations. As we begin to allow the promise to alter our hearts, we will begin to have faith that knows with certainty the promise will produce a hundredfold harvest.

However, to those who hear (and if you are in Christ that is you) there will be no end to the measure of Christ's "more". To him who hears and understands more will always be given. Truth will build upon truth. Revelation will build upon revelation. You will go from glory to glory.

I think it fitting at this point to interject an important truth. When Jesus was explaining the ground that had no root in Mark 4:17 He says, *"...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."* The word "stumble" is translated "offended" in many other translations. This gives rise to the notion of being offended at another person or taking offense. However, the context is not about being offended at another person. Look at the Amplified Classic translation of Mark 4:17, *"And they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while; then when trouble or persecution arises on account of the Word, they immediately are offended (become displeased, indignant,*

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resentful) and they stumble and fall away. This is the classic example of dashed expectations. We become offended when we believe or expect a certain outcome and then it does not happen. We become offended at the one who made the promise or set the expectation. You become offended when you get a repair bill from your auto mechanic that you thought would be a fair price of \$300 to find out the actual repair amount is \$600. No matter if your expectation was misguided, we still will be offended because of our initial expectation. A perfect example would be that of Israel when they left Egypt with a promise of a land flowing with milk and honey. As they journeyed and affliction began to arise, they became offended at the very promise that was to be their salvation. This is the case with those who hear the Good News and then become offended when things start to go south because of their expectation.

The promise will come to pass, but it must be understood and deeply rooted to endure anything that would rival its fruition. This does not mean that only those with a strong backbone and a "never say die" personality will gain the victory. As the word of Christ is understood and becomes the Morningstar in your heart, the very person of Christ will be expressed in you. He is your life, and it is Christ who lives in you. You will stay steadfast with joy and Spirit-led expectation that cannot be extinguished.

Colossians 1:9-11 says, *"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy."* You will have joy while patience is having its perfect work. You are not going to be offended. Joy is birthed when we are confident that what He has promised is coming to pass. John 16:23-24 says that our joy is full when we receive what we ask for, having asked in the name of Jesus. Asking in the name of Jesus means asking according to His inheritance or his promises. It does not mean we just strap the name of Jesus at the end of one

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of our prayers. Here is the complete scripture from John 16:23-24, *"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."*

Supersede Your Previous Mindset

Let us return to the concept of hearing above our previous mindsets and paradigms. There is a voice that we can truly hear that will elevate us above previous roadblocks and strongholds. There is a voice in His word that will change everything no matter how long it has been going on or how many times you have reached for change previously. Reach for it and believe there is a voice of the revelation of the mystery of Christ that exceeds anything you have ever seen, heard or thought. This voice is in each promise waiting to be drawn out and etched into our understanding. In Hebrews 4:7-10 it says, *"Again, He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."* This is a message alone and would be beyond the scope of this writing to set the complete context of this phrase. However, it is my purpose to bring out a singular concept as it relates to hearing a higher voice than we have personally or individually heard previously. The writer of Hebrews is speaking of the sabbath rest of Christ that exceeds the rest of Joshua. The Joshua rest was a type or foreshadowing of the sabbath rest of Christ. Hebrews is quoting from the Psalm 95:8 which speaks of another day that is named today.

Today signifies a new realm, the new realm of Christ that exceeds all things previous. Some translations describe "another day" as a "New Today". There is a new realm, a higher realm, that exceeds what we have known and experienced. It is a realm of new spiritual power, awareness and insight. The word "today" is synonymous with

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new spiritual discovery and technology. Let's say you are trying to chop down a large tree with a hatchet and have been at it for quite some time. Then someone hands you a high-powered chain saw. You have just entered a new today. It's the same problem and task of the past, but now you have different power and new technology. The person trying to cut a large tree with a hatchet may begin to think: "You know, it just might not be God's will for this tree to come down. After all, it should have happened by now. I guess I will just let it go". It was not an issue of God's will, it was an issue of needing greater technology. The Holy Spirit wants to shine a greater light where the mighty weapons are stored.

Reach for the voice of this place. Reach for the width, length, height and depth. Reach for the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. We do not have to shrink back into excuses, confusion, unbelief and religion. Rather, move ahead into greater light. Reach to hear a higher voice than you have heard before. Trade in your hatchet for a chain saw! **Chain saw technology awaits us in the Spirit if we will pay attention to the "more sure word of prophecy" until the day dawn and the Morningstar arise in our thoughts, feelings, intellect and understanding.** We encourage you to watch the message titled, "How to Receive Change When Nothing Ever Seems to Change." In this message we address this analogy of higher "spiritual technology". I encourage you to listen whenever you get a moment if you would like to explore this subject further.

The phrase from Hebrews 4:7 that says "*Today if you hear His voice Harden not your hearts*", is a phrase used multiple times in Hebrews chapters 3 and 4. This voice is the voice of the sabbath rest. As I have mentioned, the sabbath rest is the context of Hebrews 4 and this rest exceeds the rest to which Joshua led Israel. Canaan was a foreshadowing of the rest that yet remained for us in Christ. This is the rest of *today* that David spoke of in Psalm 95:8. This is the voice that comes from the mystery of Christ. There is a "today" voice that is in every promise, every revelation. There is a hearing of this voice that can surpass previous mindsets of unbelief. Strongholds that you simply could not believe past. This is the voice that exceeds all other voices. This is the voice of the finished work. It is the voice of the

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resurrected Christ. The voice that comes from the right hand of the Father far above all rule, dominion, and every name that is named. It is the voice whereby everything has been put under His feet and is subject to His authority. This is the voice of "Today".

Take heed what you hear and how you hear. Today if you will hear this voice of Christ, not the voices of religion, you will begin to hear Christ more than these common phrases of "no way", "can't be done", "no one else has ever done it", "it has been so long", "I have prayed over and over", "sometimes it's not God's will", and on and on. These are the voices that have led to the hardness of your heart, the voices that have left you in disappointment and unbelief. These are the voices of yesterday not the voice of today. **These are the voices of the former places and you are going to a "New Today"!** The picture being painted in these passages is a dividing line between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. You may say, "I understand I am under the New Covenant. I have received the message of these passages." Yet, you are still under the influence of the unbelief of the Old Covenant, the mindsets of the Old Covenant just like the ones to whom these things were written. We must embrace the deep word of Christ, the depth of the mystery of Christ that is in the "Today Voice" to slay the unbelief of our past. This is the Word of God that is alive and goes to the joint and marrow separating asunder soul and spirit. This voice can transfer rest into your heart. This today voice carries in it the faith of Christ that separates me from the hardness of unbelief that has been galvanized in hearts for lifetimes. If the Joshua rest was the highest rest and that voice was the highest voice, then He would not have spoken of another day.

I believe in the "today voice" of Christ and reach for this voice. I believe I will hear the voice of the seventh day. The voice that exceeds all previous voices. Let me say, yet again, this voice is from the right hand of the Father. This voice will impart to me the very faith of Christ. For He is the author and finisher of my faith. This voice contains the resurrection faith of Christ. This is the voice that set the foundations of the world. This is the voice that imparts the faith of the New Covenant that exceeds any hearing I have heard up to this time. This is the voice

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that imparts the very faith of Christ to my heart. This today voice is in every promise if we will believe it, reach for it, and not relent until the day dawn and the Morningstar arise in our hearts. This today voice is different. It is the remedy for the hard heart. A hard heart does not mean you are evil. A hard heart is one where the problem, the issues, the strongholds are bigger in our hearts than the power of Christ. "Today if you hear his voice, harden not your heart," is not to be viewed by us today as an accusation, indictment or pointing of the finger, but rather a diagnosis and remedy of our condition. He is beseeching and imploring you and me to "*harden not your heart*"! This is a new voice of a **new today**. This is a different voice than you have ever heard before. This is the voice of **another day**. What you have heard, believed, understood previously was not on this level. There is a higher voice to hear in every situation of our lives. This is not like all the other times that you have tried and failed. This today voice will elevate you above those former places, above your history, above your lifetime bondages. It is above the things that have never seemed to move before. It's a higher voice. This is the voice that comes from the authority at the right hand of the Father. The revelation of the width, length, height and depth of the mystery of Christ (in you) is shining into the deep places of your heart. When I speak the promises of God, I am speaking them in the revelation of the "Today voice of Christ". I am speaking them in the authority of Him who sits at the right hand of God far above all power and dominion. I am speaking the "more sure word of prophecy" for this word is Christ. This word is the seed of His kingdom. This word is His authority. This word is my inheritance. Please look at [Hebrews 4:11-13](#), "*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 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. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*"

I sincerely encourage you to view the video teaching on the site "[Today If You Hear His Voice](#)" and place it in the context of the things we have just shared.

