INTRODUCTION

One need not look far in order to begin to find the blueprints of God's plan for health, success, prosperity and growth. God has nothing other than a positive plan for man, but it has been twisted by proponents of religious philosophies and attitudes of retribution.

Jesus came to forgive, Jesus came to save. John 3:17, "For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." In reference to the aforementioned religious leaders Jesus said "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees," Mark 8:15. Meaning their religious attitudes and teachings, the traditions of men.

Before we can pursue an in-depth study of "The Seed" we must understand the foundation for our claims to the fruit of the benefits of these insights.

The written word of God says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11, yet so many seem to be succeeding and getting ahead without this foundation. Even the great King David said, "Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? Psalms 94:3, and Jeremiah said, "Wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?" Jeremiah12:1.

Jesus illustrated and clarified these statements in John 10:1, He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

We know this cannot be referring to heaven, because no one is allowed to "climb up" into heaven unless they enter through the door! Verse 10 gives us the key to what Jesus is referring to, and that is abundant life. John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Many in our world today are building prosperous lives as a result of the concept of "positive thinking," the greed for wealth, jealousy, competition, various placebos, false gods and cults, etc. They are elevating their lifestyles and success in living and are not giving glory to God nor walking through the door! Jesus said that He is the door. Verse 7 says, "Then said Jesus unto them again, verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the
door of the sheep." Once one has walked through the door, Jesus Christ, they are ready to legally venture into the realm of abundant living. They become clothed in the righteousness of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." We are made heirs of the Father and joint heirs with His Son, Jesus. Romans 8:17, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."

Through no self-righteous endeavor of our own do we obtain a right to the promises of God.

Personal note: A lot of religions teach us that we must elevate ourselves toward God through works. And there are different levels we can go through and rituals we can participate in to get there, NOTHING CAN BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. It is very simple and very accessible according to the plan of God.

2 Corinthians 1:20, "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him amen, unto the glory of God by us." One must accept the fact that Jesus Christ came to save them and that through religious works, no one can be saved. Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast." God is moved by faith. Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Jesus said over and over again, "Thy faith hath made thee whole," Matthew 9:22, Mark 5:34, Mark 10:52 and Luke 7:9. It is through faith and faith alone. Faith in the shed blood of Christ is redemption for us. Romans 3:25, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God."

Never once did Jesus say to any man or woman, "I'll heal you or set you free on the basis of the good deeds that you have done." It was not even a question of works. It was simply based on their faith in Him, and His grace (or unmerited favor) toward them. The case of the woman who touched the hem of His garment in Mark 5:30, 34, "And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him, turned Him about in the press, and said, who touched my clothes," . . . "and He said unto her, daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague," confirms the concept of faith in God working without God pre-qualifying it.

Now this woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years, couldn’t get healed. She had spent all of her money on physicians for 12 years, and was dead broke. And she said within herself, now if I can just touch the hem of His garment, I will be made whole. That was her faith working on the inside of her. That is why He said to her "faith" had made her whole. He even said, "Who touched my clothes?"

Now, we know God knows all things, but this really was signifying that something was dispensed by the grace of God and not by a conscious evaluation of her qualifications. Jesus did not turn and ask her, "Now let’s see if you’re qualified, dear lady. I’ll qualify
you by asking you certain questions and if you’ve accomplished these feats and done these certain deeds, then I will heal you.” He didn’t even know who touched Him, in His humanity. It was dispensed simply because she tapped into it. Now the virtue, or power (dunamis in the Greek) of God (or the Holy Spirit) flowed out of Jesus and healed her and made her whole.

Inadequate and improper teaching of the basis and the concept of the seed principle is leaving people helpless, causing them to strive in their own strength, living in terrible guilt and fear, and keeping them alienated from God. This kind of teaching hinders the believer from receiving God’s benefits for them. Meanwhile the children of this world have shown themselves wiser by planting success-oriented seeds within themselves. _Luke 16:8, "For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."_

Jesus commended the children of this world in many cases as being wiser than his own people. The reasons being is that God’s people many times are bound up in religious darkness and it clouds one’s mind from the wisdom of God that comes as a result of the unmerited favor of God. If we continually think that through our works we have to endeavor to acquire something, then we will continue to acquire nothing.

Now, if you have accepted Christ, you have been justified and are in right standing with God the Father. You can come boldly before the throne of grace. _Romans 5:1_ says, "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” and _Hebrews 4:16_ says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Grace, unmerited favor toward us, given toward us by no deed of our own, or earned right. You see, you need not feel any guilt or inadequacy. On this basis we can begin to build the concept of the seed principle.

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**LESSON ONE**

**THE SEED PRINCIPLE**

One need only to observe the natural world of creation to begin to understand this blueprint to abundance. Even you, yourself, began as a seed, planted in the womb of your mother, becoming a single cell. When the seed of your father penetrated the egg of your mother, and as you received nutrients, you began to grow. One cell became two and two became four and four became eight and so on, until you were given birth with clearly visible body parts according to the genetic information in that seed.

That single cell, not even visible to the naked eye, multiplied into billions to become what you are now. It is a principle established by God since the beginning of time and is the basis for all growth and creativity. _Genesis 8:22, "While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night_
shall not cease," and Genesis 1:28-29, "And God blessed them, and God said
unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and
have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over
every living thing that moveth upon the earth. and God said, behold, I have given
you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every
tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." Through this principle the natural world is replenished and fruitful.

Now, we know from the scriptures that the things which are seen are shadows of the
unseen. Romans 1:20, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the
world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made even His
eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." The natural seed
time and harvest laws are shadows of spiritual laws or governing principles.

**TWO DIMENSIONS**

There are basically two dimensions in which the seed principle presides, the spiritual
and the physical. The latter being a result of the former. That is, the physical is a result
of the spiritual. In Hebrews 11, we find that through faith we understand that God spoke
the universe into existence. That the things which appear were created from things
which do not appear. The tangible is a manifestation of the intangible. That the higher
order of law is in the realm of the spirit. Hebrews 11:3, "Through faith we understand
that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen
were not made of things which do appear." They were made from nothing.

Therefore, studying the seed principle in the physical realm is helpful to understanding
the spiritual dimension. This is why Jesus uses an illustration of seed in the physical
realm to clarify the concept of seed in the spiritual realm. Mark 4:14, "The sower
soweth the word." In other words, the planter that is planting seed plants the Word, in
this particular parable. He also used the physical seed to illustrate faith being implanted
in the heart and growing. The kingdom of God is also illustrated by the seed principle as
well. Mark 4:30-33, "And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God?
or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed,
which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:
But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and
shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the
shadow of it. And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they
were able to hear it."

**THE SEED OF THOUGHT**

We all know how the physical realm of the seed principle basically works, in that all
seed in that dimension contains within it the genetic code for physical reproduction.
There is another kind of seed, however, in the invisible realm. An invisible seed from
which all other seeds have come. The seed of thought. It is the beginning of all things, even the universe, which God created by His spoken word. God’s word is His very thought. It is Him. John 1:1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”

And it is translated in the New Testament basically from two Greek words. The first one is "logos," meaning spoken or written thought, something reasoned or computed. The other is "rhema," an utterance individually or collectively of a particular matter or topic. Note: The emphasis is on utterance rather than written, in this case, as opposed to the word "logos." Both of these words are used predominantly in reference to God’s word, but can refer to words spoken by any rational being, good or evil. Examples of this can be found in Jude 16 where logos is used to translate "great swelling words" referring to man’s words, or in 1 Corinthians 1:17, "Not with enticing words of man’s wisdom," where logos is used again. We also have a reference where man’s word is translated from the word rhema in Acts 16:38, And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates..." So you see it’s not only a word that is used to define words spoken by God himself but also man, or any other rational being, good or evil. Satan also utters his thoughts to others and to himself as is evidenced in Isaiah 14:13-14, “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven,” notice he was speaking to his own heart, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most high,” and in Matthew 4:6, “And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone,” and 4:9, “And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me,” where the devil is tempting Christ by speaking to Him. The things that the devil is saying to Christ in that particular reference are the things that the devil has premeditated. So we see that God’s word, man’s word or even the devil’s word is spoken thought. But only God’s word can bring life and contain spirit and life in itself. John 6:63, "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life."

God’s very word is spirit. It is life. The devil’s word, by contrast, is a lie and breeds destruction and death. John 8:44, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. when he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

God’s word, or seed, is full of truth, life and blessing and will set us free. Satan’s word, by contrast, is a lie and has a curse in it, and will put us in bondage.

THE TWO KINDS OF SEEDS
Man is a relatively young being in comparison to the fact that God has eternally existed and the devil, formerly Lucifer, existed even before the creation of the first man.

We don't know how long before man, but we know the devil makes his debut in the book of Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman....," using the serpent as an oracle. At the time of the first encounter with Satan, man had dominion on the earth and was in a state of innocence.

Possibly, the devil's fall and rebellion was a result of the fact that God had a special plan for man that the devil became jealous of, and, as a result, led a rebellion against God. We don't know, for sure. But we do know from the former reference we read in Isaiah, Chapter 14, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning? How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations," that he did lead a rebellion against God. At that time, he was seemingly the angel who was put in charge of the Garden of Eden. Ezekiel 28:13, "Thou has been in Eden the garden of God...." He devised a plan to invade man's domain and through deception usurp man's God-given dominion and authority over the earth, Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.".

Thus, the first corruptible seed was conceived in man. Actually, you could say it was conceived in Lucifer, himself and he sowed that corruptible seed into man.

