

Module : The Primacy of the Word of God

Session 2 : Word Transforming Us Into the Nature of God

Focus : The Seed of the Word becomes the Son of The Kingdom



THE WORD OF GOD - THE SEED OF GOD'S LIFE WITHIN US TRANSFORMING US INTO HIS IMAGE PROGRESSIVELY

The Word of God is **living and powerful** - Heb. 4:12. God's Word is **spirit and life** – John 6:63.

Heb. 4:11,12

- 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of **disobedience**.
- 12 For the **word of God** is **living and active and sharper** than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Heb 4:12a For the Word that God speaks is **alive and full of power** [*making it active, operative, energizing, and effective*]; **(AMP)**

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the **words that I have spoken** to you are **spirit and are life**.

When we heard this Word of Truth – we surrendered our lives to Christ, trusting and believing in Him.

Eph 1:13 In Him you also ***trusted, after you heard the word of truth***, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having **believed**, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **(NKJ)**

Eph 1:13 In Him, you also, after **listening to the message of truth**, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

We are born again through the Word of God:

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

The phrase, 'born of water' refers to being born by the Word of God, since water is a symbolic type of the Word of God.

Eph 5:24-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church** and **gave Himself** up for her,
26 so that **He might sanctify her**, having **cleansed her by the washing of water with the word**,
27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be **holy and blameless**.

At the acceptance of Christ into our hearts, the Word of God was key and active in this initial 'new birth' experience. The Word of God is like SEED sown – see Mark 4. This seed contains the potential to grow into a huge tree bearing forth much fruit. God's Word in us is the seed, giving us the privilege of growing up into all that God is. Like seed is latent with immense growth possibilities, the Word of God is the only medium by which all the potential and possibility inherent with the nature and power of God is released and find expression in us. At our entrance into the Kingdom of God, our sonship was activated by receiving and believing the Word of God spoken to us. From here onwards, our development into the fullness of our sonship in God toward maturity is dependent upon our consistent engagement with the Word, the seed of the 'divine'.

James 1:18-21

18 In the exercise of **His will He brought us** forth by the **word of truth**, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.
19 *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;
20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.
21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive **the word implanted**, which is able to **save your souls**.

Note – we were '**brought forth**' by the Word of Truth.

Brought forth = apokueō = to *breed forth* by transformation ; to bring forth by birth

God gave birth to us through His word. His Word is the only means through which His DNA - His likeness, image and character - can be transmitted to us. God injected the imperishable seed of His powerful Word within us at the initial stage of our salvation experience. This seed of God's Word has the potential to change our nature. It must be constantly received to develop completely into the fullness of God's image. It is through His Word that we can have His nature and character.

1 Peter 1:22-23

22 Since you have in **obedience to the truth purified your souls** for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,
23 for you have been **born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God**.

- 24 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,
25 BUT THE **WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER**." And this is the word which **was preached to you**.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed **abides in him**; and he cannot sin, because **he is born of God**.

The Word – when it is ‘preached to you’ – lodges itself within you as seed that has the capacity to change your nature. This seed is imperishable – and **its power is tapped into when it is obeyed**. The power of the Word of God within us causes us to overcome sin. We do not continue to ‘practice’ sin – it is not that you would not sin from time to time – but that you do not practice it as a habit or lifestyle – and when you do sin it is so contrary to the nature of God within you, that you quickly adjust, repent and seek sustained victory in that area – see 1 John 1:8-10 - (more on this later). Our obedience to the Truth of the Word PURIFIES our souls so that we can start demonstrating divine levels of love for one another – love being one the highest indicators of divine nature .

GROWING INTO THE FULLNESS OF THE ESSENCE AND NATURE OF GOD THROUGH HIS WORD

The Glory of God is a reference to the exact nature of God. Only a Son of God has the capacity to fully represent the complete nature of God.

Hebrews 1:1-9

- 1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
- 2 in these last days has spoken to **us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
- 3 And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature**, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.
- 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE **MY SON**, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

Representation = Charakter = The word originally denoted an engraver or engraving tool; the instrument used for engraving or carving.

Later it meant the impression itself, usually something engraven, cut in, or stamped, a character, letter, mark, sign. This impression with its particular features was considered as the exact representation of the object whose image it bore.

