

CHAPTER FORTY-TWO

THE INAUGURATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD (The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit)

EPHESIANS 5:18

18 AND BE NOT DRUNK WITH WINE, WHEREIN IS EXCESS; BUT BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT;

With Pentecost a new era began, the age of the Holy Spirit. The difference from the Old Testament period is threefold: First, the extent of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit under the old covenant was that the Spirit came only on certain individuals.

NUMBERS 11:29

29 AND MOSES SAID UNTO HIM, ENVIEST THOU FOR MY SAKE? WOULD GOD THAT ALL THE LORD'S PEOPLE WERE PROPHETS, AND THAT THE LORD WOULD PUT HIS SPIRIT UPON THEM!

Under the New Covenant He comes for all believers.

ROMANS 8:9

9 BUT YE ARE NOT IN THE FLESH, BUT IN THE SPIRIT, IF SO BE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU. NOW IF ANY MAN HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE IS NONE OF HIS.

Under the Old Covenant the Spirit in each instance worked only for a time, usually a short duration.

NUMBERS 11:25

25 AND THE LORD CAME DOWN IN A CLOUD, AND SPAKE UNTO HIM, AND TOOK OF THE SPIRIT THAT WAS UPON HIM, AND GAVE IT UNTO THE SEVENTY ELDERS: AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT, WHEN THE SPIRIT RESTED UPON THEM, THEY PROPHESED, AND DID NOT CEASE.

Under the New Covenant He dwells continually in believers.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

KNOW YE NOT THAT YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, AND THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLETH IN YOU?

2 CORINTHIANS 6:16

16 AND WHAT AGREEMENT HATH THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS? FOR YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; AS GOD HATH SAID, I WILL DWELL IN THEM, AND WALK IN THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

2 TIMOTHY 1:14

14 THAT GOOD THING WHICH WAS COMMITTED UNTO THEE KEEP BY THE HOLY GHOST WHICH DWELLETH IN US.

Only because of His indwelling can the church universal be described as a "temple" or "house" of God.

EPHESIANS 2:21-22

21 IN WHOM ALL THE BUILDING FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER GROWETH UNTO AN HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD:

22 IN WHOM YE ALSO ARE BUILDED TOGETHER FOR AN HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT.

1 PETER 2:4-5

4 TO WHOM COMING, AS UNTO A LIVING STONE, DISALLOWED INDEED OF MEN, BUT CHOSEN OF GOD, AND PRECIOUS,

5 YE ALSO, AS LIVELY STONES, ARE BUILT UP A SPIRITUAL HOUSE, AN HOLY PRIESTHOOD, TO OFFER UP SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD BY JESUS CHRIST.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:17

17 IF ANY MAN DEFILE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, HIM SHALL GOD DESTROY; FOR THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS HOLY, WHICH TEMPLE YE ARE.

1 TIMOTHY 3:15

15 BUT IF I TARRY LONG, THAT THOU MAYEST KNOW HOW THOU OUGHTEST TO BEHAVE THYSELF IN THE HOUSE OF GOD, WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

19 WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, WHICH YE HAVE OF GOD, AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN?

The Holy Spirit is not merely a power, but a Person with a will and a super personality. He speaks, calls, commands, permits, instructs, comforts, intercedes, bears witness, and can be grieved.

ACTS 13:2

2 AS THEY MINISTERED TO THE LORD, AND FASTED, THE HOLY GHOST SAID, SEPARATE ME BARNABAS AND SAUL FOR THE WORK WHEREUNTO I HAVE CALLED THEM.

ACTS 16:6-7

6 NOW WHEN THEY HAD GONE THROUGHOUT PHRYGIA AND THE REGION OF GALATIA, AND WERE FORBIDDEN OF THE HOLY GHOST TO PREACH THE WORD IN ASIA,

**7 AFTER THEY WERE COME TO MYSIA, THEY ASSAYED TO GO INTO BITHYNIA:
BUT THE SPIRIT SUFFERED THEM NOT.**

ROM 8:14

14 FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.

JOHN 16:13

13 HOWBEIT WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, IS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH: FOR HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF; BUT WHATSOEVER HE SHALL HEAR, THAT SHALL HE SPEAK: AND HE WILL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME.

JOHN 14:26

26 BUT THE COMFORTER, WHICH IS THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, HE SHALL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, AND BRING ALL THINGS TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE, WHATSOEVER I HAVE SAID UNTO YOU.

ROMANS 8:26

26 LIKEWISE THE SPIRIT ALSO HELPETH OUR INFIRMITIES: FOR WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AS WE OUGHT: BUT THE SPIRIT ITSELF MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US WITH GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED.

ROMANS 8:16

16 THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT, THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD:

EPHESIANS 4:30

30 AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, WHEREBY YE ARE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.

Only a living, personal being can do these things. Look at what Jesus said in Matthew, chapter twenty-eight. Also, note what Paul have to say to the Cabout the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 28:19

19 GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST.

II CORINTHIANS 13:14

14 THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY GHOST, BE WITH YOU ALL. AMEN.

The Holy Spirit so plainly stands equal with the Father and the Son. He is a Divine Person.

The content and purpose of the Spirit's work is to be our next topic for study. Under the old covenant the Spirit worked only to educate and to capacitate for service. In the new covenant He works in most manifold ways, namely, for the awakening of faith. He woos unto Salvation. The office of the Spirit is to glorify Christ.

JOHN 16:13-14

13 HOWBEIT WHEN HE, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, IS COME, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH: FOR HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF; BUT WHATSOEVER HE SHALL HEAR, THAT SHALL HE SPEAK: AND HE WILL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME.