He first gained entrance into the mind of Eve to plant his corruptible seed by getting Eve to question God's word. Then, when the seed of his lie was conceived in her mind she acted according to the seed sown within her and disobeyed God, Genesis 3:1-6, "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, yea, hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said ye shall not eat of it neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

I would like to point out that God never said "Don't touch it," he just said "Don't eat it." Right away the devil realized that Eve did not know the Word that God had given to Adam to give to her. Now this made her all the more susceptible to deception, of course, because she didn't know what the rules were. She didn't know her rights. She didn't know her authority. She didn't know what God really had said. She didn't know her limitations.

That's very important to remember, that we have to know what God says in order to stand firm on a solid foundation of truth.

Let's continue, "and the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die; for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and
ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil and when the woman saw that the
tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and the tree to be
desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat and gave also
unto her husband with her and he did eat."

In this passage of scripture we can see the progressive stages of deception. The lust of
the eye, the desire to be wise in one's own eyes, etc. Satan, the deceiver, always
comes and deceives in stages. He never tries to sell the whole picture of deception right
away. It comes in little bits and pieces. It is always mingled with truth. I guess you could
ascertain that the best kind of lie is one that is 90% truth and 10% lie. It's still an entire
lie, because of that 10%, and can deceive into bondage.

Satan directly contradicted God's command of Genesis 2:17 by twisting God's word
into a lie!

In this chapter, we find the first reference by God of two different kinds of seeds. The
serpent's seed (or Satan's seed, by the law of double reference), and the seed of the
woman, which is a prophetic reference to Christ as depicted in the following verse.
You will note here that her seed turns into a person denoted by the personal pronoun
"his." This is God speaking now, "And I will put emnity between thee and the
woman, He is speaking to the serpent, and between thy seed, the serpent's seed, and
her seed and it shall bruise thy head, her seed shall bruise the serpent's head, and
thou, the serpent, shalt bruise his heel, " Genesis 3:15. See also John 1:1, "In the
beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

In this verse in Genesis we see a reference to Jesus Christ (the seed of the woman).
Her seed is changed into the personal pronoun "His" at the end of the verse confirming
this fact. This was a prophetic pronouncement by God that he would send His Son,
Jesus Christ, to destroy the works of Satan.

God's very word and thought formed in the womb of Mary, the representative of
mankind. Luke 1:38, "And Mary said, behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto
me according to thy word, and the angel departed from her."

God gave woman the privilege of being the vessel through whom all mankind would
receive deliverance from the power of death and avenge her of Satan's deception.
Luke 1:48, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God."

Note right here: The seed of the serpent bruised the seed of the woman's heel. That is,
Satan bruised Christ's heel, and the seed of the woman bruises the serpent's head or
Satan's head. The bruised head is symbolic of a death blow and also symbolic of that
place from which thought originates.
This means God's word, His truth, His sword, would come against the seed of the serpent or the lie of the wicked one. This seed has been sown and multiplied in the earth to produce many lies, moving man into a place of darkness, death, and destruction. But, of course, Jesus came to reverse this and we live with hope and faith.

In 1 Peter 1:23 the Apostle Peter also makes a reference to two seeds, by saying "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Peter makes it emphatically clear that there are two contrasting seeds and could only be referring to the seed of the serpent when referring to corruptible seed and God's word when referring to incorruptible.

**THE SEED IS THE KEY**

In the parable of the sower (Mark Chapter 4), Jesus began to teach the disciples the key to all parables or all revelation knowledge. After sharing this parable with the disciples, they asked him what it meant. He said, "Unto you is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God," verse 11. In other words, this parable is the mystery of the kingdom of God. Then he went on to say in verse 13, "Know ye not this parable? How then will ye know all parables?" This statement implies very strongly the fact that this parable is the central theme to grasping all truth, and when applied will produce abundant living. Again - when applied will produce abundant living.

The Word of God is the seed, verse 14, "The sower soweth the Word." When the Word is sown and internalized into the heart of the believer, it will bear fruit after its own kind, Mark 4:20, "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive [it], and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred." This is why Satan tries to steal the Word, Mark 4:15, "And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.. He does not want to see God's people blessed or prosper. He does not want to see them walking in health, he does not want to see them filled with joy, because then God is glorified and more people come into the kingdom as a result of their testimony. Further insight concerning the seed by Jesus Christ can be found in Luke 17, starting with verse 5.

The apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith and the Lord said (Luke 17:6), "If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." In other words, faith begins as a seed in one's spirit. The concept here is to sow the seed of the Word of God into the human spirit and it will breed faith after the kind of seed that was sown. For instance, if it's a word of faith, or a seed of faith, concerning healing then it will give birth to healing. If it is a word concerning prosperity it will give birth to prosperity. If it is a word of faith pertaining to salvation it will bear the fruit of soul winning, etc. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,"
**Romans 10:17.** You see, this is how faith comes, by planting a seed of the Word in our spirit.

Notice that Jesus did not say that your faith must be as the size of a grain of mustard seed in *Luke 17:6,* but was implying it must start as a grain of mustard seed. Take a look at the ramifications of a seed, the whole seed concept, how it's implanted, how it must be watered in fertile soil, and how it must be nurtured. In other words the misconception has been a little faith goes a long way, but the emphasis is not on size, but on the “faith - growth process.”

Faith is developed in the human spirit as a result of the sowing of the engrafted or implanted word into it, *James 1:21,* "Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

Again, in *Matthew 17:20,* "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Jesus uses the allegory of the mustard seed in reference to faith and size is not mentioned. Faith is something we must learn to develop as a seed. Not only will the Word of God germinated in the believer's spirit produce Christ-like character, but it will produce Christ-like faith, for He is the Word made flesh. *John 1:14,* "And the Word was made 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." Jesus is the Word – made flesh.

The seed of the serpent sown into one's being will produce the opposite affects - doubt, fear, confusion, sickness, disease, and poverty and, of course, bad character, jealousy, envy, strife, etc. *Galatians 5:19-21,* "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." These are the works of the flesh and I am sure you continue with that list.

The seed of God's word, on the other hand, will produce the fruit of the spirit. *Galatians 5:22-23,* "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance". God's seed will produce all of the good, whereas the seed of the serpent will produce all of the bad. *Galatians 6:7-9,* "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Notice in verse 7 and 8 the concept of sowing and reaping clearly indicating the process of the Seed Principle. Also notice, the corruptible seed is sown to the flesh. The incorruptible
seed to the spirit. It is everlasting verse temporary.

Jesus said to those who were not born again, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do," John 8:44. Notice he said "YE WILL DO." In other words, you are going to live out the programming of the seed that is born within you (Romans chapter 5, Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 2:9) and there is nothing you can do about it. If one is your father, then you are born of his seed and have his attributes, that is exactly what Jesus was implying here, that they were born of the seed of the serpent or the thought or mind of the enemy was sown into them and would bear corruptible fruit or deeds.

LEGALISTIC SUPPRESSION

For years we've been taught by the religious, legalistic world on the basis of external application rather than internal application. The concept that "being good" equals approval or another way of putting it - if you keep the rules then you'll be loved and accepted, if not, then you'll be rejected.

The work of the Holy Spirit is done internally not externally or "religiously." The tendency of the new believer, when endeavoring to become Christ-like, will be to suppress the seed of the serpent or works of the flesh and "act out" the mental image he or she has of Christ through historical data, or what somebody else past on to them, 2 Peter 1:4, "Thereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." rather than living from and through their spirit with the rejuvenative power of the Holy Spirit. You see, this is merely a "momentary fix" and though they are not outwardly performing the works of the flesh, they are wrestling within themselves with their old nature.

Eventually, whatever problem they had prior to coming to Christ will manifest itself. Much the same way as a seed lying dormant under a fresh coat of pavement, even though it's suppressed by such a great weight, it is able to push through and expose itself for everyone to see. Mark 4:22, "For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad."

This is why when Jesus said, "REPENT," the Greek word used for repent was "metanoea," which means to make a 180 degree turn about mentally. Jesus knew that if you would think differently, you would act differently. Instead of working from the outside in, He taught us to change from the inside out. This is also why He said, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you," John 15:3. The words He spoke unto them changed their thinking and in turn changed their attitudes and habits. At the time He said they were clean they had not yet been washed clean by
the blood of Christ nor had they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, yet He said they were clean. Therefore, the connotation was their minds had been renewed.

This is why Paul said that transformation is the result of mind renewal, Romans 12:2, “And be not conformed (Gr. Suschematizo - which means to be poured into the mold of others) to this world (Gr. Aion - referring to the age we live in) but be ye transformed (Gr. Metamorphoo - complete and total transformation from within to without, such as a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a butterfly), by the renewing of your mind (Gr. Nous - the intellect or conscious rational mind wherein decisions are computed and made through an act of the will).

What He is saying here is don’t be poured into the mold of others around you. Don’t allow them to conform you to a thinking that is less than what God would have you to think about yourself or your abilities. To be transformed through the renewing of your mind, to think differently (Gr. Nous).

You see when we allow the Holy Spirit to move in our spirit, soul and body and strengthen us through our dependence on Him, He empowers the will much like power assisted steering (power steering). The power assistance does not steer the car, we steer the car, we make the turn with our movement, and the power assists us in our movement. That is what God does, He assists your will to walk according to His plan.

That is why the children of this world, in many cases, are wiser than the children of light when they employ mind renewal concepts and get results. They pursue and employ high-tech mind renewal techniques and scientific doctrine based on the study of the mind.

They have capitalized on something that originally belonged to the followers of Christ while those who claim to be the followers of Christ criticize what they don’t understand – what actually belongs to them.

Yes, there are cults and yes, there are heresies and yes, there are those who employ these concepts strictly from a technological viewpoint, but the doctrine of mind renewal belongs to the Bible and is God’s way of displacing the seed of the serpent. This is why Paul said in Philippians, 4:8, to think on, “Whatsoever is virtuous, pure, honest, of a good report.” And in 2 Timothy 1:13, “Hold fast the form of sound words.” Notice, words have form. They actually form within us and produce fruit.