Nature = hupóstasis = that which underlies the apparent, hence, reality, essence, substance; that which is the basis of something, hence, assurance guarantee, confidence .
Substance, what really exists under any appearance, reality, essential nature

2 Peter 1:4 For by these He has granted to us **His precious and magnificent PROMISES**, so that **BY THEM** you may become **PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE**, having **escaped the corruption** that is in the world by lust.

Divine = **theios** = Divine, what is uniquely God's and proceeds from Him.
Denotes **an attribute of God** such as His power and not His character in its essence and totality

Nature = **phusis** = figuratively **native disposition, constitution**;
From 'phuo' = growth (by germination or expansion); to sprout; to blow up or to swell.
[Growth into His nature is not static but ongoing]

Partakers = **koinōnos**= **a sharer**, that is, *associate*: - companion, fellowship, partaker, partner

Corruption = **phthora** = corruption, destruction, perishing, **ruin**; that which is subject to corruption, what is perishable
In an **ethical sense, corruption, i.e. moral decay**

Here divine nature (phusis) refers to God's divine attributes or qualities, not His essence.

His essence is the substance that underlies His attributes. We are the exact representation of His NATURE (hupostasis). You cannot have expressions of his 'phusis' without His 'hupostasis'. The essence of God is grace and truth – John 1:14. This comes through the WORD. Also here in 2 Peter, we participate and begin to share in the divine nature by means of 'Precious and Magnificent Promises' = i.e. the Word. Obedience and active engagement with the Word will begin to 'renature' us.

The nature and purpose of God our Father is our INHERITANCE (Rom 8:16,17). This we have because we are His firstborn sons; we have INHERITED a 'more excellent name', i.e. son / firstborn son (Heb. 1:1-8). This inheritance we come into through the reception of GRACE which is by the WORD OF GOD (Acts 20:32).

THE 'SON' BECOMES THE 'SEED' – THE PERSON BECOMES THE WORD

Matt 13:1- 23

- 1 That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea.
- 2 And **large crowds** gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.
- 3 And He **spoke many things to them in parables**, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.
- 5 "Others fell on the **rocky places**, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had **no depth of soil**.
- 6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had **no root**, they withered away.
- 7 "Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.
- 8 "And others fell on the **good soil** and **yielded a crop**, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.
- 9 "He who has ears, let him hear."
- 10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
- 11 Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, BUT to them it has not been granted.
- 12 "For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.
- 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
- 14 "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;
- 15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'
- 16 **"But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.**
- 17 "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.
- 18 "Hear then the parable of the sower.
- 19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not **understand it**, the evil *one* comes and **snatches away what has been sown** in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.
- 20 "The one on whom seed was sown on the **rocky places**, this is the man who **hears the word** and immediately **receives it with joy**;
- 21 yet he has **no firm root in himself**, but is *only* temporary, and **when affliction or persecution arises BECAUSE OF THE WORD**, immediately **he falls away**.
- 22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the **good soil**, this is the man who **hears the word** and **understands it**; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

Symbolism in this parable :

The Sower	=	The Preacher
The Seed	=	The Word
Types of Ground	=	How the word is heard based on the condition of the hearer's heart and willingness to obey.

How the Word is heard within the environment of a particular heart condition will drastically affect the ability of the Word to have its fullest effect. The real issue however is the extent of one's willingness and determination to obey the Word.

Note : **Psalm 111:10** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A **good understanding** have all those who **do His commandments**; His praise endures forever

By the Roadside = Hears the Word; Failure to Understand = Failure to Obey

On Rocks = Hears the Word; Affliction sent to test you based on the Word you heard; you fail (God does not try you in the realm of your obedience to show you where you are disobedient - No - rather He does this to EXPAND YOU)

Compare : (Note the 'rock' here below is not the same as the rock in the parable above)

Matt. 7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who **hears these words** of Mine and **acts on them**, may be compared to a wise man who **built his house on the rock**. "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it **did not fall**, for it had been **founded on the rock**. "Everyone who **hears these words of Mine** and does not act on them, will be like a **foolish man** who built his house on the sand. "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

Amongst Thorns = Hears the Word; Worry and Anxiety + Pursuit of riches by deceitful means choke the Word

Good Soil = Hear the Words; Understands it by Obeying it

Every time we position ourselves under the hearing of the Word, and we consciously design an obedient action and response to it, we progressively become transformed into the nature or glory of God. The Glory of God is the nature of God. This Glory must have 'grace and 'truth' as essential constituent elements of it. The grace of God is received through the Word of God. The glory of God is seen in and through us when the Word of God is incarnated within us – i.e. when we obey – this is when grace becomes activated. Then we too, as sons of God, like Jesus the patterned Son, will be full of grace and truth that showcases itself as 'glory' – and thus we put the nature of God on display before men.

