

Faith Is Action



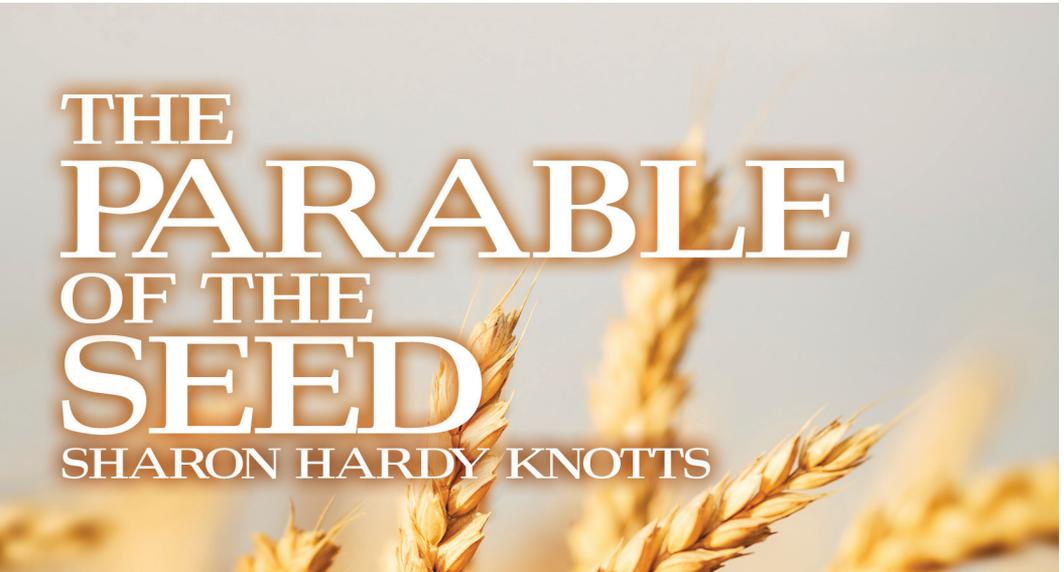
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THE PARABLE OF THE SEED

The masterpiece of Jesus' parables is *the Parable of the Sower*, and He told His disciples that if they did not understand the meaning of this parable, they could not understand anything else He taught. While this message is not specifically about the Parable of the Sower in whole, we need to pick up on it in order to understand Jesus' subsequent teaching, *the Parable of the Seed*. Jesus gave the first parable in

saying, what might this parable be? And he said, Unto you is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and in hearing they might not understand" (Lk.8:9-10). Often ministers only teach half of this statement. They say that Jesus preached in parables to explain hard truths and revelations in simple terms, but as we just read, *He also preached in parables to*



THE PARABLE OF THE SEED

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depth, and later, when He was alone with His disciples, they asked Him to explain it to them. He said, *"Know ye not this parable? And how then will you know all parables?"* (Mark 4:13). We will begin with His summary as recorded by Luke.

The Parable of the Sower

"And his disciples asked him,

hide truths from some people; those whose hearts were hardened, i.e. the Pharisees; those who were not really interested in the truth for the truth's sake. I'm sure you have met people like this. They have many questions and objections about why they don't believe in God or Jesus or the Bible, but when you start answering some of these, they

really don't want to know the answers. They just want to be able to say that they don't understand. The first question we need to ask them is, "Have you ever read the Bible?" More often than not, they haven't read it. Second question: "How can you say you don't believe in something you've never read?"

When someone is honest in his objections, the first thing he'll do is at least read it for himself, and then if he still doesn't understand, that's a starting point of the discussion. There are countless testimonies of agnostics and even atheists who read the Bible to try to disprove it, and the Scriptures convicted and convinced them of the truth. If you're an honest person, the Holy Spirit will bring revelation to you. If you're dishonest, He will not cast His pearls before the swine. He will not give that which is holy to the dogs (Matt.7:6).

What Jesus was saying was: "Yes, I preach in parables to make deep truths simple for people who are not educated" (which the multitudes were not. For that matter, the disciples were not educated; they were fishermen.) "But at the same time, the Pharisees and doctors of the law (who were educated and often they are the hardest to reach), will stumble over it."