Make no mistake, I do not advocate any doctrine or sect that is anti-Christ or rebellious in nature, I am simply trying to illustrate a law, a principle, that works whether we name the name of Christ or not, it is called "mind renewal."

In Ephesians 4:17, Paul says, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind."
Notice that it is the mind that is causing them to walk in vanity. It's what is in their mind that they are walking according to. Verse 18, "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." Two key words here are understanding and ignorance. These words referring to the mind further illustrate that the mind is the pivotal point of man's being. Verse 19, "Who being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness, but ye have not so learned Christ."

Notice Christ has to be learned. Christ is not only God incarnate, but He is the Word made flesh and we have to learn His Word which renews the mind. You see His word, merging with the Holy Spirit, comes to life and brings revelation of who Christ is and who we are, in Him.

Verses 21-24 say, "If so be that ye have heard him and have been taught by him as the truth is in Jesus; that ye put off the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

This is another confirmation that mind renewal is God's simple plan for putting off the old and putting on the new. It is really very simple. It's like walking into a room and turning on a light switch. The light will drive out the darkness, of its own.

In light of these things, let us therefore be zealous to repent by changing the way we think. If the born-again, blood-washed believer will practice these principles, they need never struggle again to be good, for if the right seeds are planted, the right fruit will grow of itself. If, in the natural world, a seed contains all the genetic information needed to produce the tree and the fruit, so it is also in the spiritual realm. The genetic structure for fruit bearing is in the seed and not in our own will. We do not become "Christ-like" through "will power." We serve God through the Spirit and that empowers the will. Like power steering.

It is impossible to become truly Christ-like through will power and suppression. This is confirmed in the book of Colossians 2:20. The entire chapter deals with this subject, but we will just look at a few verses. Starting with verse 8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy," (Gr. Philosophia). Both Josephus, the historian, and Philo used this word when referring to all the Mosaic institutions and in particular the hundreds of human interpretations and traditions. The concept of external versus internal.

This is why the scriptures say that the law is a schoolmaster to show us we cannot become Christ-like from the outside in, but it must be accomplished from the inside out. Galations 3:25-27, "But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." We should be
seeing who we are and what we have in Christ instead of what we should be or what we should have, for the work is already accomplished. It’s already done, in Him.

Let us continue with Colossians 2:8-10, "and vain deceit after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ, for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the godhead bodily, and ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." Catch that in your heart. Catch it, think that, realize that, "ye are complete in him."

Anyone in Christ is complete, not going to be complete but is complete, now, in Christ. All we have to do is see it, profess it, and it will manifest.

So we should labor to get ourselves to see what we are, what already is, and what we have, through mind renewal or the renewing of the inner man. This is what is meant by laboring to enter His rest for the work has been finished, Hebrew 4:10, "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his." In other words, we should labor not to labor. In addition, Colossians 20 says, "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments (worldly principles) of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, if you are already dead, in Christ.

If that old nature is dead, why do have to use ordinances to facilitate becoming Christlike? In other words, why do you try to become righteous from the external standpoint. Colossians 21-23, "Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using; after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh." But he goes on here to say that it’s not in any honor, but actually to the satisfying of the flesh. Notice he says these things indeed have a show of wisdom, they look good, but they actually satisfy the flesh.

You see, in becoming righteous through self, we are actually fulfilling the flesh by denying the flesh!

From this standpoint we will take pride in our accomplishments which equates to dead works. The reference to dead works can be found in Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God," and 9:14, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." They are works performed with the motive of gaining points, or to acquire God’s approval, or obtain His blessing in our lives. They only breed guilt and failure. These works are wood, hay and stubble and are not of faith (1 Corinthians 3:9-14). They are not of faith.
THE MIND IS THE PIVOTAL POINT

Through the will, man decides what seed he is going to plant, cultivate and grow, utilizing the mind to sow a corruptible seed to the flesh and an incorruptible seed to the spirit. **Galatians 6:8** says, "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life." The believer must decide with his or her mind what kind of seed we are going to sow and where we are going to sow it. If it’s incorruptible seed, we must sow it to our human spirit and the Holy Spirit within our spirit will water it and bring light to it and make it known to us. We will clearly see the picture that God wants us to see.

**Galatians 6:8**, of course, is more than likely referring to the human spirit when it says "sow to the spirit." Consider this, if Paul is saying to sow to the Holy Spirit that would be kind of odd when we know the Holy Spirit does not need anything to be sown to Him. Of course our spirit is regenerated by the Holy Spirit when we accept Christ, but it does need the seed of God’s word. Consider also the fact that the word “pneuma” is used in the Greek for both God’s spirit and man’s. So one must determine from the text what is being referred to.

In **Galatians 6:7**, the word says, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Whatever you sow, you are going to reap. Don’t be deceived, don’t quit, don’t give up. In other words, whatever kind of seed we sow within is the kind of fruit we’re going to get. Whatever you are sowing within you, that’s the kind of fruit you are going to get. It is a law. It is a governing principle. The “seed principle.” The seeds we sow will be the seeds we reap, and the results of corruptible seeds are death and destruction.

So let’s make a decision right here at the end of this portion of our lesson what kind of seeds we are going to sow, and the attitude we are going to have.

First, we are going to take control of our mind in what we are going to allow to come into our mind. Second, we are not going to allow outside thoughts to control our mind. And, third, we are going to learn how to sow seed within ourselves that is going to produce good fruit, a whole new outlook on life, a whole new outlook on who God is and who those around us are.

You see, God wants us to have a new view. A view that brings peace and joy. A view that brings life, not destruction. Now, as we continue in The Seed principle concept, and we study it, we will begin to understand how to plant our seeds.
LESSON TWO

PLANTING THE SEED

Any farmer can tell you that in order for seeds to germinate, they have to be planted into the soil or an environment where germination can occur. They must receive proper nutrients to begin the growth process. In this lesson, we will discover the methods used to plant seeds within us. In the parable of the sower, we see that someone is planting seed, and in this case the seed happens to be God’s Word.

The devil, as we know, is planting his seed too. Matthew 13:25 says, "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way." Notice he just went his way, after he sowed his seed, it produces of its own accord. That is the nature of seed.

God is sowing seed through preaching, teaching, evangelism and other various vehicles, including your environment. He’s attempting to convey His thought to you that you might allow it to come into your heart, James 1:21, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls," the inner man or subconscious mind. The thing to be mindful of here is Satan imposes his seed on us whereas God simply presents it, out of respect for our free will.

ULTIMATE CONTROL

You are the one with the ultimate control as to what seeds are going to be planted within you. You are the one doing the sowing. God is providing the seed for you to sow in yourself and in others. 2 Corinthians 9:10 says, "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

The enemy has perpetuated his seed, his lie, in the earth. John 8:44 says, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." According to this verse, he has sown his seed and produced offspring as a result of it, but you are the one with the sovereign decision as to what kind of seed you are going to allow to germinate in you.

God has given you a free will. The power of decision is yours, yet many are being deceived by the enemy for they do not understand the principles of the seed and thereby allow whatever their environment might condition them with to enter into their heart. 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."
The devil’s seed is directly associated with the fallen nature of man and thereby produces the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:20-23, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” God’s seed is directly associated with the regenerated nature of man and works from within the human spirit. It produces the fruit of the spirit.

In other words, God’s seed grows on contact in the spirit and the wicked one’s seed grows in the flesh, or fallen nature of man. Man is made up of three parts, spirit, soul, and body (Gr. Pneuma, psuche, soma). All three parts of your being come together to form one whole person. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Originally, God intended man to walk by His Spirit, the candle of the Lord, Proverbs 20:27, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly," in the light. After the fall, man entered into darkness and the lie sown into his flesh and the fallen nature of man began to grow. The spirit died as a result of disobedience to God and man became driven by his fleshly appetites.

This is why God had to destroy the earth with a flood. Genesis 6:17, "And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh." There was at that time no disciplinary standard of His Word in the earth and the seed of the serpent took its course and brought man down to his lowest state. God began to make covenants with man through Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others to raise a standard for His Word or His Seed in the earth.

The devil has been the perpetrator or puppeteer of fallen man, pulling the strings, affecting the emotions and the human spirit from the outside in. Please take note of that statement you read, "from the outside in." God’s goal is to sow seed within the inner man and transform him from the inside out. This is why Jesus, when he proclaimed repentance, used the Greek word, matanoea, which means to make an one hundred and eighty degree turn about in one’s mind, an about-face within the mind. Metanoeo, on the other hand, is the Greek word used for repentance when referring to the changing of your ways. This word was predominantly used by John the Baptist, a prophet of the Old Testament or covenant (the law), which worked from the outside in. The law worked from the outside in trying to change man with "do nots," it was a schoolmaster, Galatians 3:24, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith," to show us our inability to change on our own and that we need a Savior to give new birth to our human spirit so that we might see what we are, rather than what we are not.
Now we can change through the inner man by acknowledging who we are, in Christ. *Colossians 2:20-23*, "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh," and *Philemon 1:6*, "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

Paul gave continuous exhortations concerning the mind, that we are to mind the things of the spirit, *Romans 8:5-6*, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit, for to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

He was illustrating the fact that the conscious mind is that point through which seed is sown and adhered to.

**THE SOWING PROCESS**

We can either strengthen and fortify our inner man and be governed by it, through the power of the Holy Spirit, or strengthen and fortify the flesh and nurture it and be moved by false hopes, false appetites, and emotional letdowns.

