

## Your Prepared Heart

**Text: Isaiah 61:1** *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; <sup>2</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; <sup>3</sup> To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; **that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.***

**Introduction:** We are the ground that His Word is sown into. Not only does God's Word manifest in us but, every one of us have a profound effect on each other. We are the good ground as we receive His Word and Minister His Word by His Spirit to others.

1. The sower and the seed
2. Prepare your heart
3. Receive

### 1. The sower and the seed

- **Luke 8:11** *Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.*
- **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- **Luke 8:5** ***A sower went out to sow his seed:** and as he sowed, some fell by **the way side**; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup> And some fell **upon a rock**; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. <sup>7</sup> And some fell **among thorns**; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. <sup>8</sup> And other fell **on good ground**, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

**Mark 4:13 (NLT)** *Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?" <sup>14</sup> The farmer **plants seed by taking God's word to others.** <sup>15</sup> **The seed that fell on the footpath** represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. <sup>16</sup> **The seed on the rocky soil** represents **those who hear the message** and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. **They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.** <sup>18</sup> **The seed that fell among the thorns** represents others who hear God's word, <sup>19</sup> but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. <sup>20</sup> **And the seed that fell on good soil** represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"*

### 2. Prepare your heart

**Hosea 10:12** *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; **break up your fallow ground:** for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.*

- Break though in every resistant area of life
- A. Break up your fallow (hardened) ground

**Fallow:** newly cultivated field; i.e., that which has never produced a harvest. You must break up the hardened soil in order to receive the seed.

Take God at His Word and speak it as He is truth and break up and break free from every other voice as a lie!

**2 Corinthians 10:3** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup> Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; <sup>6</sup> And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

- The Word as a hammer & fire

**Jeremiah 23:28** *The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. **What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?***

- Boldly speak forth His Word from your Heart and Mouth

**Romans 10:6** *But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) <sup>7</sup> Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) <sup>8</sup> But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; <sup>9</sup> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto*

**righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup>For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

## **B. It is time to seek the Lord**

**Acts 17:24** *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; <sup>26</sup> And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; <sup>27</sup> That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: <sup>28a</sup> For in him we live, and move, and have our being.*

**Isaiah 26:9** *With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.*

- **Seek Him with your whole heart.**

### **1. Undivided commitment and diligence**

**Deuteronomy 4:29** *But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*

**Psalms 119:2** *Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*

**Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. <sup>12</sup> Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. <sup>13</sup> And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

### **2. Primarily and first, seek the Lord.**

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

### **3. No matter what the crisis, situation or distraction, focus on seeking the Lord.**

**2 Chronicles 20:1** *It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. <sup>2</sup> Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. <sup>3</sup> And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*

## **3. Receive**

**James 1:21 NLT** *So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*

**1 John 3:19** *And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. <sup>20</sup> For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. <sup>22</sup> And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. <sup>24</sup> And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

**Worship God through your First-Fruits, Tithes, Offerings and Sacrifices:**

**Lord of the Harvest: Luke 10:2** *Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

**The commandment to destroy all false gods and every area of compromise! 2 Chronicles 31:1** *Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.*

**4 Months of giving followed the breakthrough, God's people to give abundantly!**

**2 Chronicles 31:5** *And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithes of all things brought they in abundantly. <sup>6</sup> And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithes of oxen and sheep, and the tithes of holy things which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps. <sup>7</sup> In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. <sup>8</sup> And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel.*