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What we have been describing is the true hearing of faith. It is vital to recall one of the most quoted scriptures in the Bible. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. I am sure you have heard this phrase a thousand times. If you are like most people, myself included, for the first 45 years of my life, we interpreted this as simply hearing the scriptures. I was listening to the radio the other day while driving and someone was advertising an audio bible reading.

They mentioned this scripture in Romans 10:17 as an expression of their audio bible reading. If you listen to the bible being read, then faith will

come. This is indirectly true, but as you know by now faith does not come just because you heard scripture reading. As we have reiterated throughout this writing, the Apostle Paul was referring to hearing the word of God/Christ. He was not speaking of the endless hearing or reading of the bible. He was specifically speaking about the revelation of Christ. The early manuscripts in the Greek write hearing by the word of *Theos*. Whereas later manuscripts from the Greek read, hearing by the word of *Christos*. First, the Greek for "Word" is not *logos* but *rhema*. We will look deeper into the difference between *rhema* and *logos* in just a moment. In short, *rhema* is a specific word spoken directly to you, and *logos* is more of the overall word in a general sense. But, which is correct, *Theos* or *Christos*? Or does it matter? Hidden in this question is the very revelation of Christ. Both are correct because the word of God is the *Rhema* of Christ, as well as the *Rhema* of God/*Theos*. Whichever translation one decides to use does not truly matter because the *logos* of God contains the *rhema* of Christ and the *rhema*



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of Christ contains the *logos* of God. The context of the entire book of Romans is irrefutable as to what is meant by the phrase "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word/*Rhema* of Christ." The message throughout Romans is unequivocally the message of Christ. The message of faith in Christ and NOT the law of commandments is the entire foundation of Romans. Faith comes by hearing the message of Christ in us, the hope of glory.

This message must be received by the Spirit as the revelation knowledge of Christ. Subsequently, it must be the *rhema* voice of Christ. The New Testament faith of Christ does not come by trying to cram scriptures in our head. Rather, faith comes by hearing the *Rhema/Word* of Christ revealed in every promise. Faith is imparted by the Spirit through intimacy with the Holy Spirit. As the very *Rhema* voice of Christ is breathed into your understanding, faith is imparted. Faith is a fruit of relationship and hearing on the deepest of levels. Faith will not come from cerebral efforts to unravel the mystery of God's word. You cannot receive enough doctorates from seminary to walk in the faith of Christ. New Testament faith is not found in the wisdom of men but in the revelation of the mystery of Christ revealed by the Spirit.

I have used the term *rhema* freely. I wish to make sure we understand this vital truth. A quick perspective of the difference between *rhema* and *logos* would be helpful at this time. Every instance in which you see the word of God used in the New Testament it will either be *logos* or *rhema*. A simplistic definition of the difference between these two words would be: Both *logos* and *rhema* are defined as the spoken word. Both can also be written. *Logos* is the overall big picture of all that God has said and is written. Whereas *rhema*, would be when any part of the overall *logos* is spoken directly to you and becomes customized to your heart and situation. Access this [link for an article on this subject](#) that I found to be extremely helpful, thorough, and worth the read if you wish more understanding regarding understanding *rhema* and *logos*.

Here is an excerpt from that article written by Omotayo B. Adeoye:

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The logos is the general word of God that communicates his ability to do something or his general will on a matter, while a rhema is the word the Holy Spirit quickens to a specific person for a specific situation. He used various analogies to describe this relationship and some are – the logos is a well of water while the rhema is a bowl of water from that well, the logos are piano keys while the rhema is a single key playing, a logos is the entire body while the rhema is one part in operation. The logos & rhema are always in alignment with one another. Of note is this statement that the Rhema could be a scripture or a word spoken to you by someone or quickened directly into your heart.⁵

I have always felt the admonition of the Holy Spirit to meditate the *logos* of God until it becomes the *rhema* of Christ. The Holy Spirit wants to speak every promise in our hearts as the *rhema* voice of "Today". As the light of the mystery of Christ. Look intently into the word of God until the revelation of Christ begins to illumine your understanding and you see the cross of Christ and all that He has accomplished in every promise. Do not relent UNTIL! Pay attention UNTIL the day dawn and the Morningstar arises in your heart.

The Word of Christ is the Seed of the Kingdom

As we have said throughout this writing, Jesus says the entire kingdom of God is as a seed. He also says the kingdom of God is within us and it is manifest in us as we sow this seed into our hearts. Think about a seed for a moment. Picture in your mind an apple seed. Does an apple seed look anything like an apple? Not in the least, yet this tiny seed has in it not only a fully developed apple but the entire apple tree! It is amazing when you take a moment and think about something as incredible as a seed. Every blueprint, every detail, every intricacy, every cell and fiber of the apple is in the seed. Not only this but the progression and timing of the gestation period of the tree.

Is there anything one can possibly do to help the seed bring forth what is eternally destined within itself? The end or completion ⁵ of what is in the seed has been inextricably set in stone. It will bring forth the destiny within by simply being

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planted and watered. There is nothing that anyone can do to make or form an apple. The apple is destined in the seed.

Likewise, when we meditate on promises and set them in our hearts everything necessary for the fulfillment of that promise is destined in the promise. The fulfillment and expression of that promise will come forth apart from our own works. Let us take this reality of the seed and apply it to every aspect of our lives. We have discovered the truth about the seed to which Jesus referred. It is the word of God, which is the mystery of Christ. It is the revelation of the cross understood and realized in every promise and concept. I trust you have firmly grasped this in your heart. It is not just collecting scriptures and cramming them into our head. Rather, a life-giving interaction of the Spirit bringing forth the presence and revelation of Christ in every concept and promise. The word of God is alive and active!

In Mark 4:26-29, Jesus says, *"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and **the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.**"* This is an example of the finished work of Christ that is in every promise.

How does one plant the seed, and then let it bring forth its progression and destiny? How do we do this apart from our own works? When we face various difficulties in life, no matter their origin or severity, it is almost impossible to allow the word of God to bring forth its finished work of salvation without us getting involved to help it along. We worry and default in our thinking to various workable solutions. There is no condemnation. We all do this. When we are faced with challenges of any sort, we will inevitably gravitate to our own works and solutions. In most cases we will default to a solution that we can possibly believe could happen. In other words, we default to the natural realm or our own ability. This is

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the number one reason so many prayers are not answered. We become victims of perverted, hybrid theologies instead of the certainty of asking and receiving. There is nothing that anyone can do to make or form an apple. The apple is destined in the seed. What do I mean? I realize I am about to go on a bit of a sidebar, but this is vital in the overall big picture of understanding how the seed of His promises work in our hearts. Let me make what I believe is a foundational statement if you are a believer. God may not answer your prayer in the way you are praying and expecting... but...He will ALWAYS fulfill His promise. He will always fulfill and bring to pass His word! I assure you this is not another one of those religious phrases born of unbelief that we have identified earlier in this writing. There is a single root of all religious phrases to explain why God did not answer prayer or bring deliverance – UNBELIEF.

When we are faced with various challenges and hard situations, we have in our mind and desires how we want something to happen. We have in our hearts how we want our spouse to act or certain relationships to change. If we are having financial challenges, we go through a litany of possible remedies. We then will formulate a plan or set of behaviors to make it conform to that expectation. We may then knowingly or unknowingly begin to manipulate both people and situation. If we would instead allow the Holy Spirit to give us a promise that brings life to us. Should we really be concerned how it happens if the promise is fulfilled and the seed gives full expression to the destiny within it? This is how you humble yourself before the Father. I can assure you without hesitation that the fulfillment of the promise/seed will far surpass your original, fleshly expectation. The promise may completely change your desire and expectation to meet His divine nature. You may discover that your original expectation was full of self-serving limitations. The word of God will liberate you into the will of God and the subsequent new life that will be imparted to you. The problem is we are taking something from our natural man of what we can see as a way out and superimposing this on God in prayer. I see this every day when I hear people pray. I see it in my own life until the Holy Spirit began to shine light in these areas.