Summary of the Parable

In the Parable of the Sower, *the seed is the Word of God* (Lk.8:11). Those *by the wayside*, the first ground that receives the seed, hear the word of God, but then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. The second ground, *the rocky soil*, hears and receives the word with joy, but only believe for a while, because they have no root, and in time of temptation and persecutions, they fall away. In the third ground, the seed fell *among thorns*. They go forward with God, and even bring forth fruit, but it becomes choked with cares of life, and lust of riches and pleasures, *and becometh unfruitful*. The good ground are they who have *an honest and good heart*, who hear the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with endurance. We need to be clear: *Grounds three and four both brought forth fruit*, but only one to perfection. (Matt.13, Mk.4, Lk.8).

Jesus expounded the symbols: *The seed is the word of God*. The *birds* are *the devil* who immediately stole the word. It didn't even get a chance to pierce the ground before the birds swooped down and took it. These are people who don't even get out of the church door, and they have forgotten everything that was preached. The second ground's understanding of the Scriptures

was too shallow, and when persecutions came, *they were offended*, and when you become offended, you can stumble and fall away. But there are some people who actually thrive when persecution comes. It stimulates something in their spirits, and instead of getting offended and quitting, they get bold for the Lord. The third ground was able to endure persecution, *but they were not able to endure prosperity*. They became preoccupied with material blessings. They almost make it—even bring forth fruit, but a preoccupation with the deceitfulness of riches and the pleasures of life choke out the Word of God. Through process of time, they neglected their soil; preoccupied with blessings and prosperity, they didn't take care of the necessary things of the Spirit, and *they became unfruitful*. The good ground received the seed of the word in an honest heart, which allowed the seed to go down deep to give understanding of the Word. Not only did they bear fruit, their fruit lasted, and some bore a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold.

Here's a question for you: What was **the fruit** they produced—30, 60, 100-fold? Let's review the symbols: What was **the seed**? *The Word of God*. What does the Word of God produce? *Born-again people*.

Peter said: "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever*" (1Pet.1:23). The incorruptible seed of God's Word produces born-again Christians—*children of God*. When Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin council, came to Him at night, Jesus said, "*Marvel not that I say unto you, you must be born again.*" Even though he was a Pharisee and was educated, Nicodemus was thinking with the natural mind. This goes to show, because someone is educated and schooled in the Torah, it doesn't mean he will understand spiritual things. It takes the Spirit of God to reveal them to you. Nicodemus said, "*How can I enter the second time in my mother's womb and be born again?*" Jesus had to explain that there is a natural birth, and there is a spiritual birth—an earthly birth and a heavenly birth: That which is of the flesh brings forth flesh, and human seed brings forth human babies. That which is born of the Spirit, via the seed of the Word of God, brings forth *spiritual children!* (Ref.:Jn.3:1-8).

The believers of the good ground produced in their lifetime, 30, 60, and 100-fold—*children of God*. We have the incorruptible seed of God's Word in us if are born-again. John said, "*Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed*

remains in him, because he is born of God” (1Jn.3:9). The tense in the original text means does not practice sin. If the incorruptible seed of the Word of God that saved you, remains in you, you won’t go around practicing sin. The seeds humans produce are corruptible, and we are born with the sinful human nature. When we become born-again by God’s incorruptible seed, it produces the nature of God in us, and we will practice godliness. It will produce His attributes in us, but there is something else it produces in us, which brings us to the next parable Jesus gave.

The Parable of the Seed

“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, did not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then has it tares? He said unto them, An enemy has done this. The servants said unto him, Will thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay, lest while you gather up the tares, you root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow

together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Mt.13:24-30).

As before, the disciples asked Jesus what the parable meant. *“He answered and said unto them, He that sows the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels” (vv.37-39).*

In the Parable of the Sower, the seed was the Word of God. But in this parable, the seed is the children of the kingdom. In this parable, I am the seed! You are the seed! We are the seed! It is a huge significance bearing great responsibility.

Jesus continued: *“As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who has ears to hear, let him hear”*

(vv.40-43). Most of the time when I preach this parable, I focus on *the tares*, however, today we will focus on *the seed*

We know when we receive the incorruptible seed of God's Word, we are *born again—children of God*. The law of creation in Genesis 1:11 says, "*And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*" God created every living thing with the seed to reproduce itself in it. He created full-grown trees with fruit on them, flowers and grasses. He created full-grown animals. He created everything in its perfect state, but all with seed within itself, the ability to reproduce. After God created Adam as a full-grown man, He had to create for him a counterpart, because He said *to be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth with human beings* (vs.28). There was no way Adam could do this by himself. All the animals were going to reproduce, because God had made them with their opposite gender counterparts.

