

Is the Word Producing in Your Life?

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Scripture References: Is. 55:1-11; Mk. 4:3-20; Jeremiah 17:9; Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4, 16:11

We get a lot of snow each year where we live in both Montana and Colorado. I'm sitting in my office now watching the lightly falling snow. Falling snow always reminds me of the Lord and also the scripture in Isaiah 55. It reminds me of the *Lord* because He gave me a powerful vision exactly 12 years ago today in Helena, Montana, (see *Revelations from God*, p. 95) I titled "Night Vision of the Snowfall." Snow is a symbol of both the Holy Spirit and the Body of Christ. Snowfall is comprised of *individual* snowflakes – no two are identical. This represents the Body of Christ. White, of course, symbolizes purity and righteousness. In the vision I was with a group of Christians in the mountains; we had an angel as our tour guide.

In the vision I was struck with two things: (1) how the gleaming snow covered everything, and (2) how it all fit together to cover the world. This is God's intent with His Church – although we are all individuals with different gifts and talents if we will allow Him to He will fit us together to cover the earth with His holiness, righteousness and glory.

Snowfall always reminds me of the word in Isaiah 55:8-11 that I preach from often where the Sovereign Lord reminds us: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.” This is why we need to read, study and meditate the Bible – God’s revelation of Himself to us – to *see* and understand God’s words and how He thinks. The more time we spend meditating the Word the better we are able to *think* clearly because we begin to think the way God does.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and **the snow from heaven**, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Remember, Jesus is the Word. As we partake of Him we have life (*cf.* Mt. 4:4 and Lk. 4:4) because He is both the Bread of Life and the Spirit of Life. But what is the Word producing in your life?

Let’s look at a key verse of Scripture that is found in the Gospels regarding this principle because the Lord wants you to focus on this for your own life right now!

“Hearken: Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not 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 not root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased, and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some a hundred.” ♥ Mark 4:3-9

“The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the wayside where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise, which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness. And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.” ♥ Mark4:14-19

Jesus gives us what He describes as the most important parable whose understanding is paramount to understanding all the others. And, incidentally, this parable certainly argues against the doctrine of eternal security. Although the Word of God is sown in all the world, the *soil* determines whether or not the seed produces and for how long it produces. The soil represents the hearts of people.

Jeremiah while writing under inspiration of the Spirit makes a very strong statement in 17:9: “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?” The condition of your heart is one of the most important things to God and it should be to you as well. Although we are born again by the Spirit we must mature and develop our recreated human spirits through the Word of God, prayer, holy living, etc., in order to purify our hearts.

I can tell you from experience because the Lord has given me a very strong gift of discerning of spirits that most Christians do not have pure hearts. This is the primary reason the Word of God is not producing in their lives. Let’s go back to Jesus’ parable of the sower.

Most Christians who are reading this fall into the second category Jesus gave in the parable – the seed falling among thorns. The Lord Jesus gave 3 reasons why the Word does not produce in their lives:

- The cares of this world
- The deceitfulness of riches
- The lusts of other things

The Lord said that these three things “choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” I’m sure you know that we’re living in the time the Bible says when “everything that can be shaken will be shaken.”

Those that have put their trust in government, gold, money, real estate, etc., are seeing their assets fly away. The stock market is going to go through a final climatic fall and whole governments are going to become insolvent. This began in 2008 and is still continuing. Governments, who do not represent the people but rather themselves and special interest groups, have spent all our money and taken on more and more debt that cannot be financed. This is all coming down. When? I don’t know; we’ve been praying about it for years but the Lord showed me in 2008 that it was not the final collapse but that the next one would be. I said in September, 2008, that it really was different this time. I believe this will happen as soon as the Federal Reserve begins raising interest rates later in 2010 but it could be postponed.

The point is, however, where is your trust? It cannot be in the world, wealth, or “the lust of other things.” Our investment should be in the Kingdom of God – Jesus said that is the true treasure that we can store up in Heaven where thieves could not steal it.

We store up treasures in Heaven by helping the poor; bringing people to Jesus, freeing the captives, visiting those in prison, helping the orphans and those with HIV. CCI is involved in all of

these things and that is where we continue to invest despite the economy dealing a blow to our finances.

I want to encourage you to make an extra effort this month to do more for the Kingdom of God. In order to be fruitful you must forget about “the cares of this world.” We’ve known and talked about the corruption in our government for decades that we’ve known by the Spirit. I’m glad Fox News is exposing some of this corruption in our government to the American people through programs like Glen Beck that have become popular but if that’s all you watch you’ll become “unfruitful” because such programs only focus on the cares of this world.