Many people are falsely persuaded by the concept that the born-again experience is enough in and of itself to change an individual. Indeed, the change has been accomplished with that experience but the manifestation comes with mind renewal. The born-again experience is the beginning stage of renewal but even that experience is a result of seed sown and the process is as follows: The seed is first brought to you through your environment, through the senses, the five gates, smell, touch, taste, hearing, and seeing. This is why Paul said *Philippians 4:8*, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." to dwell on good things, good thoughts, good reports, virtuous things, etc.

In essence, the things we are hearing and seeing are the things we are thinking upon, and sowing, either to the flesh or the fallen nature of man or to the renewed, regenerated nature of our spirit as a result of the born-again experience. Again this is why Paul says to be transformed by the renewing of your mind *Romans 12:2*, "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God".
For further proof let us look at James 1:14-15, "But every man is tempted when he is
drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it
bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Notice the
word "conceived." This gives us the insight that something has been planted. A
particular seed has been conceived concerning the lust of the flesh. And when it is
conceived, it brings forth sin and no matter how hard you try you can't stop it. James
also gives the antidote as does Paul in the book of Galatians. But going back to James,
Chapter 1, verse 21, it starts out with the word "Wherefore," meaning, "taking into
consideration the aforementioned," then he goes on to say, "Lay apart all filthiness
and superfluity of naughtiness." The first part of this verse is dealing with the works
of the flesh. The second part deals with the spirit, "and receive with meekness the
engrafted (the implanted) word, which is able to save (or renew or transform) your
souls," resulting in the release of fruit from your inner man, your spirit man, because
wrong thinking is now in you, in your soulish realm, blocking that fruit from coming forth.

If we plant God's Word within us it will save our souls, or renew our mind. Our soul must
be renewed through our mind so that what is in our spirit can be released. This is why 3
John 2 says "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health,
even as thy soul prospereth." It all pivots on the prospering of our soul. Everything
else pivots on that. Going back to James 1:21, the first part is referring to the seed of
the serpent, to lay apart that seed and the results of it, and receive the seed of God's
Word, the "engrafted or implanted Word". This comes from the Greek word
"emphutos," meaning implanted. In the same way a natural seed is planted into the
soil of the earth and covered over to await germination, so also is the seed of God's
word. This holds true for both corruptible and incorruptible seed.

**THE MIND IS THE BATTLEGROUN**

Considering again the fact that man is a relatively young specimen of creation and the
focal point of a spiritual war taking place in the unseen. Man's present and eternal
existence being the very object of this strategic battle (the seeds of thought being the
weapons). We can understand why God's word tells us that the mind is the
battleground. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5,"For though we walk in the flesh (or physical
realm) we do not war after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal
(or physical)." Notice the emphasis on warfare and weaponry here. This, of course,
indicates that there is a war going on at this present time, and it's in the mind. Let's
continue the verse, "but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." Strongholds are corruptible seeds that have rooted themselves within us either
genetically or environmentally, continuing the verse will prove so. "Casting down
imagination." Through our imagination seeds are sown within our mind. And we
continue, "and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God."

The high things that Paul is referring to that exalt themselves against the knowledge of
God are obviously thoughts since knowledge is thought. These high things are exalting
themselves against God's knowledge which is salvation through Christ, health in our bodies, prosperity for our lives, joy, happiness, our calling in life, etc. The high things that are exalting themselves against these thoughts are the opposite, rebellion, sickness, depression, destruction, poverty, etc. Returning to the verse, "And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." God has given us the power, through the Holy Spirit, to bind the seeds or wrong thinking that Satan has sown either through us or through our forefathers. He wants us to take those thoughts captive, every one of them, and bring them into obedience to Christ. In other words, the thought of "I can't amount to anything," that would be the opposite of what God says about you. God says you can amount to very much, that you have a great calling on your life. So, you have to adhere to the knowledge of the seed of God's Word and displace that lie that tries to thwart your progress, that one that says you can't amount to anything. A good scripture for that is Philippians 4:13, which says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." All things.

The problem seems to be that when people hear "obedience of Christ" they think of some religious dogma. Obedience of Christ really means obedience to the mind of God, which is not embodied in a set of rules and regulations, but rather His good will for our lives. Quoting a verse in Luke 2:14 that says "Peace on earth, good will toward men." That's what God has in mind. Peace on earth, and good will toward men. That's what the angel proclaimed at the birth of Christ.

The mind of man is the battleground, it is the faculty of our being through which thoughts are transferred into our "program" if you will. Our experiences, the things we hear, the things we see enter into the mind and work their way into the depths of our being and become part of us, thereby making us what we are. So the proverbial saying "you are what you eat" takes on a whole new meaning when applied to the aforementioned truths.

THE ABIDING FACTOR

Jesus said in John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye except ye abide in me." Genuine fruit bearing as a result of the "seed principle" can only come through consistent acknowledgement that we, of ourselves, can do nothing. But, in Him we are everything we need to be and can do everything we need to do. In verse 5 He said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches; he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." This statement and designated law is what separates the "positive thinkers" from the "Word thinkers". One makes self the source, the other makes God the source. The positive thinker is self reliant, the Word thinker is Christ reliant.

Within the core of the believer lies all the power we will ever need to experience any of God's benefits or attributes. Within us is everything we need to be, everything we need to have and everything we need to do. It was placed there the moment Christ entered your spirit. Even prayer is answered according to that power. Ephesians 3:20 says,
"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." But it must become released, and it will, through the application of two laws. First, the law that says we must abide in Him, acknowledging that in Him, "I am everything I need to be, I have everything I need to have and I can do everything I need to do."

We must be keenly and constantly aware of the dead works factor. Dead works are something we do in the "self life," in our own strength, as opposed to in Christ, or in Him and in His strength. Dead works are rooted in the conscience and based on guilt, they are performed to compensate for that guilt. This is why Paul said, in Hebrews 9:14, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Furthermore, dead works are something done in order to accomplish some level of perfection unto God, or to obtain His joy or His benefits and as a result one seems to become perfected to their own works, and since they are their own ritualistic regulator, legalistic works rooted in the self life or in one’s own strength, tend to satisfy the flesh and then they can then say, "I have perfected myself," and therefore it is rooted in pride. That’s the foundation for it and the motivation for it.

You see, there is nothing we can do to obtain that righteous status with God, or to be in right-standing with God. That status that gives us access to all His benefits and His character, thereby giving us mental and emotional stability, physical health and many other things, whereas many other religions of the world teach you that you become perfected in increments or come through other lives or incarnations, etc. That is what separates the true doctrine of faith and grace brought to us by Paul, mainly through the Pauline Epistles and, of course, in the parables of Christ.

This is what separates us from the myriad of other religious dogmas and concepts even in the so-called Christian church world where there are so many icons and religious artifacts and rituals and obligations that one can do to acquire something, or to obtain a certain level of spirituality, etc. And, of course, these are all dead works, they mean nothing. They are dead. They mean nothing to God. God does not delight in sacrifice, the scripture says, He does delight in obedience. He is not delighted in all these sacrifices. The sacrifices do not bring us anything from Him.

What we need to do is focus on the work of the cross and the work that His Son accomplished to make a way for us to attain the virtue of His very person, the person of God, through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit coming into our spirit. Through the work of Christ giving Himself to make us righteous. He is our propitiation, a substitution, for our sins that we might have access unto God, freely.

Now our human understanding does not compute this, especially if we are a very rational thinker or an expositor on the philosophies of this world, or an intellectual. It is
hard to conceive that God would incarnate Himself into a man and walk the earth, teach who He really is and then sacrifice Himself that we might be redeemed.

But, indeed, this is what we do believe to be true. It is that simple. It does not consist of dogma, doctrines, or traditions of men, or rituals, or icons, or rights, or holy days, or non-holy days, or various signs and gestures. These things amount to nothing but dead works. Paul says in the scriptures that these things will be burned up.

**The Law of Acknowledgement**

I call acknowledgement a law. I believe acknowledgement to be a cause and effect type of law that works internally in man. Man has the ability to acknowledge things. He has to take into account "knowledge" and decide whether he, after he esteems it, says "Yes, I acknowledge that to be true."

In order for the law of acknowledgement to be applied we must begin to learn the things that God says we can do, God says we are, and God says we can have. Philemon 6 says the activity of our faith becomes effective by acknowledging every good thing which is in us in Christ Jesus. These are infinite. There is an infinity of things within us pertaining to character, possessions, health, or emotional stability, etc., and Philemon 6 says, *"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."*

Which is in you, period? No! Which is in you, in Christ Jesus. You see, in Christ it is infinite, in self it’s limited. So, in Christ, it’s every good thing that you can conceive forever, throughout your whole life. It is something that’s within your spirit.

Jesus said it clearly, that the kingdom of God is within you - so everything that is in the kingdom is actually deposited, right now, in your spirit if you have been regenerated by the power of God. Through the sacrifice of Christ you have everything deposited within you, right now, but it needs to be released. And it gets released through the application of the seed principle and the many facets thereof.

**Colossians 3:10** says that the new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him. *"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." Colossians 3:10.* Knowledge is the key word here, and it comes through seeing something and acknowledging it to be true for one’s self.

Once we learn what it is we are, what it is we have, what it is we can do, and we acknowledge it (and continue to acknowledge it) then displacement will occur in the inner man.
By the inner man I mean that part of you called the Soul. We are comprised of three parts – spirit, soul and body. In the spirit is the kingdom of God and it is released as we renew the soul to give it passage, out from the inner man. Then we'll have everything God wants us to have, we'll do everything He wants us to do, and be everything He wants us to be by simply acknowledging it and acting on it.