When Adam looked at the parade of all the animals (because he named them), and they had all gone by, *there was no help mate found for him* (2:7). God created Eve to be the female counterpart to Adam's male gender. Only then could they be fruitful and multiply. Of course, this is why same-sex marriage is not of

God. They cannot obey the very first command, "*Be fruitful and multiply.*" They have to bring in a third party of the opposite sex in order to obey this. Nor can they obey the command: "*Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they too shall be one flesh*" (3:24).

The Good Seed is People

We need most to understand: *The good seed is the children of the kingdom*. If you plant corn, you will reap corn. If you plant tomatoes, you won't get corn, but tomatoes. If you are a horse breeder, you're going to produce horses. If you breed sheep, you'll produce sheep, and so on. If you're human, you will produce humans. *And if you are a Christian, if you are a child of God, you should be producing Christians, because you have the seed in you. The children of the kingdom have the seed of the Word of God in them.*

The Greek word for *seed* is SPERMA. It not only means the original seed, but also refers to *the fruit that it produces*, and that fruit also has the seed in it. It will continue to produce if you continue to plant the seeds. The original seed is the Word of God that came from God. I am talking about the fourth ground now. The incorruptible seed fell into our good and honest hearts, and we were born again, becoming children of the kingdom. We each not only became a Christian, a child of God, but we now have the ability to

reproduce Christians. The original seed is the message of the kingdom that produces *messengers of the kingdom*, and we have the Word of God in us.

When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane, undergoing great agony before going to the cross, He cried with prayers and strong tears to His Father (Heb.5:7). We know He was battling with His own self-will but won the victory after He prayed three times. He also prayed for His disciples that God would keep them: *“I have given them thy word, and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou should keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth”* (John 17:14-17).

Why didn't Jesus want God to take them out of the world? He said, *“As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them in the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they might also be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word”* (vv.18-20).

Whose word? *“Their word”*—the disciples, the messengers, the children of God, the Christians who are born again of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God! Jesus was effectively saying: “I am praying for them, but I am also praying for the

generations of Christians that will come to the faith because of *their word*.” He didn't say, “Because of *your* word, Father, or *my* word, but *their* word,” because *their* word is His word! *Their* word is *God's Word*. You and I have the same seed of that Word in us. People should come to faith in Jesus Christ because of my word and your word.

The 100-Fold Is Not About Money!

We are the fourth ground who brings forth fruit, 30, 60 and 100-fold, through our message of the kingdom, the Gospel, the message of salvation. Paul said: *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believes”* (Rom.1:16). The message of the Gospel carries within itself the inherent power to perform what it says. When we preach the message, the power will be demonstrated and result in 30, 60 and 100-fold of *souls*. I know everybody gets their wallets out when this is quoted. They are thinking *money, money, money*, but Jesus was talking of *souls being born in the kingdom of God*.

Great soul-winners like apostles Paul and Peter and the other disciples, are probably in the 100-fold club. Great evangelists today like Billy Graham will probably be in the 100-fold club. There have been many great ministers and evangelists through the generations who have brought multitudes to Christ, and they didn't do it by themselves. They

had to have lots of workers and prayer warriors, team members and financial supporters, and because of them, they were able to reach many souls. One thing about *the law of sowing and reaping*, God has built into it an exponential factor: You always get *what you plant*. You always get *more than you plant*, and also *later than you planted*. There is a season between planting and harvest, and people sometimes get discouraged in that middle time of waiting. *I'm talking spiritually now.*

I recently heard the story of a lady who followed Billy Graham's tent revivals for years. She traveled to every city, got a hotel room, and during the whole revival, she stayed in the hotel room and prayed. She never attended one service. What harvest do you think she helped to bring forth in the kingdom? The caliber of a minister like Billy Graham is someone to be highly honored. He had one message. He didn't get into doctrine, but he preached the evangelistic message of the Gospel: He preached salvation, which meant he preached Heaven and Hell. All those who worked with the Billy Graham Association and those who financially and prayerfully supported it, have brought much fruit into the kingdom, because they had the message, the seed. You and I also have the seed; we have the Word, but we need something else.

The Anointing

“And God anointed Jesus of

*Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power who went about doing good, and healing **all** that were oppressed of the devil”* (Acts 10:38). The *all* covers all oppression: mental, physical, emotional, as well as spiritual. Jesus did not begin His public ministry until He was anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power. After His temptation by Satan in the wilderness, He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. To face the opposition of the kingdom of darkness, you have to have the anointing, and you have to have authority. Jesus was anointed *by the Spirit* at His baptism in the Jordan, and He executed authority over Satan in the wilderness by quoting the written *Word of God*.