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Brought Forth into a Broad Place

Not too long ago I found myself in a lifestyle whereby I was unfulfilled. I was in a business and I was extremely dissatisfied. I longed for purpose and greater meaning. I longed to teach the word of God and have the time to dedicate to this yearning, but it looked so far away and unobtainable. I had financial responsibilities that were formidable. I felt trapped, confined, and restricted. This was the case for quite a long time. His "grace was [always] sufficient" during this time, but I was deeply desiring change. The Holy Spirit wanted to fulfill this longing in me but not by my works and my strategies. There was a work already completed He wanted to place in my heart so faith would be born, and I would then declare this completed work into my life. You can bet that I thought of everything of how to get out of this lifestyle and into real living. Yet, I saw no natural hope or way out. During this time, a lady who I respect immensely found me after a church service one Sunday. She simply walked up to me and said, "Let go of the restraints and confinements in your life."

This resonated with me at the deepest level of my being. I was like, "Oh, how I want this more than you know, but how?" I began to muse upon these words and the confinement and restriction of my profession. It was all-consuming and a source of aggravation, but, unfortunately, it was my income. How was I supposed to let go of this restraint? If I did, I would have even greater problems. Sounds like a job for the promise. Sounds like there is no way I can make an apple from this. The apple is going to have to come forth apart from anything I could do. This is not a comfortable place to be in until the word of God truly takes hold of your heart.

During this time, the Holy Spirit led me to a promise in [Job 36:16](#) in the NASB (Please see my book [Job Unseen](#) to understand how to understand the context of the wonderful promises found in Job). *Then indeed, He induced you away from the mouth of distress, and instead of it, a broad place with no constraint; And your table was full of rich food.* This promise was the *rhema* word of Christ to me. It spoke to the hidden, dark places of my life. I found every translation I could and looked up every word and formulated my own combined

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translation, *He takes me from the mouth of distress and brings me forth into spacious, wide open, places where there is no restraint, constraint, constriction or restriction. Places where I can maneuver freely. Unto my table laden with the choicest of my favorite foods.* I let this go into the crevices of my heart. These words are the "more sure word of prophecy". This was "more sure" than the audible voice of God and had been made "Yes and Amen" by the blood of Christ.

This was His "Today Voice" to me. This voice unified me with the will of God and His divine nature. This is the person of Christ. The Morningstar arising in my heart. Faith in Christ was being born. This promise was eradicating my own fleshly works and remedies. This promise was bringing forth the person of Christ in me and with it the perfect will of God for my life. There is no lust in believing this promise. There is no asking amiss or asking from lust or wrong motives. My soulish will is not present in this promise. I have subjected all my own plans and schemes to the promise. This promise has a fully developed apple within it that is the perfect will of God. This promise is the inheritance of Christ given freely to me. This inheritance is represented by the name of Jesus. This is how we ask in the name of Jesus, by asking according to His promises. It is not by us asking how we think something should play out as we can comprehend it in our own expectation and then slapping the name of Jesus on it.

Remember 2 Peter 1:4, *"by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* The promise will separate you from your own lusts, desires, expectations, limitations and ways. It will connect you to the divine nature apart from anything you could do. Just give free course to the promise. It will do the rest! Let the apple come forth!

Just as a point of clarity: Lust is not only overt things like greed or sexual seduction and all the other things we associate with this word. Lust can be anger, manipulation, jealousy, worry or simply your own effort because faith has not gained the preeminence in your heart. At the outset, all your ambitions, preconceived notions, plans, and ideas may need to be placed back into the

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promise to be remade and renewed. However, as we allow the promise to take root, the plans, thoughts and actions that are in the promise will begin to shine light on our thoughts and desires. The original plan or idea will align with heaven. We will begin to be changed by the Spirit from our own works unto the works of faith. We will begin to see the blueprint of heaven that is in the seed. You will be enlightened with thoughts from the depths of the Spirit. However, you will notice these thoughts are not desperate and full of arduous effort, but are full of life and inspiration. Even if they appear impossible to your natural man. We are becoming one with the will of God. This is how the sovereign will of God works and how it is placed into our hearts. The Holy Spirit burned this promise in my heart along with many others. As I write this to you today, I am completely free of constraint and restriction. I am no longer in those businesses that I grew to dislike and were causing immense constriction and restraint. The Holy Spirit had given me a business idea a few years prior that was lying dormant due to lack of funding. This business endeavor was supernaturally funded by an investor seemingly out of nowhere (details for another time and place). We are involved now in the establishment of that business. I also received an inheritance that was not expected during this time. Also, many other situations began to align that would be too numerous to recount at this time. The promise was bringing forth its expression from the eternal Spirit. I am now able to spend unrestricted time in studying, writing and teaching the mysteries of Christ. Along with building this new business endeavor. All these things are my passion, my purpose, and my fulfillment. I am in the senior years of my life and I certainly heard voices that told me the days of passion, purpose and fulfillment were long gone. This was a lie but it sure looked and felt like the truth for quite a long time.

There is no possible way that I could have sat down and formulated this path at the outset of my pursuit. However, as I cast seed into my heart and let the seed bring about its destiny, ideas and leadings began to emerge in my thoughts and light began to shine on the path I was to take. It did not happen overnight and was a journey, but I knew he was at work the whole time. It is through faith and patience that we inherit the promises. As James teaches us, *"Let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect lacking nothing."* It took some time but grace was sufficient for every step.

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When Sown it Becomes Greater

I want to share another aspect of the "Parable of the Sower". In Mark 4:30-32 it states, Then He said, *"To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."*

Let us combine this passage above with another in Mark 4:26-29 that we have already discussed. However, this time let us emphasize the second part of this scripture in bold. *And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. **For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.**"*

We know that the seed is the promise made "Yes and Amen" in Christ. We know that it contains the completed work and authority of the risen Christ. We know that it is more sure than the audible voice of God. This process mentioned in the passage above is taking place in your heart first and not in your situation...yet. First the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head is taking place in the renewing of your mind. The fullness of the revelation of Christ in the promise is evolving in your mind and faith is taking hold. Now, let us combine this with Mark 4:30-32, Then He said, *"To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."* When we first take a promise as the answer and solution against a great dilemma of whatever sort, it seems very small when it is first sown. It seems insignificant and not the answer to our pain. However, when sown... it grows and becomes greater than all and shoots out large branches. This is faith!

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Do not be intimidated by how you feel at a given time. Sow the seed! It will GROW! It will BECOME GREATER THAN ALL! It will expand and SHOOT OUT LARGE BRANCHES!

The revelation of the dominion of Christ latent in every promise will gain the preeminence in your mind and your feelings will be overwhelmed with this reality. First the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. Once this progression takes place you will speak from the abundance of your heart. You will put in the sickle and speak forth your harvest. With the heart man believes and with your mouth confession is made unto salvation. This is another way of expressing what we have emphasized all through this writing from 2 Peter 1:19, "*And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morningstar arises in your hearts.*"

I trust you are founded in what it means to pay attention UNTIL the day dawn and the Morningstar arises in our hearts. Have supreme confidence that this progression is in every word of Christ. No matter how persistent the resistance, do not relent from this truth. His grace will be sufficient.

CHAPTER 6

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In Romans 4, Paul offers the example of the promise given to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Paul was endeavoring to connect the faith of Abraham with how we are to believe in Jesus. Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. We believe in Christ and become the righteousness of God through faith not our works. This is certainly the "big picture" motivation for Paul placing this in his writings to the Romans. However, we can glean some valuable application to our daily lives in the progression of the faith of Abraham. Romans 4:17-22 declares, (as it is written, "I have made you a father of



many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." Abraham knew both he and Sarah were too old to conceive. There was no natural way for this promise to take place. This is what is meant by the words "contrary to hope, in hope believed." In other words, there was no natural hope. Yet, in this place of total impossibility, it says that Abraham did not waver at the promise but was fully

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convinced that what God had promised He was able also to perform.

This poses a few questions.