Of course, acting on it comes as a result of being impregnated with that particular seed. You get so filled with that desire for that particular character trait that you act on it and it manifests in you. Whatever it may be - that exploit you are considering for your life such as starting a business or some other kind of dream – these things are impregnated in our spirit as a result of God depositing them there. We must acknowledge them and continue to acknowledge them as being ours, until there is a manifestation. Philemon 6 says that the communication of our faith becomes effective, it becomes effectual, it begins to work, and things begin to manifest themselves as a result of that acknowledgement.

As the inner man is renewed through acknowledgement, or saved as James says, then the power of the Spirit within us will be released and we will experience complete success.

Be patient because this process takes time. Remember Jesus said that the disciples were clean through the words He spoke to them after 3-1/2 years of speaking and disciplining them in the realm of their soul. The scripture referred to, James 1:21, says "Now receive with meekness the engrafted words which is able to save your souls." We see here that it is the Word that saves or transforms your soul, as you renew yourself with it.

Paul gives us a clear cut example of this, but it is so simple that believers miss it. He shows us to break the power of sin through the law of acknowledgement. In Romans 6:11, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord," he shows us what we have to do to break the power of sin. By this we mean the power that something has over us to make us fail in any way, shape, or form. That thing that keeps us from our goals. We can know how to break that power that’s hindering us in any way.

It’s very simple, that scripture in Romans says, "RECKON YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN." It says right there that you are dead unto sin, that sin has no power over you. In other words, if you were to poked a dead individual with a pin they would not react. So, we should not react to sin because you are dead to it, in Christ. And what do you have to do to become dead to that power? Nothing at all.

You can’t do anything, except recognize, acknowledge, and realize that it is already done, that you can’t add to it, that it is done. But you have to remember that there is another part to this that is equally as important, let’s read on, "BUT ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD."
So you see, you are dead unto sin, but alive also unto God. You are dead to that power that pulled you away from God and you are alive unto that power that pulls you toward Him.

Now notice the word "reckon." It is an archaic word rooted in the same word as "recognize." I'm sure you will agree that recognize and acknowledge are basically in the same vein. To recognize something, see it and acknowledge it, assimilate it, make it yours and you will see that manifestation of it. In other words, recognizing and acknowledging what we already are, or what already is, and hold to your profession of it. Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering; (for he [is] faithful that promised;)".

We don’t want to be susceptible to lies, false images, illusions. Many times our illusion of what we think is, is not true and we esteem that others have the same perception as we, and limit ourselves thereby. We assume that others will think the same limited way as we, and consequently we are limited, even in our dream or to make or take that exploit as spoken of in the Book of Daniel.

When you recognize something you acknowledge it. If that something is something you want to be a part of you (or in you), acknowledge it as being yours.

Paul is saying, very simply, to recognize that you are dead, not that you are going to be dead through works, but that you are dead to sin and that you are indeed now alive in Christ.

The law of acknowledgment can be applied to any promise in scripture and any statement of beneficence that is conveyed in the past tense or present tense (if it’s in the future tense then, of course, we must wait for that manifestation to come – like the transformation of our mortal bodies putting on immortality). Getting back to acknowledgement, the scripture says, "Ye are complete in him," Colossians 2:10, it says ye are complete; or in Ephesians 1:3, where he says, "hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ," or "we are buried with Him by baptism," Romans 6:4 and "we have been planted together in the likeness of His death," Romans 6:5 and again, "knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him," Romans 6:6. It's not going to be crucified with Him, it is crucified with Him.

As far as God is concerned, it is already complete. You can take it, you can assimilate that, acknowledge it. In Ephesians 1:3, where He says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings." The word "hath" is past tense, which means it’s already done, so we acknowledge it, receive it and it manifests.

It’s that simple. We don’t have to go through a religious rite. We don’t have to go through some kind succession of ritualistic endeavors to accomplish things, simply
acknowledge what already is. This is the thing that God wants to convince us of, that it is done, that it is finished.

Here’s are several verses for you to think about: Romans 4:6, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism." That old nature is just buried away, it has disappeared, that old man or old nature. "We have been planted together in the likeness of His death," Romans 6:5. As you can see here, it’s past tense (we have been planted). "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him," Romans 6:6.

Did you catch that? That our old man is crucified, with Him. It’s not going to be, not I have to do this with willpower, no, it’s already done. Acknowledge what already is, that your old man (your old nature, that old fallen man) is crucified with Him. It’s not going to be crucified, with Him, it has been crucified with Him. As far as God is concerned, it is already complete. The redemptive act is finished. John 19:30 says, "It is finished." All we must do now is acknowledge it and this will begin to cause displacement of the seed of the serpent in our soul and replace it with the seed of God's Word.

**OUR PROFESSION or**

**FAITH POSTURE**

This is why Paul exhorts us in Hebrews 4:14, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession," to hold fast to our profession of faith, seeing that Jesus Christ is the high priest of our profession. In other words, whatever we profess that is to say, whatever we think, however we act, the way we talk or the way we conduct ourselves, that is the way we believe. That is our profession or our faith posture. Jesus presents all of these professions of faith that pertain to what we have and what we are to our Heavenly Father. He presents them right to our Heavenly Father, and He dispenses them back to us.

**THE LAW OF DISPLACEMENT**

As a result of the aforementioned laws, the power of the law of displacement will begin to take effect. As light is more powerful than darkness in the natural world, so it is in the spiritual world. One does not walk into a room that has no light and try to remove darkness. One simply turns on the light switch and displaces the darkness. It just goes away, by itself. You don’t have to chase it away.

God's word is a light. Psalms 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It is a light for my immediate steps and also a light for my future. If it’s a light unto my feet it represents the here and now, and if it’s a light unto my path that represents the future. Jesus said, John 8:12, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Just turn on the Word of Truth and the lie will go. It is that simple.
Finally, this is why Christ said, "for my yoke is easy and my burden is light," Matthew 11:30. If Jesus said this then we can expect it to be true. In other words, it is easy, it is simple. If we are experiencing anything to the contrary, if it’s becoming complex and overbearing to you, then we are walking in the realm of the "self life."

We are trying to figure it out with our mind, our own understanding, wherein there is no power, wherein there is no source of spiritual vitality and energy. When Jesus said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matthew 11:28, this is precisely what He was talking about, resting from your own self trying to fulfill what God wants you to be, or have, or do. In Him, we can, and it's easy. In self it's a heavy yoke. We are heavy laden, we are striving and we cannot succeed in this manner. It is wearisome to the soul. This is what is meant by resting from our own works or our own labors. In Hebrews 4:1-16 Paul says that if we are going to labor that we should labor to not labor. That is, labor to enter into His rest. Hebrews 4:11, "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." Labor to realize that it is already accomplished in Him, and it will manifest itself from His power within us.

**BEING SOBER**

Most people, and by most people I mean probably a majority of up to 90% of all mankind, are unaware of these principles operating and fall prey unawares to many manipulative tactics utilized in this world to control mankind, religiously, commercially, or otherwise. 2 Timothy 2:25-26, "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves." They actually oppose themselves by what has been planted within them. They can’t overcome these obstacles, because the obstacles are actually within them. "If God peradventure will give them repentance," changing of mind, "to the acknowledging of the truth."

Repentance is the first step. Changing your mind or saying I don't want to be that way any more. You have to acknowledge that you have a problem. Secondly, you have to acknowledge that you have an answer to that problem and that is The Truth. The scripture says it, "If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." O.K., we change our mind and say we want to turn around, that's the first step. That's repentance. We change our thoughts about sin. Then you begin to acknowledge the truth and the manifestation comes, and you don’t oppose yourself any longer.

Now the rest of this verse is very meaty and may take you back, but let’s go on, "and that they may recover themselves." Did you read that, RECOVER THEMSELVES? "Out of the snare of the devil." You see, God can't recover you out of certain things. You must recover yourself, by renewing the way you think. That's why people continually say, "Why hasn’t God done this," or "How come God hasn’t come to my rescue," and so on. He has done it all, it's already completed, it's already done, it's within you and you need to release it.
Let's continue, "that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil who are taken captive by him at his will." They are taken captive by him, at his will, just like a snap of the fingers. That's why Jesus said, "You are of your father the devil and his works you will do." It's the programming in you.

Through a continual process of reinforcement of thought, line upon line, precept upon precept, within the conscious mind, a watering takes place of the seed that is sown within us. The soul and the spirit could be called the subconscious realm, and then you have your conscious mind.

I know that some teach that the soul is the conscious mind, but that's a whole other teaching in and of itself. The scriptures teach us that every part of your being has mind in it. Every connection within you has an ability to think. There is the "mind of the spirit," "the carnal mind," "the physical mind," and then there is the realm of the soul. All these abilities converge into what is called the "neos" in Romans 12:2, where Paul says to "renew your mind." The Greek word "neos" means the converging of thought into one specific point, and in this case is your mind. There are also subconscious elements to that. As we continue we must realize that the conscious mind must be alert, sober and vigilant, 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Your conscious mind can cast down imaginations and bind thoughts from entering in that would sew destruction and defeat. We must walk circumspectly, as in the root word circumference or all around us, Ephesians 5:15, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise," according to the word of God so as to become aware of what is being sown into us. Jesus said, "take heed what you hear," in reference to this fact saying that it would be measured back to you. Mark 4:24, "And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given."

What we hear, see, and say comes back to us. It will manifest. It is planted within you and you will see it come out of you and echo back. The mind is the planting mechanism. The seed is being planted into your being through your conscious mind. Through prayer and meditation, we can sow the concepts of what we are in Christ into our inner man and begin to acknowledge victorious thinking and deny defeated thinking.

Psalms 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee," and

Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

If we will learn to continually feed our conscious mind with only good thoughts based on God's word we will build upon them through the power of the Holy Spirit and we will displace the seed of the serpent, because the fallen nature is dead in Christ and its power nullified. (Romans 6:6, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve..."