There is no substitute for the Word of God when preaching. I like to tell stories, because it helps people to remember a point, but if all a preacher does is tell one story hooked up to another, that's not enough. Paul commanded Timothy: *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (1Tim.2:15). He said: *“Preach the word...!”* (2Tim.4:2). A preacher's message should be rich with Scripture; not just open with one verse and never quote another Scripture. That is not rightly dividing the word of truth. The Word of God is the seed that must be sown into people's hearts. We know some will fall on the first, second, and third grounds, which do not endure to

fruition. It is not up to us to determine the outcome. It is our calling to faithfully sow the seed

Jesus' disciples had the Word. They would have studied the Torah from childhood, and He had personally trained them for three-and-one-half years, but they needed something more. They had to have what He had, *the anointing*. Because just as the Father had sent Him, He was going to send them!

Jesus said in John 14:12: *"The works that I do, shall you do also, and greater works than these shall you do in my name,"* which means in *my authority*. And He said in Luke 10:19: *"Behold, I give you power over all the power of the enemy."* The Greek word for the first *power* is *EXOUSIA* and means *authority*. We have the seed, the Word, and now we have the authority: *"In my name you shall cast out devils; in my name, you shall heal the sick; in my name, you shall cleanse lepers, and in my name, you shall tread on serpents and scorpions, because I give you this authority"* (Ref.Mk.16:16). But we also need the anointing, and it's by the divine nature of God that we are able to do the works of God.

The Divine Nature

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature..." (1Pet.1:4). I think a way to put this in modern language today is DNA. Jesus was *"the Word of God made*

flesh" (Jn.1:14), and we are told in Philippians 2:6-8 that He laid aside His deity and took upon Himself humanity, and was made in the image and likeness of men, which is His nature as well as His human form. He depended on the Holy Ghost; He depended on the anointing to do the works He did. If He depended on the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit to do what He did, we also must depend on the Spirit of God and the anointing to do the works that He did. Otherwise, He couldn't tell us: *"Go do what I did."* We have the divine nature — the DNA of God.

DNA has become very important in medicine and the criminal justice system. Guilty people are found to be innocent, and people who claim to be innocent are found guilty. Now medical scientists are fine-tuning treatments for people's sicknesses based on their DNA. Medicine is no longer one-size-fits-all. Chemotherapy for cancer treatments are tweaked according to a person's DNA and how the cancer cells respond. Blood tests are taken regularly to determine if it must be changed or if is working on the cancer cells. They claim the day is coming when pharmacists will not pull one bottle off the shelf and give it to everyone with the same condition, because medicines will be according to personal DNA. *Your DNA is who you are, and who you're going to be.*

DNA stands for *deoxyribonucleic acid*. I have my own way of

describing it in the Spirit: **D** stands for **DUNAMIS**. This Greek word means *power*, and specifically, *inherent power to reproduce itself*, as in a *dynamo*. **N** stands for **NIKOS** which means *victory*. **A** stands for **AGATHOS** which means *goodness*. When we look at Acts 10:38, we see **DUNAMIS & AGATHOS**: “*And God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with **power** who went about **doing good**, healing all that were oppressed of the devil.*” He cast out every demon He met, healed every sickness and disease—I say, that’s **victory!** Our DNA means we have the power to reproduce the works and to do good like Jesus did with victory, because we have His nature in us. But we need something to *trigger it*.

Let me relate in a medical sense: My understanding is we all have cancer cells in our bodies from time to time, but why do some succumb to them and others do not? Something triggers the cancer cells to multiply. It could be exposure to carcinogenic chemicals, toxins, including certain foods. It could even be a genetic code within the family. Something triggers those cancer cells in some; whereas other people go their whole lifetimes and never get cancer. My point is, *something has to trigger it to reproduce itself*. And referring to the spiritual, we need something to trigger the Word of God. We need something to trigger the anointing we have. Jesus knew His disciples had the Word, but after the resurrection,

He appeared unto them and said, “*Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you, but wait in the city of Jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high*” (Lk.24:49)

The Promise of Power

He had told them of *the promise* before His death; that God would send *the Holy Spirit* (John 14-16). They were Galileans, but He told them to wait in Jerusalem until He came. “*But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost most parts of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). I can imagine they may have said, “How will we know when he comes?” He could have said, “You will know! He won’t come knocking on the door. He will blow the house wide open. He’s coming like a mighty rushing wind. He’s coming with balls of fire. You will know when He comes!”