- What was Abraham's process?
- Did Abraham come to this place immediately or default to his own works?
- Did he ever waver (or as the King James Version says "stagger") at the promise of God? Did he pray according to what he could believe to happen in his own works?
- Did he pray according to what he could believe to happen in his own works?
- Did Abraham ever offer up prayers that were not the will of God?

What if the answers to all the questions above were "yes"? What we know from scripture is that God said that Abraham "considered not his own body but grew strong in faith giving glory to God" (Romans 4:19-22 ESV). Hebrews 11:11 mentions Sarah as one of the heroes of faith in that she believed for Isaac to be born past her natural years of childbearing. Yet, we know that neither Abraham nor Sarah believed when God first told them of Isaac. We gain a vital insight when we reconcile these things. **God desires to bypass and exceed all we could do in our own strength, ideas and our present paradigm of faith.**

Let's take a brief look at what happened so that we can see how this same progression may take place in our own hearts. Abram (later renamed as Abraham) has a conversation with God regarding having no heir from his own body in Genesis 15:4-6: *"And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."* God has clearly told Abram that his heir will come from his body with his wife Sarai. Abram was considered to be 70 years old at the time God established his covenant with him. Time passes (approximately 11 years) and the promise to Abram appears to be delayed.⁶ The scripture goes on to say in Genesis 16:1-2: *"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she*

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had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go into my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. It is important to note Sarai's faith position at this point because of the delay in the promise coming to fruition. She concludes that *"the LORD has restrained me from bearing children"*. The first thing Sarai does because the promise has not come forth is blame it on God. She reasons with similar rationale of some modern Christians: "It hasn't happened, so it must not be the Lord's will." Or, "God is the reason this is not happening." This is not true. Nothing could be further from the truth. Is God the one that has kept Sarai from having children? Sarah has been barren all her life. A promise is given to her husband that he will have a son from his own body. However, due to the delay, she rationalizes that God is the one who is keeping her barren. This response gives rise to the probability that Sarai's plan for Abram to lay with Hagar was born in bitterness and offense at her own barrenness. Many times, we allow offense to motivate our actions. Faith is always to be our motivating factor.

Thirteen years pass and the Lord appears to Abram reiterating the promise in Genesis 17:5-7, No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant. Abraham is convinced that Ishmael is the heir of the promise. The words confirmed in verses 5-7 of Genesis 17 appear to be the future for Ishmael. However, God speaks again in verses 15-16 with a plot twist, Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." Abraham is baffled by this news. He is shocked and responds with laughter. This is not what Abraham was thinking would be God's response to Ishmael in Genesis 17:17-18. *"Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old?"*

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And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!" This appears to be a "waver" or "stagger" in Abraham's faith journey. Is this the same guy Paul spoke of in Romans 4:20-22? Paul states the following: "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

It appears Abraham's actions in Genesis 17:17-18 contrast with Paul's summary in Romans 4:20-22. This requires a closer look at the heart condition of Abraham and Sarah to understand how these two passages align. Abraham's unbelief takes center stage when he hears that the promised son is coming from Sarah. This is new information and startles Abraham to plead for Ishmael to be the heir. Many translations of Romans 4 state that Abraham considered *not* his body nor the deadness of Sarah's womb. However, we know that he in fact heavily considered both his and Sarah's condition. It was later that he considered "not". He considered it so much that their impossible situation became the preeminent condition of his heart. The breach between the height of the promise and any natural possibility that it could come to pass caused Abraham to cry out, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

What was at the center of this deep request? What was Abraham really saying?

"Oh, that Ishmael might live before you" was the same as saying:

- "Oh let what I can see and believe of my natural strength be the fulfillment of the promise."
- "Oh, let my own works and what I can believe be the answer."
- "Do not ask me to trust in the impossible."
- "Let not something that is totally in the unseen realm (where I have absolutely no control) be my only hope!"

It could also be concluded that Abraham was of the mind that he had already received his heir and that Ishmael was the promised seed. God always has a

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beautiful plan for this place of impossibility. We will see this progression take place in both Abraham and Sarah. Nonetheless, it is important to take a close look at this initial response as it is where so many wrong theologies and misunderstandings of the will of God are born. So much is spoken and taught regarding the will of God. Additionally, there is much confusion around answered prayer. Let's face it, many prayers that we have prayed were not answered. Either in the way we expected or not at all. The only place for most to go is into the abyss of all the religious phrases and mantras to try and make some sense of it all. **The gap between prayers prayed and prayers unanswered is the breeding ground of religion and traditions that become the foundations for unbelief.**

I know I have mentioned these previously, but they are such an enemy of faith and the dominion of Christ:

- Guess it wasn't God's will.
- All things work together for good.
- God answers prayer in three ways- yes, no and wait.
- God works in mysterious ways.
- What about Job?
- I guess this wasn't God's timing.
- Paul's thorn... on and on we can go.

These statements find their origin in unbelief and are just human rationalizations to justify the unbelief. I implore you to pause any possible offense as I continue to discredit their truth. Notice Abraham prays a prayer, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!" Where did this prayer come from? Did it not come from his own strength and his own understanding? Did it not come from the seen realm where no faith was required? It came from a place where he could believe. It was not from the place of hope. In [Romans 8:24](#) it says, "*why does a man hope for what he sees, we hope for what we do not see.*" Look at the Lord's response to Abraham's request in [Genesis 17:19-21](#), *Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will*

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multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year." Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

God said "no" to this natural prayer that was from Abraham's own mind and strength. The covenant is a covenant of *faith*. **This is the reason so many of our prayers go unanswered because we ask from a place of what we can believe in our natural man when the promise can only be received by faith.** The will of God is realized by faith. It will be beyond your strength and your natural thought progression. We are faced with situations and we default to our own solutions as to how we could possibly see them come to pass. We will attach imaginations to our prayers as we scheme, configure, and reconfigure outcomes.

These imaginations were birthed from a place of striving and plotting. God has an "Isaac expectation" and an "Isaac plan" that is beyond any aspect of our own strength. This "Isaac Expectation" (please permit this metaphor as we continue) is latent in every seed/promise. **As I humble myself and submit my prayers to the promise, my will, desires, expectations align to the promise instead of my own natural remedies.** As I am submitting them to the perfect will of God for my life, I am submitting to the life of Christ within me. The seed is the word and the word is Christ himself. I am now creating a birth canal for the life of Christ to be manifest in every place of my life and need. As my heart begins to be overtaken by Christ (in the promise) I will begin to speak forth this life.

When I declare the promises, I am declaring that my will has been crucified with Christ, as Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." I am declaring that the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. There is no spirit of the world in the promises. There is no lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life. There is no asking with wrong motives and selfishness. There is no seeking your own way in believing the promises. This explains why Jesus was so confident in John 15:7 when he said, "If you abide in me and my word abide in you, you will ask what you will and it shall be done for you."

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Jesus knew that his sacrifice was complete and that his word was Spirit and life. He knew that His word, which is the Morningstar, embodied his entire person and would eradicate the spirit of the world from our spirit, soul and body. The promise does this apart from your efforts. Our responsibility is to choose the promise and believe. The "exceeding great and precious promises" will join you to the divine nature causing you to escape the lust of the world. The lust of the world includes all solutions, desperate measures, and manipulations of the world. If we will put our entire trust in the *rhema* promise that the Spirit speaks to us, we will not default to our own works, thoughts, or schemes. We will not be able to say that it must happen the way we have imagined or resolved the way we think according to our limited view. Instead, we give full course to the promise to shine its light on the eternal solution that lies hidden in the seed as a finished work.

Make no mistake, there will most certainly, without question, come a union and realization of the promise with your thoughts, ideas and plans. The precise salvation in the seed will begin to make its way into your thoughts, desires and plans. Your desires and plans will now be from the seed of the promise. They will be of the divine nature. When this takes place, you will know, and it will be unmistakable. There will be such a distinctly different resonance to these thoughts and plans as opposed to your fleshly, natural mind simply clamoring for something to happen a certain way. Your default response will be a realization of the promise that will create imaginations and thoughts that align with the promise.