 Simply recognize and acknowledge it done and you'll be home free, and that is a fact.

It’s that simple. That’s why it’s hard for some people to conceive or act upon it because they say, “hey, that’s too simple, it’s too easy.” Actually, that’s the way it is when you first become “saved” or “born again” as the scripture says. Many people can’t accept it because it’s too simple. They feel they must go through some kind of religious writ or atone for themselves. You cannot atone for yourself before God, in the direct sense.

Jesus Christ is our atonement. He made the atonement for us. It is done. It is finished. He did it for you.

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LESSON THREE

CULTIVATION

After a seed is planted, we must cultivate it, and care for it, or it will die. If we don’t, we will have wasted our time in trying to grow that seed within us. Cultivate, according to Webster, means (1) to prepare and use (soil, land, etc.) For growing crops, to till; (2) to break up the surface soil around plants in order to destroy weeds, prevent crusting and preserve moisture; (3) to grow (plants or crops) from seeds, bulbs, shoots, etc.; (4) to improve or develop (plants) by various horticultural techniques; (5) to improve by care, training or study, refine, as, cultivate your mind; (6) to promote the development or growth of, acquire and develop, as he cultivated a social conscience (we're talking about Christ consciousness); (7) to seek to develop a familiarity with; give one's attention to, pursue.

The word of God says to break up the fallow ground and to not sow among thorns. Jeremiah 4:3, "For thus saith the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns." The prophet Hosea said, "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" Hosea 10:12.

How much clearer can the Word be? Many times we read over these verses and we do not really consider the application thereof.

Cultivation is basically a two-fold process, the first being the preparation of the soil, and the second is caring for the seed sown. In preparing the soil, which is our heart, there are several attitudes we must mix within us to fertilize and break up the fallow ground. They are humility, sincerity, honesty, Godly sorrow and patience.

1 Peter 5:5, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the
proud, and giveth grace to the humble," 1 Corinthians 5:8, "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." James 1:4, "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Psalms 26:6, "I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord." and 2 Corinthians 7:10, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

This two-fold process can be done by completely opening yourselves up to God's Spirit through surrender and fellowship with Him. Be willing to observe the areas of your life that need changing, knowing they can be changed, and not being intimidated by facing different areas of your life because you feel that if you try to overcome them that you will fail. That's why we bury some areas of our lives, subconsciously, and we get into the realm called "denial."

We deny things in ourselves because we're afraid to deal with them because we're afraid that we'll fail and not be able to overcome these things. So many times we would rather not even admit that they are there. But, if we'll acknowledge and see that they're there, recognize them, say "O.K., I see that's there, but I'm dead to that now, it has no power over me. I'm a new person in Christ. I will acknowledge these new things about me now," then you will have power over whatever it is you are trying to have power over. I don't care what it is. Whatever you are seeing in your life that you can say, "Hey, I've had enough of that. I don't want that there any longer." You can have power over it. It will go. It has to, it's a law. It will work. It cannot fail. It is God's laws, His principles for change, for prosperity, health, emotional stability, etc. You name it, it's there. All of it is yours, now. It's your inheritance, in Christ.

Many times people are afraid to do this because of the defense mechanism they have built around them to hide away part of themselves or their lives that they are disappointed with. This is why it is imperative to understand the verse that says he that loses his life will find it and he that finds it will lose it.

Matthew 10:39, "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it," and John 12:25, "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."

In other words, once you surrender, once you say, "O.K., I admit it. I need change. I can't do it," then you will find it. And as for the second part of the text, he that finds it will lose it, means that if you try to find it and hold on to your ego, you are going to lose, you're going to go down.

What this simply means is if we continue to hold on, through our pride, to our old ways instead of coming to a place of repentance, or a change of mind, knowing that God will not condemn us, but give us the power to change, we will never change the things that we desire to change. Change. He'll give us that power to change. We need His strength. We can give ourselves a momentary fix from that which we desire to change,
but unless we uproot those things through humility and mind renewal, we will be given to their power. That’s it.

Allow God to show you in His gentle way, the areas that need changing. Don’t be afraid for He will not ever expose your frailties in a condemning manner, but gently - one at a time.

Satan on the other hand, will condemn, bombard and intrude upon you with the problem that you have. He will use that to get you to close up. He’ll punch on you in that frail area and you will close that area up and that no one can get in and change that area. Whereas, God will gently help you open that frail area up and deal with that particular problem. The enemy’s goal is to condemn you, to make you feel guilty, to continually make you dwell on this thing and the fact that you can’t overcome it, and that you are prone to defeat. His goal is to make you defend yourself, and if you are defending yourself, you are not surrendering. You must just let go and surrender. Don’t defend yourself, surrender to God and you will rise to walk in the newness of life. Revelation 12:10, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

PROVIDING A GOOD ENVIRONMENT

We do this by gaining an understanding of the will of God. It is an innate desire of man to be happy, prosper and be in health, a desire that has been placed there by God in creation. He wanted Adam to have dominion over the earth and subdue it. Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

He did not say that the earth was to have dominion over man and that the earth was to subdue him. It is interesting to watch those who would think that it is God’s will to be sick or be in poverty, and experience negative living, striving so hard to fight God’s supposed will by trying to get better jobs, going to hospitals to cure their illnesses and saving up for the so-called "rainy day." If the rainy day is from God, then why try to prevent it? Let it come and pray for more so that you might receive more of God’s will for your life!

That does sound ludicrous doesn’t it? It sounds really foolish. It is just common sense to know that that is not God’s will.

In our hearts we know that it is not God’s will for us to live that kind of life! Yet somehow people have bought the concept of suffering, poverty, depression, confusion, etc. As
being part of the plan of God. They say things like, "Why did God do this to me." It is no wonder why the scripture says, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge," Hosea 4:6. It is this very lack that has caused so many to accept the seed of the serpent, and through fear and guilt, a negative concept of life. This is why people run from churches and people won't preach the Bible, because they have the wrong perspective. It is through wrong teaching they have somehow gotten the idea that God holds us back, that God doesn't want us to succeed, that God doesn't want us to be happy, that He wants us to suffer, be depressed and be sad. Nothing could be further from the truth!

THE OUR FATHER

Through understanding God's mind and will for us we can prepare a better environment for the word to cultivate. In examining the model prayer Jesus gave us in Matthew 6:9-13, we can glean some insights to the will of God. Keep in mind that Jesus is God's Son. Who would know more about God's will, or the will of His father, than Him. Observe His model prayer. "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

In this example of prayer by Jesus Christ, God incarnate, who came to earth to show us God's perfect will for our lives, I would like to point out three observations.

First: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." It will only take a moment of thought for you to realize that in heaven there is no sickness, pain, poverty, death, depression, etc. It is obvious that Jesus is asking the Father to bring that same element to earthly living.

How is God's will done in heaven? Think about it. The only reason why there is negative life on earth is because of the fall of Lucifer and his rebellion and the subsequent rebellion of man. Through Christ, the curse has been reversed, if you can receive it you will have it. 1 Corinthians 15:45, "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." and Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Second: Under New Testament thought or under the new covenant, Jesus prayed, "lead us not into temptation." Remember now, Jesus Christ is giving us the perfect example of prayer for the perfect will of God in our lives. Temptation here comes from the Greek word Pelagos meaning deep or open sea. Allegorically it implies things that are of a destructive, evil nature, the negative forces in this world. The idea here is that one would be lead, as it were, through or around enemy lines without being detected into abundant life (John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill,
and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”).

In other words, if we’re not to be led into temptation then where are we to be led? It’s so obvious. This is the mind of God!

The Third observation I would like to make is the quote, "deliver us from evil." If we do fall, as a result of our error due to a lack of knowledge or wisdom (James 1:2-8, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that they trying of your faith worketh patience, But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all mean liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his way.") into a place of tribulation or evil, the perfect prayer is for deliverance from evil, not, "Oh God help me to endure what you have put upon me."

There are times mistakes are made but God says He will work it for our good. Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Even so, in those times, we are given supernatural love, peace and joy and even in that kind of situation, life can be abundant.

Any suffering outside of persecutions, for Christ's sake, is not to be accepted into our mind or otherwise, and deliverance from it is the perfect and proper prayer!

So we can see through the perfect prayer of the "Our Father" that it is not God's will for us to suffer sickness, confusion, pain, fear, and other obvious negative elements, but rather that God would lead us away from, through, and around these things through wisdom and divine insight.

In James 1:2 we see that an individual falls into temptation, they are not led there. They fall there.

James goes on to say that even then it will work for the good (verse 3 and 4). James implies in verse 5 that it's a result of the lack of ones wisdom and that we are to ask God for more wisdom so as to avoid the pitfalls of the enemy.

In verse 12, he says that God will give us a special blessing for enduring that temptation that we fell into, but in verse 13, he clearly states that it is not from God, but a result of our own lusts or the seed of the serpent conceived in us (verse 14 and 15).

Verse 16 tells us not to err by attributing evil to God. Don’t make the mistake of thinking that evil is coming from God. Verse 17 shows us plainly where good things come from above. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down
from the father of lights, with whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning." In other words, God does not change. He is good all the time. He does not change. There is not even a shadow of variation in His plan for us, His people. If you are in a wheelchair, God didn't put you there, but He will work it for your good.

If you want to be healed and get out of that wheelchair one day, can you see how it would hinder your faith to think God put you there? You would feel subconsciously like you were fighting God. This is applicable to any kind of negative state we find ourselves in, whether it be poverty, sickness, depression, etc. Jesus said it is His good pleasure to give to us the kingdom. He is good all the time (John 10:10-11), and He does not put evil on His children.