When they started off, there were 500 in that upper room, but as the days clicked off, people got tired and weary in well doing. They began going home, and the numbers dwindled down to 120. Jesus kept His promise! The Father kept His promise, because ten days later, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost showed up! That house began shaking, and the walls trembled as the glory of God came down, and balls of fire in the form of *cloven tongues sat over each of them—120*

triggers! “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4). They were *endued* with power, which means *to be clothed*. It came down on them like a robe and covered them, and the tongues of fire were upon their heads. Remember, He told them that when they received the power, *they were to be His witnesses*.

Nothing but nothing was the same again after this! Peter, who had denied Jesus three times and couldn't even stand up to a teenage girl, was so bold, he got out in the open and preached like nobody had ever preached! When he finished preaching his Pentecostal sermon, 3000 souls were saved. *The seed was producing*. Day by day, thousands more were saved. It grew exponentially, because Jerusalem was packed with people for the feast of Pentecost which was 50 days after Passover. I bet many who came for Passover stayed over for Pentecost. Even if they went home, they would come back, because Pentecost was a happy feast. The city was packed like it is today for the Super Bowl. People were everywhere when the Holy Ghost came to town and 120 people began spilling out into the streets speaking in all kinds of languages. The Bible says they were speaking “*the wonderful works of God*.” We see here the principle of multiplication: There were 3000 souls; then 5000 souls, and then it became exponential. People were

being healed. Miracles were happening. Jerusalem was turned upside down by Holy-Ghost revival! *It was the first Pentecostal Campmeeting!*

Years ago, for 13 glorious summers, we held Campmeeting at *the Master's Retreat Campgrounds* on Maryland's eastern shore, 30 miles from the ocean. When people came for Campmeeting, they didn't have to worry about their homes or jobs. Back then we didn't have today's technology: cell phones, tablets, text messages and emails. There was one phone for the whole place, so if somebody needed to get in touch with someone, it wasn't easy. We were there to live in the Spirit. The boss couldn't call and ask you to come back. We were seeking the face of God to come up on a higher level. By the tenth day, people were walking around speaking in tongues. Even the youth were falling out in the Spirit speaking in tongues. When you've been in Campmeeting and high in the Spirit, you don't want to go home! You wish it would last one more week. But everyone had to get back to their lives. They could only stay away so long. Maybe one spouse came and the other stayed with the kids, or they came and brought the kids, and they had to get back to the business of life. And I'm sure it was the same mindset for the saints in Jerusalem. They didn't want to go home. They had settled comfortably in the blossoming Jerusalem church.

Had they forgotten what Jesus said? “When you get this power; when you get this anointing; go to Jerusalem AND to Judea, AND to Samaria, AND to all the world.” But they were still in Jerusalem at *Campmeeting 33*. They didn’t want to leave, but something would happen to change that. There’s nothing like persecution to get people on the move. After the marvelous healing of the lame man which all knew to be a notable miracle, the devil stirred up the same religious leaders that had Jesus killed, and they grabbed Peter and John and put them in prison. But when questioned, Peter preached another convicting sermon, so they threatened him and John and let them go. This only emboldened the apostles to preach more in the city, and the church continued to grow. Again the council arrested them, but that night an angel came and got them out of jail, and they went right back to the temple to preach. This time the leaders beat them and commanded them not to preach in that name (of Jesus) any more. But Peter and John left rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus, “*and daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to preach and teach Jesus Christ*” (Acts 3-5).

The Stoning of Stephen

Then the devil rose up against a precious young man named Stephen, “*a man who was full of faith and*

power and did great wonders and miracles among the people” (Acts 6:8). He also knew the Scriptures, and certain men from the synagogue “*disputing with him, could not resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke*” (vv.9-10). He was only a deacon, a table-waiter, but he was full of the Word of God, full of wisdom, knowledge, and the Holy Ghost, and that was just to wait on tables. (I think, if you think you are called to the ministry, you should at least have that.) So they paid men to bear false witness against Stephen, saying he had spoken blasphemy against Moses and God. They stirred up the people who grabbed him and brought him before the council. At his defense, he preached an eloquent summary of God’s dealings with Israel, brilliantly summarizing their tumultuous history and their many rebellions against God, to which they had added the sin of betraying and murdering *the Just One* (Jesus). “*When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart and gnashed on him with their teeth.*” His face shining like an angel’s, they grabbed him and drug him out of the city where they stoned him. Stephen looking steadfastly to heaven, saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ready to receive his spirit. With his dying breath, Stephen cried with a loud voice, “*Lord, lay not this sin to their charge*” (Acts 7:54-60).