Is this not the progression of Abraham and Ishmael? He could not believe for the true salvation that was in the promise of God. He prayed for what he could believe. However, when the true promise was revealed to him that Isaac was the true heir and would come from Sarah, it was so far beyond his ability to believe that he turned to the cry of his flesh. Abraham fell on his face in total hopelessness and weakness. What was in fact the promise of his eternal blessing and the answer to his longing was viewed as unobtainable and caused him sorrow. This is where the beauty and power of the cross emerges. Out of death comes resurrection life. Out of weakness comes strength. We know that Abraham went from this place of total weakness to the reality stated in Romans 4:18-21, *who, contrary to hope, in*

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*hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. **He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."***

What about Sarah?

We also know Sarah's response when she overheard that she was going to have a child from the three men sent to Abraham's tent. This was her response included in Genesis 18:10-15: *And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore, Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"*

Hebrews 11:11-12 also recounts this story in Genesis 18:10-15. *"By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."*

Let's do a quick recap:

1) We have Abraham falling prostrate on his face in obvious anguish at the impossibility of the way the promise was going to come forth.

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- 2) Sarah mocks the promise of God with laughter.
- 3) Abraham grew to full assurance in what God had promised.
- 4) Sarah judged Him faithful who had promised.

How does one go from utter unbelief and the brink of despair to full assurance? The phrase "fully assured" is expressed in many other translations as: "fully convinced, persuaded, certain, absolutely confident, supremely confident."⁷

How does this happen? Is it by the will of the individual? Is it by their power or determination? Is it by some mental discipline or ascent? No! This place of faith had nothing to do with Abraham or Sarah except that they positioned themselves to hear. They positioned themselves to hear and the promise did the heavy lifting.

CHAPTER 7

THE SHARP SWORD OF THE "TODAY VOICE"

According to 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." The promise will go into the depth of your heart and slay the unbelief that is holding you hostage.

The *rhema* voice of Christ in the promise will eradicate every vestige of unbelief. Our responsibility is to cast the seed into our thoughts, feelings, passions – our heart. Pay attention until the day dawns and the Morningstar (the revelation of Christ) arises in our hearts. Our hearts are overwhelmed with the faith of Christ that is in the voice of the promise. Un-



belief is slain. When we begin to declare the voice of Christ, His life comes forth into our world. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the *rhema* of Christ. This *rhema* voice that the book of Hebrews in chapter 4 verse 7 calls the "Today Voice" is in every promise. It is in every revelation that the Holy Spirit reveals to you. The promise given to Abraham confirmed that he would be the Father of many nations and that his descendants would be as innumerable as the stars of heaven. The promise of Isaac went deep into his heart and faith was born. This faith exceeded his plan to make Ishmael the heir. The promise has everything in it to overcome the most entrenched forms of unbelief. There is no unbelief that can hide or stand in the presence of the active and alive word of God, no matter the longevity or depth of that unbelief. This is the true understanding of Hebrews 4:11-13 that we have referenced earlier. Take the time to reference the message series, "Today if You Will Hear His Voice..." to gain a fuller understanding of this beautiful truth.

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Let's examine Hebrews 4:11-13 in greater detail. Hebrews 4:12 says this, *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.* The alive *rhema* voice of the revelation of Christ is in every promise and every discourse of the Spirit goes into our hearts. This revelation finds the deep places, the "joints and marrow". "Marrow" represents the deepest places of your heart where unbelief has the stronghold and the preeminence. The word of Christ then discerns or judges the unbelief in your heart. Verse 13, states that *"there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."* This means there is nothing in creation (this is the true meaning of creature) that can hide from his sight. Notice now the word of God is referred to as "He" because the word of God is Christ Himself! The word of Christ will find and expose the root of your unbelief. All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him. This literally means to "lay bare the neck defenseless to be slain". This is what the word of Christ will do to the deepest roots of our unbelief.

The last phrase in verse 13 says, "open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account". At first glance, this seems to mean that we are to give an account of our behavior and try not to hide our real agenda. Many translations appear to lean this way, but the Jubilee Bible captures the truest intention of the Greek in Hebrews 4:13 with this translation, "but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him of whom we speak". When we hear the today promise of the Word of Christ, it begins to separate us from the soulish realm unto the Spirit. The active Word of Christ now goes deep into our hearts and confronts the deepest roots in our lives that are causing the unbelief. It confronts our history and all the things that have made us the way we are. There are roots to our fears, anxieties and unbelief. The "Today Voice" slays the unbelief and replaces it with the very faith of Christ that is living in the promise. We now speak this word of faith. Nothing shall be hidden or impossible before Him of whom we speak! The risen Christ at the right hand of the Father is now the high priest of this confession. Hebrews 2:1 says, *"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus."*

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Jesus is both the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. This means that He is both the originator or the one who sent the confession, and the one who offers and backs the confession before the Father. Now, look back at Hebrews 4:14-16: ***Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

Christ speaks a *rhema* word to you and brings a promise or a full revelatory discourse to your understanding. This is his "Today Voice" that exceeds what you have heard in the past even if it is dealing with an issue that has been in your life for multiple years or even decades. This is a new voice that is greater than any stronghold. This new word becomes your confession. The voice of Christ has now become the Apostle of your confession. He has established this word in your heart. He now becomes the High Priest of this confession in the very presence of God. Just as the High Priest in the Old Covenant presented the sacrifice in the holy place of the temple for the atonement of sin, Jesus (our New Covenant) High Priest offers up our confession of the "Today Voice" before the Father. Jesus has offered His own blood once and for all. Therefore, His High Priestly ministry continually makes intercession for us presenting our confession before the presence of God. The confession of his completed work expressed in His promises to us. We boldly proclaim this confession before the throne of grace with Jesus, our High Priest.

We have a High Priest who is sympathetic with our weaknesses. In this context, weakness is defined as the weakness to believe in the face of embedded unbelief. Jesus, who was made like us in every way, knows the struggle of believing in the face of no natural hope. He knows how difficult it is in our humanity to believe past lifetime strongholds. He also is faithful and knows that his "Rhema-Today-Voice" will shatter all unbelief at its core. He is the author and finisher of our faith. Do you see what is backing your confession of the word of God? We cannot lose if we will truly take these things to heart and not let them go.

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"Ishmael Works" and "Isaac Expectation"

In summary, when you set yourself before the presence of God, you avail yourself to the Holy Spirit who will speak a *rhema* word to you as He illumines a promise in your heart. Remain with the Lord and stay committed to His Word. Pay attention until the day dawns and the Morningstar arises in your heart. The "more sure word of prophecy" will become *rhema* to you. The "today voice" of Christ is in that promise and will become your understanding. **This voice will carry with it the rest of God, the faith of Christ, the person of Christ, and the divine nature of God. It carries with it the authority and purpose of Christ.** This word will cleanse your desires. It will unite you with the will of God, the finished work. The finished work is the salvation that has already been completed for you.

Stay with it until the revelation of the mystery of Christ rises in your thoughts and feelings. The promise will begin to change your understanding and confess prophetic declarations. Your own solutions and remedies will begin to wane. Your own works, plans, and schemes will no longer compete for your thoughts and actions. Faith in Christ begins to take its rightful place. Faith in Christ has come through hearing and hearing by the *rhema* of Christ. You are hearing the "today voice" of Christ in the promise. This voice now exceeds all the other voices. It exceeds the voices of unbelief of the past. It exceeds all the times you prayed previously and it did not happen. This is a new voice. As the writer of Hebrews says, *If Joshua had given them rest, he would not afterwards have spoken of "another day"*. This is another day because this voice has eradicated all that is in you which cannot believe. It has eradicated all our own "Ishmael Works", prayers and expectations and replaced them with the "Isaac Expectation". The expectancy of faith is far beyond anything we could have accomplished in our own works. It is expectancy that does not need any natural hope or support. We are now hoping in faith. This is the New Covenant of living by the faith of Christ, living by promise. All of this takes place as a result of the power that is latent in the seed. You cannot possibly strive to be fully assured against the impossible by anything you could do. You plant the seed, go to sleep and get up. As Mark 4:27 states, *"...the earth (heart) brings forth the destiny in the seed and you know not how."*

CHAPTER 7

THE SHARP SWORD OF THE "TODAY VOICE"

This is what happened to Abraham and Sarah. The word of Christ is well able to impart this faith to any heart in any condition. They both went from complete unbelief to full assurance. Yet, their external environment remained the same. They both were too old to have children. To walk in full assurance and certainty is a beautiful thing and this assurance is in the seed of the "*Rhema*-Today-Voice" of Christ.