So we see that it is very obvious that if sow these wrong kinds of thoughts into our mind that our only friend (God) is at times wereally our enemy, then how are we going to come to Him and ask for deliverance when we are thinking these things about God. It is very important to have the proper view of God in order to assimilate seed in a positive fashion that brings forth advantageous and profitable results into our lives.

James, the half-brother of Christ who lived with Christ and observed Him for many years, does tell us where evil comes from in James 3:14. "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. this wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." So we see that these things come from Satan himself and not from God!

Jesus contrasted this in John 10:10-11 when He said He is the good shepherd and that the thief came to destroy and to kill. I believe Christ was trying to emphasize to those who believed God brought destruction upon His people that they were misunderstanding their Father.

However, rebellion is as a sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...") and if we rebel against God's plan for our lives, God will chasten us by releasing us to our rebellion (Romans 1:24, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts....").

SCRIPTURES FOR REINFORCEMENT

John 10:10 - "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and they might have it more abundantly."

3 John 2 - "Beloved, I wish above all things that though mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
2 Corinthians 8:9 - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in that, though He was made rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind."

Galatians 3:14 - "That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith."

Matthew 7:11 - "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"

Philippians 4:19 - "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

1 Peter 2:24 - "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Matthew 8:17 - "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the Prophet, saying, himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Psalms 103:3 - "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

Additional references:

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Matthew 11:28-29

Malachi 3:10

Psalms 112:1-3

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Joshua 1:7-9

John 6:35

Acts 10:38
Meditating on who God really is and what He is really like will help cultivate an environment for the seed to germinate in.

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SEED GERMINATION

When seed begins to germinate, seed begins to multiply. One becomes two, two becomes four, four becomes eight, etc., Until an entire entity or whatever the seed was designated to develop, has formed. And within the fruit of whatever has formed, there is more seed and a process known as geometric growth begins to occur.

Dreams, visions, fruit, happiness, joy, peace, salvation, healing, love, you name it, it begins to spread very rapidly as their seeds are germinated and begin to multiply. Churches grow, businesses grow, people grow personally (historically this has been called revival).

Likewise, on the other hand, a negative seed can grow as well, as Paul said, when a seed germinates it produces a root, and if the root happens to be a root of bitterness, many thereby are defiled and this is why the church doesn't grow. Hebrews 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Likewise, if it's a good root many thereby are blessed. Because what happens is the root grows into a fruit-bearing entity. People eat the fruit thereof and consume the seed that is in the fruit. The seed begins to germinate in them and produces a root, then another entity bearing fruit, corrupt fruit, from corruptible seed and good fruit from incorruptible seed, then others eat of that fruit and thereby many are defiled or blessed depending on what kind of seed it is. It is a process of multiplication.

Jesus explained growth of a seed this way in Mark 4:26-29, "And He said, so is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." Notice he said the earth brings forth fruit of herself, in verse 27 and in verse 28, he knoweth not how. In other words, it's not up to us to make the seed grow. It's up to us to plant it and God will water it and cause it to bring forth fruit, some 30, some 60 and some 100 fold. Mark 4:20, "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred." The problem arises when people try to make their seed grow. They're trying to become what God wants them to be, without planting seed. They have a mental image in the conscious mind rather then sowing the seed of God, His character, through
His word, which is His mind, sown into us and bringing forth fruit back from our spirit. We are that soil that God sows His word into.

The question is, where is the kingdom of God? Jesus said the kingdom of God is within you,

*Luke 17:21, “Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you,”* and sowing it within us is precisely what His message is. When the fruit is brought forth we harvest it and are blessed by it. Through this principle we can have whatever we need and desire and help others to have the same. And God is glorified as a result. God's plan for us is very powerful, yet very simple. His plan is for us to learn this principle, internalize it, practice it and then teach it to others. If the church would only get hold of this concept it would explode exponentially, even as Adam and Eve exploded into the populous of the earth. Here's how it works.

Example: One teaches and trains 5 and teaches them to teach others to do the same, which means they learn this concept, use it and then find someone else to teach it to. At level one there are 5, at level 2 there are 25, because those five are teaching 5 each and there are now 25 people being taught. At level 3 there are 125, at the level 4 there are now 625, level 5 has 3,125 people being taught and practicing this principle for prosperous living, abundant living. Now, as you can see this is only 5 people away from the first person. Well hold on to your seat...at level 6 we now have 15,125 people being taught this principle and applying it.

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Notice the explosive growth. This is called geometric growth. And as a result there are more people at the sixth level than there are in the first five levels combined. The seed principle in every dimension works through the exponential curve or geometric growth.

Another example is when we double a penny every day for four weeks or twenty-eight days.
Would you rather have $500,000 or the penny doubled every day for 28 days? First of all let me say this, after two weeks you will have approximately $81.00. Now, this is halfway through the 28 day period. Do you want the penny or the $500,000. If you understand the growth curve employed here you will quickly take the penny, because on the 28th day you will have accrued $1,300,000.

Get a calculator and see for yourself. And so it is in all dimensions with the seed principle.

**PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE**

According to this analogy, we will experience for the first half of our endeavor very little growth (as in our example, after 28 days only $81.00). It is at this point that most people quit, but if we continue the seed will grow, it will multiply and produce overwhelming fruit. Fruit that is uncontainable. Fruit from the spirit, fruit from the soul, fruit from the body, fruit from our natural environment, but the key is patience and endurance. The problem is most people give up and lose out because they don't see immediate results or they get double minded and hinder it. The book of James, chapter 1, verses 7 and 8 says, don’t even think you’ll receive if your double minded! Don't build on emotion, build on truth. When you build on emotion that is an open door for double mindedness, and as James said, you won’t receive anything. Let me give you an example. You start a project and then you stop the project - or you begin to sow good seed in yourself and you begin to see yourself as God wants you to see yourself and then after awhile things begin to happen that you don’t like and it triggers that old nature in you and then you go back to the old ways - well, you’re never going to experience success because of that.

God told Abraham he would multiply as the sands of the sea and as the stars of the heaven. How did he do it? Through the seed principle. And because of the corruptible seed that was running rampant in the earth, this is precisely why God chose Abraham to begin raising a standard against the corruptible seed. He produced a race of people using His word as their standard. He bred them, internalized His truth into that race, He told them He would bless them, He had them read it, and they thought it, and they believed it. This is why Israel prospers. This is why the Jewish people, wherever they go, prosper. This is why everything they touch is blessed.

It is not just because of the fact that God promised it to them, but because of the fact that it has been ingrained generation after generation into their nature, through God's seed principle and they are prosperous by nature.

God began with Abraham, Abraham had the child of promise. Isaac, had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob – the child of promise from Esau - had twelve, which produced the twelve tribes of Israel, and the exponential curve took its course. That is to say in the natural – genetically, physically, physiologically, and also internally. The
internalization of God’s word into them made them a super race, and it’s a wonder to behold them because of it.

Historical fact can prove this out when we see that many of the major discoveries were made by Jewish scientists. A majority of them attain high professional status and it is not uncommon to see them accruing great wealth. Their prosperity can be seen in virtually every nation of the world; even in depressed economies where it would be unlikely for them to succeed and prosper, they continue to succeed.

**OBSTACLES TO GROWTH**

Once a seed is germinated, the growth is so slow at first that we are tempted to quit. We are tempted to doubt. This is where learning the obstacles to growth are essential and those obstacles are:

A. **Deception** - *Mark 4:14*, "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."

Notice the word was in their hearts but Satan stole it, the same way he stole the word from Eve, through deception. After the seed germinates and begins to grow is when the true test comes. Satan will tell us things like, "You can't make it." He'll send people against us that he has control over, even our closest friends, and finally he will even send our family to be used to get us into the realm of our emotions.

Satan is the master of deception and he wants you to stay down. If he can find a way to get you to doubt God's word, that is when he can steal it from you. If he can find a way to get you to doubt your dream that is when he can steal them from you. Those in connection with your dream or the seed you have sown, will fail you. They will tell you one thing and do another. A personal note – It's like when we played marbles. You would see a real good marble and you would play dumb and say that's a lousy marble but you knew it was a good one and you wanted it, so you put it down so they would degrade it and think it wasn't worth anything and then you could deceive them - as a little child, with that human nature - out of their marble. That's what the devil gets you to do with your dreams and your visions and with God’s word he gets you to think "Oh, this isn't any good, what am I doing here, this isn't worth anything." And then he steals it all from you.

And finally, don't rely on your senses, they will deceive you and Satan will steal the seed. Be moved by what you know inside to be true, not by what you feel. Stand by the rationale of what you originally saw to be true. When the lights seem to go out, know everything is still there.
B. **Rejection** - *Mark 4:16-17*, "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."

Rejection is one of the hardest things for a person to accept, but remember even Christ was rejected and continually warned us that others would reject us, that a servant is not above his master. People will say to you, you can't do it, people will reject your dream and say they don't want to be part of it, people will not believe in the new you, and it will come from your closest friends. Be prepared, be ready. If you're prepared to meet this obstacle, your odds are greater in overcoming it. Remember Jesus said if they reject you they are rejecting Him, not you. If it's a dream you're trying to share, remember they're rejecting the dream and not you personally. Never take rejection personally. Everyone wants to be favored, but believe me once you've endured the rejection and you begin to experience the prosperity of the seed principle, those same people who rejected you will be flocking around you. They are the fowls of the air that come to try to find lodging in the shadows of your branches Jesus spoke of in *Mark 4:32*, "But when it is sown, it growth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it."

After you've planted your seed, germinated it, and cultivated it, you will begin to experience astounding growth and you will have more friends than you can count. Seed sowing, germinating and cultivating is a lonely time, that's why David said, *"Sow in tears,"* hang tight and you'll be victorious, he also said we'll reap in joy *Psalms 126:5*, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

C. **Comfort Zone** - *Mark 4:18-19*, "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 lust of other things entering in, choke the Word and it becometh unfruitful."