We cannot underestimate the shock the saints felt. They had been persecuted; some beaten, some

jailed—but *not martyred!* They had to be heartbroken over this young man’s death. He was a rising giant in the Church. Yet even with this unimaginable blow, *they still did not go home.* They stayed in Jerusalem, banding together, having church.

The next chapter opens with a new player on the stage: “*And Saul was consenting unto his death (Stephen). And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles*” (Acts 8:1).

It was as though God was saying: “*You just want to stay in Campmeeting, enjoying the Holy Ghost and keeping Him all to yourselves. You have gotten most of Jerusalem saved, and you are happy with that. But two years ago, I told you to go to Judea and Samaria and throughout the Roman Empire, and you haven’t left town.*”

But when there was a great persecution, *they scattered.* This is an agricultural term that means *to sow seed.* There are two words describing two ways to plant seeds: You can take one seed at a time and drop it in a hole, walking down the row: seed-hole, seed-hole, etc. Or you can take a handful of seeds and scatter it on a field that’s been tilled. That is the meaning here. When that great persecution came, the seed of the Word of God was scattered *as they were scattered abroad.* It was not a

bad thing; it was not a negative thing. It was the exact thing that Jesus had told them to do in the beginning! To go forth and sow the seed. They were finally being pushed into action. They were being pressed into service. It took the event of *Acts 8:1* to get them to execute *Acts 1:8!* Everybody wants to stay at Campmeeting, but it was time to pack their suitcases and leave Jerusalem and take the Gospel to the rest of the world.

The Seeds Are Fruitful

In this chapter of Acts 8, Phillip went down to Samaria, a city that was under the spell of Simon the sorcerer, who had great demonic power and used sorcery to bewitch the people, and kept that whole city bound to him as some great one. When Phillip preached the Word of God, their eyes were opened, that spell was broken, and the people were set free. The revival that broke out was so powerful, word got back to the apostles in Jerusalem, and they came down to see what was going on. They laid hands on the new converts who received the Holy Ghost with speaking in tongues. Finally, the Gospel had come to Samaria!

Then the Holy Spirit told Phillip to arise and go south toward the desert. There he *happened* to come upon an Ethiopian eunuch, the treasurer for Candace, the Queen of Sheba, traveling south from Jerusalem. He *happened* to be

reading a scroll from Isaiah, chapter 53, which speaks of Messiah. Led of the Spirit, Phillip asked to join him in his chariot, and then asked what he was reading. The man told him, saying that he didn't understand who it was about. *Talk about an open door!* Phillip preached Jesus Christ to him, he believed and was saved! Then they just *happened* to come upon water, and the eunuch asked Phillip to baptize him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit caught Phillip away and took him to his next assignment at Azotos. Then he passed through Caesarea, preaching in all the cities there. The eunuch went rejoicing on his way. This means he took the newly planted seed of the Gospel in him back to Ethiopia!

Campmeeting is wonderful; revival is glorious, and it's great to be in a good church getting blessed and revived by the Word. But it's not enough for the saints to sit in church and have their spiritual senses scintillated until they feel awesome. It's time to take the awesome power of God to the streets. It's time to get out there and be the seed of God and sow the seed. When you give your testimony on the street, you are sowing seed. When you go to convalescent homes and nursing homes, and to the prisons with the Gospel, you are sowing seed. When you have the opportunity to witness on your job on break or lunchtime, you are sowing seed. When you leave a generous tip for your waitress

with a Gospel tract, you are sowing seed. As a child of God, you have the seed in you, and you are responsible to get out of the church and disseminate it.

We are blessed to day with technology: Satellites that preach the Gospel globally over television and radio, and over the Internet, and when you give to support ministries who preach the whole counsel of God through these media, you are sowing seed. When you pay your tithes to your church that there might be meat in God's house, you are sowing seed. When you support this Ministry to send FIA magazine out every month free, you are sowing seed. We also regularly send funds to our Isiome orphanage, Bible school, and medical facility in Kenya, Africa. When you give to this Ministry, you are giving missionary offerings to support this and a work in Haiti. Perhaps you physically cannot go to the streets and evangelistic field of America, or to these foreign places, but when you support the Gospel, you are sowing the seed that produces souls into the kingdom of God.

Christians, if you are not producing Christians, you are spiritually sterile.