

Dear Friend,

It is hard to believe we are starting a new decade. This year marks the fortieth anniversary of when Sue and I became Christians. Thank God for his undying love and His amazing grace for saving these two sinners from a godless eternity in hell. The awe and wonder that He would save people like us still brings to mind that old song ... "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." He did not leave us as wretched sinners. He not only forgave us through the blood of Christ, but He birthed us into His family by His own Spirit. God is our Father now. We are children of God.

We are not only still in awe of His love, but also in awe of the LIFE that is in His Word. The book of Hebrews tells us that the Word of God is alive. It is literally a living thing. All you have to do is go back and read Genesis chapter one and when there was nothing, God spoke, and His Word became what is. I'll always remember the first time this truth dawned on my mind years ago as I was meditating scripture and praying; "Everything that exists will respond to the Word of God because ... at its core ... everything IS the Word of God."

**John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.**

Nothing was made without the Word. Jesus told us exactly how to get the LIFE that is in the Word of God to manifest in our lives. He compared it to seed. I like to think of a corn seed when I meditate on this subject. Every corn seed has LIFE within it. But you could lay a corn seed on your coffee table and leave it there for forty years and that life would never manifest. That's what happens in most families with the Word of God too. They might have a family Bible that they proudly display on their coffee table for people to see when they visit. That Bible is full of LIFE, but it could be on display for forty years, and none of the life that is in it would ever become visible in the earth.

Think of the LIFE that is in the WORD. Salvation life. Healing life. Sanctification life. Miracle life. Prosperity life. Fellowship with God life. Fruit of the Spirit life like love, joy, peace, and so forth. So much LIFE in the Word, yet for most Christians, they carry their Bibles around like a farmer would carry a bag of seed. They want the LIFE in the Word of God to be manifest in their lives, but for most of them, they have very few harvests from the potential LIFE that is in the Word.

Just like the corn seed, there is only one way to get the LIFE that is in the seed of the Word to grow. IT MUST BE PLANTED IN THE HEART OF MAN. The Word of God is the seed. We are the soil. Said another way, the Word of God must be BELIEVED, in order for the life that is in it to grow and manifest in the earth. It is a "process" ... not a "one-time event." Growth takes time. God provided no natural seed on earth that manifests fruit the same day it is planted. He did that for a reason; so we would know that it takes some TIME for the Word of God to bring forth the fruit of the LIFE that is in it.

**Mar 4:26-29** And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; (27) And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. (28) For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. (29) But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

But what if you read the Word of God, you "think" you believe the Word of God, you "say" the Word of God ... and no fruit ever comes? Does that mean God's Word does not work? No, the truth is ... and many people get offended at this point in the teaching ... you don't believe the Word yet. God cannot lie. His Word cannot fail. If we don't see the manifestation of the Word of God, we are simply not yet believing it.

I will always remember, in my case, what it took for me to finally believe the Word of God when it comes to His provision for us. I am a little embarrassed to let people know how strong my "unbelief" was. In my case, the Holy Spirit instructed me to take three scripture verses and to speak them out loud for four hours a day. It took me forever to do it because the whole premise seemed ridiculous to me. I "thought" I already believed His Word, but the truth was ... there was no harvest of provision being manifested in our lives. I had the "knowledge" that those verses existed, but it was pretty obvious they were not really planted in my heart at the "believing" level. I only had them at the "knowledge" level.

Finally, after weeks of starting and quitting, I managed to say those verses out loud for four hours. Still nothing in our finances changed. I describe our situation at the time like this; "Money was staying away in great abundance." That is a funny statement, but it accurately describes our situation. I did it again the next day. And the next. I did it every day for months. Again, I am somewhat embarrassed to let everybody know how severe my "unbelief" was.

But I will never forget the day that the seed was finally "planted" in my heart. Or you could say it this way, the day I actually "believed" the Word of God. The best way to describe it is that suddenly, within me, it was like I had been living in a certain room for a long time and now I had stepped through a door into a whole new room. I remember looking at the stack of unpaid bills that were on the table of our house and I spoke to them and said, "I don't live there anymore." We did not have an avalanche of money suddenly pour down from heaven, but that day marked the bottom of our financial roller coaster ride.

In various ways, and from various sources, money began to come in. It was like, "first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." There is LIFE in the Word of God and it is available to every single person who believes it.

I could give other testimonies from my own life how I planted the Word and received healing in my physical body also. Many of you have heard me tell how I spoke healing scriptures three times a day ... for two years ... and was healed from an "incurable" heart disease. The doctors still say it is incurable, but there is no such word as "incurable" in God's dictionary.

**Mar 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.**

I know this is a very simple message, but God made the process simple on purpose. Why? So EVERYBODY can have whatever harvest they need from the LIFE that is already in the Word of God. What do you need? You already have the answer in God's "seed sack" ... your Bible. Don't let it just sit there dormant. Plant the Word in your heart. Get it in your mouth. Begin saying it out loud as if it were already manifest in your life. I will close with this from God's own lips promising the unfailing truth concerning His Word. The first is from the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament, the second is from Jesus in the New Testament:

**Isa 55:10-11 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: (11) 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.**

**Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Your friend and co-laborer,

*GARY*