Likewise, just like the world almost all Christian ministries are focused on money – if you give them an offering they phone or write you every week with some survey trying to get you to give more. They also sell your name and phone number to others. This is wrong! That’s why we never do it. Like the world, many “ministries” have succumbed to the “deceitfulness of riches.” As the great missionary to China Hudson Taylor said, “Money never converted one person to Christ.”

Sure it takes money to operate a ministry but our focus must be on the souls of people and not on fund raising. Brother Taylor said many years ago, “God’s work done God’s way will never lack for support.” He never asked for offerings and neither do we at CCI. I’m not against taking up offerings by churches and ministries if it’s done honestly with no manipulation but, frankly, it’s not New Testament. The New Testament churches taught the doctrine of the Apostles which includes tithing but they did not *receive* offerings every Sunday but rather had a tithe/offering box modeled after the Jewish Temple and synagogues where the people placed their tithes and offerings without being coerced to do so.

The offerings Paul received and wrote about was a specific offering for the poor saints in Jerusalem – Paul didn’t take up an offering for

himself when he ministered and he didn't charge an admission fee for his famous Mars Hill Conference in Athens. No, he just trusted God to provide. You should tithe (10% of your gross income) and give offerings to the Lord but the correct way to do it is to "set it aside" as Paul wrote and then pray about where the Lord wants you to give. It's His money – let Him tell you where to give it. We pray for the Lord to show us His investments – where and who He wants us to support through our ministry and churches here and in Africa. But I can tell you from experience that the Lord's heart is focused on the poor – the orphans, those infected with HIV, those in prison who have nobody to visit them or care for them, etc. That's why we donate books, bibles and food/clothing to these from CCI.

Finally, the Lord talked about the word being choked and not producing by "the lust for other things." Today is Super Bowl Sunday. I saw that a ticket alone to the big game costs \$800. Now I like football, especially college football. But like anything else sports can become your god if you're not careful and cause you to lust after it devoting all your time to it.

Our society is becoming so corrupt from lust – most T.V. ads use lust of some kind or other to sell their products. And I think the fact that the latest comprehensive poll on church/ministry giving is interesting because it indicates that most Christians give God's money to some other "lust."

Because these numbers were taken prior to the current economic meltdown I'm sure the numbers are even worse today, but I think you'll find these facts interesting:

- 17% of adults claim to tithe; however, only 3% actually do
- 16% of born again Christians gave no money to his or her church
- 8% of those making \$20,000 or less gave at least 10% of their income to churches, while only 1% of those making over \$75,000 did so

- “Fully 45% of African American church members tithe” according to a newly released survey that the Gallup Organization conducted for the ITC in Atlanta.
- “There is more and more data that black churches are more involved [in tithing] than white churches, because the laity is more theological,” according to ITC’s Stephen Rasor
- Finally, the Gallup Poll numbers show that of the most successful people surveyed, the main scientific fact that correlated with their success was not education, where they were born, etc. But over 90% were substantial givers to charity. Of course that doesn’t mean they are Christians but just that God honors His word and gives to those who help the poor and less fortunate.

I believe these numbers clearly indicate that most Christians are giving the Lord’s money to the “lust of other things” and that’s one reason the Word is not producing in their lives. Now a lot of Christians get upset when their pastor preaches or speaks about money but, as we say in Texas where I was born, “I don’t have a dog in this fight” but I’m writing this to ask you to be honest with yourself and know that this may be an area that’s keeping the Word of God from producing in your life.

Jesus made a profound statement which I know by revelation confirms this principle:

“If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” ♥ Lk. 16:11

Many Christians will never walk in the true anointing and calling God has for them simply because they are unfaithful in the “unrighteous mammon.” This fact causes the Word – maybe it’s a *rhema* word given in prophecy – given to them by the Spirit to become “choked” and “unfruitful.”

Jesus castigated the churches of Asia in Revelation for deserting their first love (Him) and for allowing their love to grow cold. This is strongly predicted of our time as well and we see it more and more every month such that even many Christians have become selfish and self-centered. This will not get you anywhere with God and it will cause the Word to not produce in your life.

As I wrote in *The High Calling of God*, the Spirit of the Lord began whispering to me back in 1997 these words: “The world is waiting for a true demonstration of the Gospel.” Will you be that demonstration to somebody – some family – this month? Take some sacks of groceries to some poor families and put a gospel tract inside; visit the jail or prison near you; pray for the sick; help those families that don’t know the Lord – they’re in the paper every day.

Also, make it a priority in life to give yourself a spiritual checkup every month to see the condition of your heart – whether it’s grown cold or whether the Word of God is producing a great harvest in your life.

Maranatha