Labor to Enter His Rest

This is what it means to "labor to enter his rest". "Labor" in the Greek means to "Make haste" like a weary, thirsty traveler in a dry desert would run to a pool of water.⁸ Does it involve effort? Yes, but it is effort born of inspiration and hope, not obligation. We tend to labor against our problems and the issues of life. We put forth effort to find solutions, pulling our hair out to solve the complexities of life. **Instead, make haste to pay attention to the "more sure word of prophecy" and stay with it until the revelation of the dominion of Christ rises from that promise and light shines in your heart.** This will destroy unbelief. Worry and anxiety will be destroyed. This is the job of the Word of Christ apart from anything you could do. The Holy Spirit will teach you all these things. Set your heart to receive these things and they will come to pass. You will grow from glory to glory and become strong in these things. Does this require patience? Yes, but all the grace you need is in His voice. When faith comes, patience is not an issue. The fruit of patience will be imparted as well. It is through faith and patience that you inherit the promises. Did you get that? Promises are inherited by faith not earned. They are received by illumination and revelation through deep intimate fellowship with Christ Himself.

CHAPTER 8

THE GESTATION PERIOD OF THE SEED

When we mention patience in the context of the parable of the sower, we by necessity must think of the gestation period of the seed. *"The Kingdom of God is as a man would cast seed into the ground"* according to Mark 4:26.

The progression of the seed first includes the blade, then the head, and, finally, the full grain in the head. We have discussed earlier that this progression or gestation period of the seed takes place in our hearts. Once the heart/mind is renewed and unbelief is conquered, then we confess out of the abundance of our heart the salvation that is in the seed/promise. It is during this gestation period that so many are defeated. It is for this reason

that Jesus went to such great lengths to make us aware of wayside ground, shallow ground, and ground mixed with thorns. Make no mistake, none of these grounds can withstand understanding the revelation of the mystery of Christ that we have revealed throughout this writing.



Timing of the Lord

We need to be intimately acquainted with the gestation period of the promise. Are we saying that things cannot happen immediately or in a moment of time? Absolutely not! We see examples in the scriptures of things taking place suddenly and we never wish to limit this expression. It is also true that in most cases things take place in our lives...over time. This brings us to the concept of "The Timing of the Lord." I put this phrase in quotations because you hear it so much as a response to various situations and circumstances. In many cases, it is used to try

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and explain why something did not or has not happened. When it is used in this context, I find it to be just one of many religious phrases to explain unbelief or why things have not progressed as we hoped. However, without question, there is certainly a timing of the Lord. I certainly do not argue there is not a timing of the Lord, but there does not have to be a disconnect between the timing of the Lord and our expectancy.

One day, many years ago, I perceived the Holy Spirit speaking to me regarding this question of the timing of the Lord. Jesus clearly established that the kingdom of God operates as if a man would cast the word of God/mystery of Christ into his thoughts, mind, and understanding. He clearly places this into an agricultural analogy. Word equals seed (Word=Seed), while heart equals ground (Heart=Ground).

A critical question emerges:

What farmer plants seed and is completely oblivious to an expected harvest time?

Any farmer who has any skill at all will be intimately acquainted with the expected gestation period of the seed which he has planted. He will know when to expect the blade, when to see the head and when the full grain should appear. If not, then he will be wringing his hands never sure of what is taking place. If he is expecting to see the blade in three days and the gestation period is three weeks he may give up and walk away. He will conclude, "this seed planting thing is a farce, it does not work!" He then goes to find out how to gain a harvest in some other way, but there is no other way. He was on the proper path but was not aware of the process and forfeited his harvest. He simply was not in tune with the gestation period. Remember the parable of the kingdom spoken of earlier. The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. Though the smallest of all seeds, when sown it becomes greater than all the trees. The promise may seem insignificant against your enormous, long-standing issue. However, it will become greater than all of your strongholds if believed and allowed to come to full maturity. The kingdom of God is designed like the gestation period of the seed. A farmer understands the

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timing of the seed's germination. Therefore, as children of God who have the mind of Christ, we should be in tune with the *rhema* word of Christ He has sown in our hearts. Jesus describes himself as the vine and we are the branches in John 15:1-8. There is an unbreachable harmony between the vine and the branch. There is a connection that is unparalleled in any other relationship. The branch and the vine are one and the growth impulses are shared between the vine and the branch. The only way the branch is cut off is if it does not abide in the vine. You abide if you believe in Christ and fellowship with Him.

There is most certainly a timing of the Lord, but we do not have to be in the dark as to this timing. There does not have to be a breach and disconnect with our expectancy and the set harvest of the seed. We can have fellowship with the vine as he gives life to the branch. We can participate in the union of the blade, head and full grain developing.

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire realized is a tree of life", according to Proverbs 13:12. Our Father does not want us living a life whereby we are disappointed in our expectation. He does not want our hearts sick by thinking something is not coming because it has not come yet. He does not want us to be a victim of unbelief. He wants us in union with His timing. He wants our expectation to be joined to His. This reality is already in us in Christ. We have the mind of Christ and must believe and reach for this place of union and light. The timing of the Lord does not have to be some mysterious, unobtainable, shadowy place in which we simply grope around. Rather, it can be a place of fellowship and light. We can both embrace and participate in the gestation period of the seed. We can be in tune in the same way that the farmer knows the way of the seed that he has planted. We can be in union with the timing of the Lord in the same way that the branch is in union 1 Corinthians 2:16, "...But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart."

Let's return to Abraham for a moment and take a bit of a unique perspective of the promise given to him. Let us now look at it in the context of the timing of the Lord.

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A Very Present Help

Abraham was seventy-five years old when God appeared to him and promised that his descendants would be as the stars. He was eighty-six when Ishmael was born and ninety-nine when the Lord appeared to him in Genesis 17 and given the promise of Isaac through Sarah. He was one hundred years old when Isaac was born. So, we can see that twenty-five years passed from the promise given to the promise received. Before I go any further, please do not superimpose this length of time to your situation or on the things that you are believing God to bring to fruition in your life. This entire point of viewing these events as an example for us is to be at one with the will of God and the gestation period of the seed. There are promises God wants to put in you to see fulfilled in days or weeks. Others may be for a bit of a longer period of time. Still yet others, may be for many months or years in the future. The point is that you are in tune with these gestation periods and the "timing of the Lord." There does not have to be an uneasy disconnect between your heart's desires and the time of harvest for those desires. God is not going to make you wait twenty-five years for something that you need now. This should go without saying, but religion can play some dirty tricks with your mind so I thought it best to share some of these things.

I am reminded of the Psalmist in [Psalm 46:1-2](#): *God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.* I am also reminded of Hebrews 4:16, *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* The International Standard Version says... *"grace to help us in our time of need."*

The Amplified Classic says, *"...find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]."*

The truth is there are some things we need asap...as in we needed it yesterday. There are other things that we are at peace with receiving a few days or weeks from now. There are other things that are in the wistful future. They are the "one day I would like to" kind of things. The Holy Spirit wants us to be "in the now" with

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Him in these things. He wants communion with us as we walk out these things so we do not grow weary or disinterested.

The main emphasis is God wants to meet us at the point of our need. He does not want there to be a disconnect between our expectancy and the gestation period of the seed. Some might say at this point, "There has been plenty of times that I wanted something really bad and it had to wait way beyond my time of need." There is not one person reading this who cannot make this statement. This is the reason it is so important that we understand these things. We are gaining wisdom so that we are at one with the Spirit and do not experience these breaches and disconnects that cause so much pain. Additionally, we cannot disconnect from Him just because we are not seeing the blade. We must not allow anything to stop us from abiding in Him. If we "join" or "abide" in adverse theology or erroneous theological cliches from well-intentioned Christians, then our seed that was producing will be uprooted. Stay connected and abide in the Vine. Protect your seed (promise) by engaging in His Word. That seed/promise will go deeper in the soil and nothing will interrupt its power to produce. The Holy Spirit wants to minister to us if we are in a place where we are getting uneasy and there is no peace because of delay, He wants to bring us into communion with the gestation period so our expectancy is one with the seed of the promise.