This is probably going to be the hardest obstacle for you to overcome. It is that of the daydreamer. The one who dreams of riches, the one who dreams and lusts for things, the one who is preoccupied with worry concerning the cares of this world and comforts themselves in false dreams and false hopes, but never gets up to make a move because they are afraid to leave their comfort zone. This is the person who buried his talent in the parable of the talents. *Matthew 25:24-28*, "Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents."
He would rather lust for riches and become preoccupied with cares rather than actually go out and make a conscious effort to make his dream come true. Notice the verses in Mark do not say riches themselves, but the deceitfulness of riches. It does not say other things, but the lust of other things. In other words, strong desires within the heart to be successful, dreams of success, deceitfulness of success in the sense that this person finds so much satisfaction in fantasy that they never venture out, they never do the exploits spoken of in the book of Daniel.

Be careful of the comfort zone. Step outside that comfort zone. At first you will feel insecure, but you will develop confidence, your faith will grow as you experience success and you'll never want to go back to that zone again.

D. Attrition - Mark 4:20, "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some 30 fold, some 60, and some 100."

Notice all the seed sown fell on good ground. The ground wasn't bad. The seed was God's Word, so, of course, it was good. So something was off, otherwise it would have all brought forth 100 fold. Notice the succession that Jesus names these various levels in, starting off with the least, ending up with the greatest. At the beginning when you are developing your ability to sow seed, you will not experience great success. The seed is good, the ground is good, your abilities to sow and cultivate it may not be good, nor can they be. When you are a novice, you will experience a 70% attrition rate (failure rate) according to the first scenario. As your ability develops you begin to experience a 40% attrition rate, as in the next scenario, and eventually you will begin to experience 100% success. In the first scenario, however, your attrition factor is greater than your success factor, and this will make you discouraged, if you allow it. Remember your abilities will grow, you'll learn what fertilizer works, how much water to put on the seed, how much sun light it needs, but when you're seeing such a high attrition rate, it can be discouraging. Satan will tell you it's unprofitable, that you're working hard for nothing. Don't believe it for a minute. It's all coming together and, according to Christ, you will eventually experience 100% success.

SUCCESS FACTORS

In order to ensure proper growth in the germinating seed, there are certain success factors that we will have to observe.

A. Surrounding yourself with a good environment and good friends. The things you see and hear on a casual level are very important elements of nutrition to the seed. This is called osmosis. Through this process you will absorb the good character of others who have cultivated good character. If you study the following verses you'll see their application to this
Matthew 1:1, "The the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham," Psalms 1:1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful," Psalms 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

The people you communicate with, those to whom you go to for counsel, those who you call "friend," must be people who are of like precious faith. You do not want to communicate your dreams or things that God has revealed with people that will try to hinder your faith or steal your dream. Be insightful and discerning about sharing your dreams or plans with others. Remember, Jesus prayed all night before choosing His 12 disciples to share His plan with, and even one of them betrayed Him. Pray before you share your dreams.

B. Through hearing ourselves and others. Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," Mark 4:24, "And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given," and Psalms 1:2-3, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

God's word actually teaches us to speak to ourselves. The Hebrew word for meditate is "hagah," which means to ponder or imagine by muttering to oneself (in pleasure or in anger). Psalms 42:5, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."

Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," exhorts us to do the same. Example: When you feel you cannot do something or someone tells you cannot do what God is telling you, you might say to yourself, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," Philippians 4:13. This will cultivate, fortify and water the seed in that particular area. Find scriptures or other statements that are wholesome that relate to the area you are working on. Decrees, affirmations, professions or confessions - pray and author some of them yourself integrating them with scriptural references. Place them on the mirror in your bathroom, place them on the refrigerator door, place them on the car dashboard. You can even make am audio in your own voice saying the things you want to say to yourself, about yourself, in accordance with God's Word and play them in your drive time to and from work, or while doing housework. I am sure if you try you will think of other vehicles as well.

C. What we see. Jesus said that if your eye is single, your whole being will be full of light. Matthew 6:22-23, "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness,
how great is that darkness!" and Luke 11:34, "The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness."

The word of God also says to keep His insights before your eyes. Proverbs 4:20-21, "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart."

It is no wonder we are told to anoint our eyes with eye salve by Jesus Christ in Revelation 3:18, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." 1 John 2:16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world," also speaks against the lust of the eyes. It has been said that the eyes are the windows to the soul. The eyes as well as the other four senses, taste, hearing, touch and smell are inroads into the inner man.

D. What we think. James 1:8, says "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." If the mind is the battleground, we must learn to control it. Even if we find ourself doing something that we know God would not want us to do, our mind must be filled with the thought that our negative activities are dead and we are a new person in Christ. This is why God gives grace to the believer. He gives us time to enact a change, and it comes through a change of mind. Think on good things. Think of what you are, not what you are not. Think of what you can do, not what you can't do. Think of what you can have, not what you can't have. Even better yet, think about what you shall have and it will all inevitably happen. Jesus said to Peter, when Peter walked on the water and began to sink, "Why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31, "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"), the Greek rendering is, "Why did you hesitate in your mind?" Learn to keep your mind focused on the truth. Learn to look at Christ and your ability in Him. See yourself with your mind's eye as complete in Him, with all the abilities that you have in Him. Learn to think big with God, don't limit Him. Try to see the big picture. The children of Israel, when following Moses out of Egypt, limited God through their confessions and their thinking. They doubted God. They doubted God's ability. Learn to talk to yourself with your own mind. This is what Paul meant in Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." If someone puts you down, contradict it within your own mind. If they say you can't do something that God told you that you can do, you don't necessarily have to rebuke them openly, but within your own mind say, "No, no, I am going to do it, I can do it, and you are wrong, and I don't receive your negativity."

E. What we do. Paul exhorts us that we should not do anything beyond our faith in Romans 12:6. He says in that particular instance in referring to prophesy that one should prophesy according to their proportion of faith. The experience of success is the
singular most powerful way of finalizing the rooting of success within us. So, also, failure is the most detrimental. **Failure hurts and makes us fearful of trying again.** Therefore **it's important to act, but it is equally important to act according to faith.** In other words, **build yourself up** in steps. If you were going to become a body builder or lift weights, you wouldn’t start of with heavy weights, you would **work up** in increments. So, also, it is in faith.

James said, ”**faith without works is dead.**” The corresponding action to what we believe will accelerate our growth. When we learn to act on what we know to be true, then and only then will we see results. If you over water and over fertilize a plant, that is just as detrimental as not watering it or fertilizing it at all. Therefore, there comes a time when we must step out and prove the will of God!

In **Romans 12:2,** ”**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God,**” you will find that proving the will of God works in conjunction with mind renewal and Paul continues in the chapter to talk about works of faith. This is precisely what he intended to convey.

**DO NOT FAINT**

**Galatians 6:9** says, ”**And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**” If you do not see immediate results, don't quit. David wrote in **Psalms 126:5,** ”**They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. he that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him.**” In other words, that seed of that dream, if you go out there and keep going, you are doubtlessly going to come again and you will prosper as a result. You may weep while sowing your precious seed but you will doubtlessly rejoice when you see the fruit. But you must endure with patience.

Jesus knew this and endured the shame and suffering of the cross for the joy that was set before him (**Hebrews12:2**). He linked himself to what was going to be the result of that suffering, rather than linking His mind and heart to the suffering. He understood that His very being was a seed, that He was planted, Himself, and as a result of the sowing of that seed He would produce the offspring of many sons of God. **Romans 8:29,** ”**For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**” He knew at the end that there would be great joy and He kept focused on the joy rather than the task at hand.

Look beyond the sowing, look beyond the weeping, link yourself to that, look beyond the disappointment to what you know is true and you will enter the rest of Christ.

**Hebrews 4:11,** ”**Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**” This is the only labor Christ expects of us,
the labor to enter into His rest. To labor until we see things the way God sees them and then watch as the explosive exponential curve begins to come into play.

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DREAMS AND VISIONS

The scriptures say where there is no vision the people perish. In *Acts, Chapter 2*, Peter says, quoting the prophet Joel, that young men would see visions and old men would dream dreams. *Joel 2:8*, "Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and [when] they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded", *Proverbs 29:18*, "Where [there is] no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy [is] he." What this is saying is that if we will listen to God's leaders, listen to their dreams, they will give us a vision. Dreams and visions are essential in motivating us to succeed. Pray until God shows you, through the Holy Spirit, His plan for your life. He will confirm it through the counsel of others. He will confirm it through His written Word, He may send you a prophet or He may give you a dream to confirm it. Meditate upon Him and He will project His desires into your heart. Most of all, make sure it lines up with the written Word.

Our dreams and goals and our priorities should lie in the sowing of the Word within us. We can have no dreams or goals without God's Word as a basis. As we seek God for His plan and begin to internalize it and then act upon it we will experience success and greatfruitfulness. Our seeds will begin to germinate and through geometric growth, our creativity will spread and multiply into others until many thousands of people are touched by our lives. Look at the life of Christ, here is a man who came into the earth, God's incarnate Son, He had little tangible resources. He didn't have the power of the media at His disposal, television, radio, the printed page, fax machines, computers, video tape players, car phones, telecommunications, etc. Look at the change He made in the earth. He sowed Himself into others and, with a handful of men, made the most dramatic change in the history of mankind the world has ever seen. He simply sowed His dream into others and, after He had thoroughly trained and discipled them, He even left because He knew the seed principle would work in and of itself. Billions of people throughout the last 2,000 years have been touched by His power, the power of His word, the power of the seed.

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