NOTE: Even on the good soil, there are three distinct levels of fruitfulness (30, 60 and 100 fold – all dependent on the degree of obedience). Thus there is also the further challenge of bringing our obedience to perfection in all areas of our lives – see 2 Cor. 10:6; Philemon 1:21; Heb.5:8.

The ultimate result of total obedience to the Word is to produce the nature of the SON of GOD within us.

Matthew 13:24 -30

- 24 Jesus presented **another parable** to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who **sowed good seed in his field**.
- 25 "But while his men were sleeping, **his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat**, and went away.
- 26 "But when the **wheat sprouted and bore grain**, then the tares became evident also.
- 27 "The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'
- 28 "And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'
- 29 "But he said, 'No; for while you are **gathering** up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.
- 30 '**Allow both to grow together until the harvest**; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."

Wheat = good apostolic doctrine; **tares** = false doctrine. The good Word or doctrine (wheat) must become embodied in us as people. Thus we become the Word.

Matthew 13:36

Then **He left the crowds** and **went into the house**. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

Jesus only explained the parable in a HOUSE – only in a 'house' where the principles of spiritual fathering and sonship are functional can revelation which is understood be produced.

Note how the symbolic meaning of the wheat and tares take on a more substantial meaning.

Matthew 13:36-43

- 37 And He said, "The one **who sows the good seed** is the **Son of Man**,
38 and the **field is the world**; and as **for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom**; and
the **tares are the sons of the evil one**;
39 and the **enemy who sowed them is the devil**, and the **harvest is the end of the age**; and the
reapers are angels.
40 "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the
age.
41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all
stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,
42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.
43 "Then **THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN** in the kingdom of their Father. He
who has ears, let him hear.

In the first parable the seed is the Word; in the second parable, the seed is the SON = the Word has become flesh. **The WORD has to become SON**. The Greek word translated 'seed' in Matt 13:37 is '**sperma**' indicating "seed, both what is sown as containing the germ of new fruit, and what is growing out of the seed sown, produce" (Zodhiates). When you hear the Word – it is as though seed – sperma – is released into the womb of your spirit and conception takes place; consistent mediation and obedience ensures the acceleration of growth of what is born in your spirit manifesting outwardly in your entire life. This word – seed – sperma – contains all the divine possibilities for you to develop into a mature Son of God. The tares are the SONS of the evil one. Doctrine must become lifestyle. The ultimate is to produce sons who have incarnated the Word which they hear.

Sons of the Kingdom will be separated from sons of the evil one (see John 8:44), based on the incarnation or embodiment of principles into lifestyle and behaviour. Sons of the Kingdom will shine like the SUN – having illuminating and life giving capacity.

Cf. : Mal. 4:2 "But for you who fear My name, the **sun of righteousness** will rise with **healing** in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

2 Cor. 3:1-3

- 1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you?
2 **You are our letter**, written in our hearts, **KNOWN and READ by all men**;
3 being manifested that you are a **letter of Christ**, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES FOR PERSONAL REVIEW AND GROUP DISCUSSION

1. You are 'born again' by the Word of God. Explain this statement.
 2. What role does the Word of God play in it affording us the privilege of being partakers of the nature of God?
 3. Consider and briefly discuss all the similarities between the 'Word of God' and 'Seed'.
 4. In the so-called parable of the sower, what does the (a) sower, (b) the seed (c) the various kinds of soil represent?
 5. How important is accurate hearing and obedience of the Word of God?
 6. In the parable of the wheat and the tares, the good seed (wheat) are describes as SONS of the Kingdom sown into the context of the world. In the previous parable the seed was the Word; now the seed is the son. What is the significance of this?
 7. Consider all the possible differences between wheat and tares and apply these spiritually in reference to distinguishing true sons in the Kingdom of God and sons of the devil.
 8. What is the significance of the separation of these two entities at harvest time – and not before harvest time?
 9. Consider that Jesus describes the Kingdom as the Kingdom of his FATHER (Matt 13:43) and that th explanation took place in a 'house' (Matt 13:36). What possible import is there here?
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