Let's return to Abraham for a moment. I want you to see that what we just discussed is demonstrated in the promise to Abraham. Take a closer look at the overall progression. At the age of seventy-five, the Lord makes the promise to Abram that he would have an heir from his own body. From this heir would spring forth descendants greater than the number of the stars. At the age of eighty-six, Ishmael is born from Hagar. Then at the age of ninety-nine, the Lord comes to Abram and renames him Abraham (Father of many nations). He both re-establishes and expands the original promise he had made to Abram approximately twenty-five years previous. Genesis 17:7 states, "*And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.*"

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Do you see the progression of the promise? When God made the initial promise to Abram, this was not a promise that Abram was expecting now. I believe Abram received the promise and believed it, but he also knew it was for "one day" and was contented in this place. As the years passed, God brought to fruition many things in Abram's life and made him increasingly wealthy. I am convinced that he was walking before the Lord receiving his daily bread and blessings of all sorts. He was not desperately pining for the promise because he was in tune with the gestation period and knew that it was not time. He was being blessed and receiving the fruit from the promise all along the way. God had made a promise to Abram regarding descendants and inheriting lands on several occasions. This happened before the promise of his descendants would be as the stars of heaven in chapter 15. This is a vast subject and has application far beyond the specific context of the gestation period of the promise that we are scrutinizing now. So, staying focused on this angle, look how the promised matured inside of Abram/Abraham. The "one day" promise was being established in his heart by several encounters with God speaking this to him. The next phase we see some anxiety being expressed by Sarai. It is at Sarai's angst of being barren that Abram is convinced to lay with Hagar. Ishmael is born and it becomes obvious that Abram believes Ishmael is the heir that God had spoken to him. We have already discussed the significance of this analogy to trying to bring forth the promise in our own works. However, now the Lord comes to Abram and says, " ...one year from today!" The "one day" promise is beginning to take on a different urgency and expectancy. The Spirit is moving in the heart of the hearer, creating a new expectancy. The vine is giving impulse to the branch. The promise has changed from blade to ear. The promise of God has moved from the wistful "one day" and crescendos to a specific time of harvest. The blade, the ear, and eventually the full grain will appear. We can be in union with this progression of the seed and be one with this process. Our desires and expectancy can be joined to this process so we are not disconnected which leads to frustration, disappointment, wrong conclusions, and beliefs.

Chronos and Kairos

This gives rise to the terms *chronos* and *kairos*. I am sure you have heard these

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terms explained before, but they have significant relevance in understanding the timing of the Lord. **While Chronos refers to chronological or sequential time, Kairos signifies a period or season, a moment of indeterminate time in which an event of significance happens.** While *Chronos* is quantitative, *Kairos* has a qualitative or permanent nature." Kairos is the qualitative time of life. The Greeks considered it the most appropriate for something new. The concept has its origins in the practice of Greek archery, representing the moment when the archer finds the perfect opening to shoot his arrow and hit his target.⁹ The time that elapsed from promise given to Abram regarding the stars of heaven is *Chronos*. The Lord speaking to him "One year from today" is *Kairos*. During the *Chronos* times we receive the daily manna. We do not despise these times. Patience is having its perfect work. Faith is growing. Your own works are being eradicated and put to death. Your own desires are being purified and aligned with the heart of God by the word of God/promise. All external alignments are being worked. All the situations, circumstances, and relationships are being arranged and set in order.

We can be in sync and one with the Spirit during the gestation period. Can we lengthen or shorten this period? Yes, we can and the most enlightening example of this would be the example of Israel leaving Egypt with the promise of Canaan before them. Of course, we know that it took forty years for this to take place, but did you know that the promise was supposed to be fulfilled to them in less than 24 months! That's right, less than two years. Historians have different calendars to consider, but most all agree it was around twenty-one months from the Exodus of Egypt to the time God commanded spies to be sent into Canaan.¹⁰ Unbelief was the determining factor between less than two years versus forty years of wandering. God said they were well able to take the land, but they did not believe and the wandering in the wilderness was the result. If we do not allow the word of God to root deeply into our hearts, faith will not be born and the promise will not be harvested. There is a proper timing and gestation of the promise. In this case, it was less than two years for this journey. Both Joshua and Caleb were in tune with this gestation period. Caleb resisted the report of the spies and declared that they were well able to take the land. It was said of Caleb that he followed God with his

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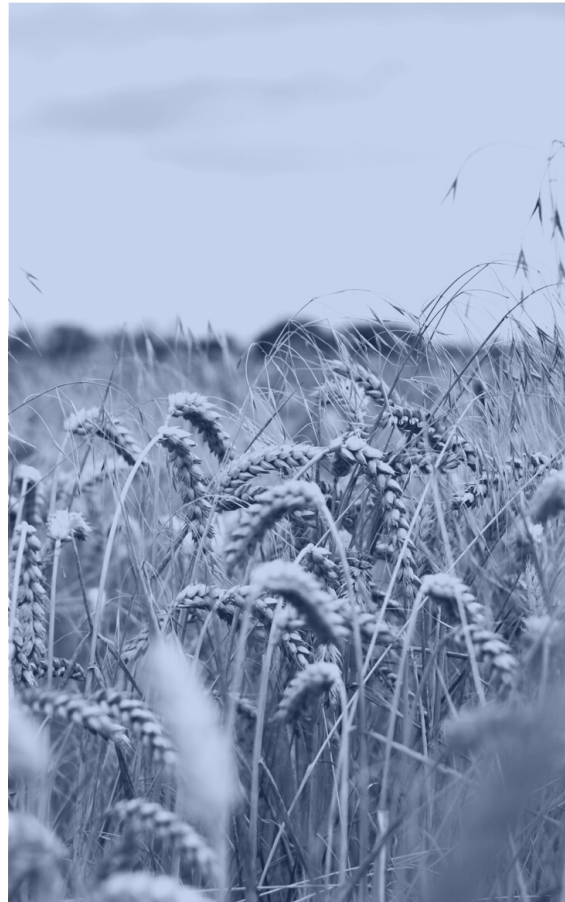
whole heart. He was in communication with God and knew that the *Kairos* time had come. This long delay of the fulfillment of the promise had nothing to do with the sovereign will of God or the timing of the Lord. The issue laid entirely upon the hearts of the hearer.

The seed is releasing power from the moment it is sown in our hearts. When we do not see any evidence that the seed is working, energy is being released and growth is taking place. I believe we can be sensitive to this unseen energy as the blade is coming forth in our understanding. When a woman becomes pregnant, she is intimately acquainted with the gestation period and the stages of the development. She is aware of the release and development of life that is going on inside of her. At first, there is little evidence except simply knowing that the seed has been planted. As time and patience is given its place, things begin to take place that reinforce the release of energy that has been taking place all along. At some point, visible evidence begins to emerge. The same energy is being released in every seed that is planted in the earth. Enormous energy is being released in the unseen places of the earth as the seed begins to unveil the destiny that is within itself. I know that we can be in tune with this progression.

CHAPTER 9

THE "TIMING OF THE LORD"

Not too long ago, I began to get a bit antsy (which is an understatement) regarding a business idea that had been given to me by inspiration of the Spirit. I had been working on it as best I could in the context of my other responsibilities. Quite some time had passed, and I felt that everything was dormant. I began to ask the Holy Spirit questions. Am I supposed to just keep waiting this out? Is there anything I can do to move this along and get things steadily moving? Can I do this without getting into my own works and creating an "Ishmael"? Is there a balance somewhere? Was God waiting on me to do, hear, or understand something to which I was simply oblivious? I was acutely aware of not getting into my own works, but I also felt that things were not moving as they should. Not getting into "your own" works does not mean there will not be works or activity because faith has works, but these works will not be your own. I felt an urging to move things forward but by faith and inspiration. The reality at this stage was I had done all I could do or knew to do and was at an impossible impasse. We needed boatloads of money to make this thing go in earnest. I had tried to raise money but this was very difficult for complete startups to say the least. I pitched the idea to some investors and received a lot of interest and initial verbal promises to fund. At the end of the day, I only received one written offer from that presentation and it was completely untenable. They wanted massive equity. If I would have accepted the offer, I would have had zero motivation to grow the business. This brilliant engineer I was working with had brought my vision to life, but he could only work on it in his spare time as he had a full- time job. I could not pay him anything and he was



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worth \$150 hr. at least. We had agreed to give him a small equity position for his time. So, it was going to be a slow go in the present situation. I had an animated product demonstration video developed of the proposed unit. I was able to do this on a shoestring (animation videos can be expensive) using students at the Savannah School of Art and Design in Atlanta. It was this video that began to generate interest with investors. I also had a major player in the sales and marketing field of the medical equipment industry show some cursory interest when I described the unit to him. He had stopped returning my calls and emails for the past eighteen months, but when I sent him the animation video, he responded within ten minutes. So, there was some tangible development, but without a working prototype we were still just treading water. The cost of a going through the research and development necessary to construct a working unit was exorbitant. It would take hundreds of high dollar engineering hours. Yet, without a working unit and ability to test it in the market- place and receive feedback we had little negotiation leverage with investors. The risk was too high for them and they wanted a large portion of the business. It's just the way it generally works.

I began to muse upon these questions I posed earlier. As I began to express this aspect of my humanity to the Holy Spirit, He began to open my understanding to some new thoughts. Remember, praying how you know to pray at a given moment is all you can do. It is through these prayers that we find intimacy with God. He receives all our prayers. It is the prayers of your humanity that God wishes to mature and elevate to unified declarations of His completed work. We cannot bypass our humanity trying to pray the perfect prayer. Our hearts are deeply yearning and the Holy Spirit wants to connect the salvation of Christ with our yearnings. He wants to join the eternal salvation that is in His promises with our yearnings so that we began to be at one with the declarations of His voice. He wishes to supplant or elevate our human cries and prayers with the more sure word of prophecy of the Morningstar. Our natural cries from our humanity at any given point of our journey is precious to God. So much so that Jesus experienced every aspect of our humanity in every situation at every stage of our lives. He wants to connect His resurrection life, His Today voice and swallow up our humanity with

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His life. So that our prayers evolve from "Oh let Ishmael live before you" to the declaration of the Isaac promise that is in every scripture. We want to draw out the "Today voice" that carries the rest of God. That carries the faith of Christ and the dominion of Christ. The confidence and assurance of Christ no matter the situation. The heart cry of Abraham's humanity "Oh let Ishmael live before you" became the faith filled assurance of Isaac's birth.

Effectual, Fervent Prayer

I remember hearing the familiar passages of scripture from James 5 regarding effectual, fervent prayer. I had not perceived this passage in the context of these questions that remained unanswered in my heart. James 5:16 states that if we, *"Confess [our] trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*

It was the second part of this verse that the Holy Spirit was illuminating to me to provide answers to my questions. The Holy Spirit can take any scriptures and customize them to your need even if they are not necessarily in the contextual flow of that passage or book. He can do this without violating the original context of that scripture. He was going to apply effectual fervent prayer to my stagnant business. This scripture is talking about healing and forgiveness in this context, but an effectual, fervent prayer can be applied to any instance as verses 17-18 of James 5 confirm: *"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit."*

So, if James can go from healing and forgiveness than certainly this same progression can happen for my stagnant business idea. James progressed from healing to forgiveness to praying that it will not rain to praying it will rain. If James can progress to an effectual, fervent prayer, then I can claim this same prayer progression for myself. I looked up the words "effective" and "fervent" in the Greek. I was genuinely surprised to see its meaning. The Greek word is *Energeo*

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and it is defined as: To be operative, be at work, put forth power; to work for one, aid one to effect, to display one's activity, show one's self, operative.¹¹

The adjectives "effective" and "fervent" or as the King James says, "effectual, fervent" is only used one time in all of scripture in James 5. However, *Energeo* is used multiple times and expressed in different ways. Of course, as you might have guessed this is where the word "energy" is derived. The most powerful use of the Greek word *Energeo* is in Philippians 2:12-13, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works (*energeo*) in you both to will and to do (*energeo*) for His good pleasure. Who would have thought that the Greek word *energeo* could be translated effectual, fervent in one place and "works/do" in another? It is in this diverse expression of the word *energeo* that the revelation is hidden. Colossians 1:29 states, "To this end I also labor, striving according to His working (*energeia*) which works (*energeo*) in me mightily (*Dynamis*)."

- 1) *Energeia* is virtually the same word with the same meaning: efficiency-("energy") operation, strong, (effectual) working.
- 2) *Dynamis* – Strength, power, ability – associated with the resurrection power of Christ.¹²

Let's address those questions from earlier.

- 1.) Why were things seemingly so dormant?
- 2.) Is it my fault that things are not progressing?
- 3.) Is there something that I should be doing?
- 4.) Is there something to which I am unaware?

I was intrigued by these scriptures and I knew the Holy Spirit was trying to teach me something new. I began to declare that it was God who was in me urging me to work out the salvation that He had placed in me with reverence and awe. It is God who is "operative, at work, putting forth power to work for me, to aid and affect, to display activity, showing myself operative". However, all of this would be apart from my works, my own sweat and toil. This would be by the inspiration of the

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Spirit not the perspiration of my own efforts. This *energeo* of God was for God's good pleasure. This was bringing pleasure to God. What does [Hebrews 11:6](#) say... "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him.*" I can only conclude that what He places in my heart will be that of faith. My effectual, operative, activity will be founded on faith – the substance and evidence of what I hope for. It will be a result of motivation, desire and passion in what I hope for that God's *energeo* flows. It will not be a demand of prerequisite dead works of "obedience".

Please hear what I am saying! It is God who is working in you both to will and do through the hope and desires of your heart in the substance and evidence of that hope and desire. He will not lead you by arduous sacrifice and legalistic obedience. The New Testament is the obedience of faith not to laws and commands. Your desires have been cleansed and purified by the promise/word of God as we have stated throughout this writing. In short, the *energeo* was now operative and showing forth activity and progress. So, yes, this was the key to the dormant being infused with the "effectual, fervent" of God. God wanted to work in me both to will and do of His good pleasure. I had to get in tune with this salvation that was to be worked out. I began to see from [Colossians 1:29](#) that Paul labored, striving (which means to the point of exhaustion) but did he do so by his own works? No, but by Christ's *energeia* that became *energeo* in him by the power of God. God by His Spirit was now beginning to work in me effectually and fervently. Christ was operating and displaying activity. So, I was no longer going to be dormant and just sit and wait. Nor was I going to just go off and start trying to make something happen with my own sweat and effort. There are times when you do not see anything happening, but you will be in tune with the seed and the gestation period. You, the branch, are in tune with the vine. You will know when it is time for effectual, fervent activity. You will know when it is time to labor or strive according to His working. When the seed begins to germinate in your heart, you will know and you will begin to work out the salvation that is in that seed.

As I began to say and expect these things to take place in my heart from [Colossians 1:29](#) and [Philippians 2:12-13](#), I was elevated out of the dormant stage

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and things began to progress. This is when the investor completely and unexpectedly offered us the substantial sum of finances to fund our prototype development. I was introduced to other important contacts in the marketing and sales aspect of our endeavor. We are progressing and as we progress, so does my heart and mind in faith for the promise to produce. Movement, progress, growth is all taking place according to His working that is working in us mightily. The main point to be seen from these things is to be in union with the Spirit and to flow with the progression of the seed of His Word spoken to you. There will be times of quiet waiting as you are in communion with the Holy Spirit, but there will be times of intense and precise guided action all in perfect harmony with the will of God for your life. Will there be bumps in the road? Will there be possible times of lethargy, dullness and maybe some ill-advised decisions? This is all part of the potential of the human experience, but you do not give up on the end game of being in intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit and bringing forth the fruit of the Word of God spoken to you.

In conclusion, I trust that the parable of the sower will be a rich foundation with which the destiny of God will be expressed in your life. I trust the mystery of Christ will be the cornerstone for the will of God to come forth in its fullest measure. When you are confronted with religious sayings and mantras, you will sift through it with the revelation of the "Parable of the Sower" and stay on course. You are able to declare, "I understand the "Parable of the Sower" and now I can understand *all* things.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: APPENDIX

“Parable of the Sower” from the Gospel of Mark 4:1-32

And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. 2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: 3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." 9 And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" 10 But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 11 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, 12 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.' "*

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 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. 18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the

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*deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 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."*21 Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? 22 For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." 24 Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. 25 For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." 30 Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? 31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; 32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

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