14 HE SHALL GLORIFY ME: FOR HE SHALL RECEIVE OF MINE, AND SHALL SHEW IT UNTO YOU.

As the Witness of the Lord to the world He is the great evangelist of the Son. He speaks to the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; of the sin of the world, of the righteousness of Christ, and of the judgment upon Satan.

JOHN 15:26

26 BUT WHEN THE COMFORTER IS COME, WHOM I WILL SEND UNTO YOU FROM THE FATHER, EVEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WHICH PROCEEDETH FROM THE FATHER, HE SHALL TESTIFY OF ME:

REV 19:10

10 AND I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM. AND HE SAID UNTO ME, SEE THOU DO IT NOT: I AM THY FELLOWSERVANT, AND OF THY BRETHREN THAT HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS: WORSHIP GOD: FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.

REVELATION 22:17

17 AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT IS ATHIRST COME. AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.

JOHN 16:8-11

8 AND WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL REPROVE THE WORLD OF SIN, AND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGMENT:

9 OF SIN, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE NOT ON ME;

10 OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE I GO TO MY FATHER, AND YE SEE ME NO MORE;

11 OF JUDGMENT, BECAUSE THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD IS JUDGED.

The Holy Spirit exposes the sin of the world by reference to their unbelief which led them to the rejection of the Lord. A continued rejection of the Lord is the sin against the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 2:22-23

**22 YE MEN OF ISRAEL, HEAR THESE WORDS; JESUS OF NAZARETH, A MAN APPROVED OF GOD AMONG YOU BY MIRACLES AND WONDERS AND SIGNS, WHICH GOD DID BY HIM IN THE MIDST OF YOU, AS YE YOURSELVES ALSO KNOW:
23 HIM, BEING DELIVERED BY THE DETERMINATE COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YE HAVE TAKEN, AND BY WICKED HANDS HAVE CRUCIFIED AND SLAIN:**

ACTS 3:13-15

13 THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND OF ISAAC, AND OF JACOB, THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, HATH GLORIFIED HIS SON JESUS; WHOM YE DELIVERED UP, AND DENIED HIM IN THE PRESENCE OF PILATE, WHEN HE WAS DETERMINED TO LET HIM GO.

14 BUT YE DENIED THE HOLY ONE AND THE JUST, AND DESIRED A MURDERER TO BE GRANTED UNTO YOU;

15 AND KILLED THE PRINCE OF LIFE, WHOM GOD HATH RAISED FROM THE DEAD; WHEREOF WE ARE WITNESSES.

ACTS 7:52

52 WHICH OF THE PROPHETS HAVE NOT YOUR FATHERS PERSECUTED? AND THEY HAVE SLAIN THEM WHICH SHEWED BEFORE OF THE COMING OF THE JUST ONE; OF WHOM YE HAVE BEEN NOW THE BETRAYERS AND MURDERERS:

The Holy Spirit establishes the righteousness of Christ by declaring that the One who had been rejected by sinners as being unrighteous has now after His ascension been acknowledged by God as the holy and righteous One.

ACTS 2:25

25 FOR DAVID SPEAKETH CONCERNING HIM, I FORESAW THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE MY FACE, FOR HE IS ON MY RIGHT HAND, THAT I SHOULD NOT BE MOVED:

Good Friday appeared to have adjudged Jesus to be a sinner and His judges to be righteous.

The ascension and Pentecost reversed this sentence. This is why Jesus said, as recorded in John 16:10, that the Spirit will convict the world of righteousness "because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more." The Spirit makes clear by reference to the Redeemer's victory by the cross that there will definitely be judgment upon satan. It is by the very cross itself that the prince of this world has been judged; and on that account, the world can now do homage to another, its proper Prince, Jesus Christ.

Thus, through the witness of the Spirit, the world, which is righteous in its own eyes, is declared sinful. He who was crucified by the world is proven to be holy and righteous. Satan, the instigator of the murder of Golgotha, is exposed as the one who is conquered and judged. In all this the Spirit associates Himself with the Word.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:2-4

2 FOR I DETERMINED NOT TO KNOW ANY THING AMONG YOU, SAVE JESUS CHRIST, AND HIM CRUCIFIED.

3 AND I WAS WITH YOU IN WEAKNESS, AND IN FEAR, AND IN MUCH TREMBLING.

4 AND MY SPEECH AND MY PREACHING WAS NOT WITH ENTICING WORDS OF MAN'S WISDOM, BUT IN DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT AND OF POWER:

He puts the words in the mouths of His witnesses and makes the spoken and written word effectual and alive unto salvation. He comforts us, the believers.

JOHN 14:16-18

**16 AND I WILL PRAY THE FATHER, AND HE SHALL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER, THAT HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOR EVER;
17 EVEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH; WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE, BECAUSE IT SEETH HIM NOT, NEITHER KNOWETH HIM: BUT YE KNOW HIM; FOR HE DWELLETH WITH YOU, AND SHALL BE IN YOU.
18 I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU COMFORTLESS: I WILL COME TO YOU.**

ROMANS 8:16

16 THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT, THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD:

He convicts us when unfaithful and leads us to repentance. He teaches us the words of Jesus and guides us into all the truth.

1 JOHN 2:20

20 BUT YE HAVE AN UNCTION FROM THE HOLY ONE, AND YE KNOW ALL THINGS.

The Holy Spirit prepares the members of the body of Christ and uses us as His instruments. He gives us characteristics like those of Jesus.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

**22 BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH,
23 MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW.**

He orders our gifts and divides them according to His own will.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

**4 NOW THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT.
5 AND THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF ADMINISTRATIONS, BUT THE SAME LORD.
6 AND THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF OPERATIONS, BUT IT IS THE SAME GOD WHICH WORKETH ALL IN ALL.
7 BUT THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO EVERY MAN TO PROFIT WITHAL.
8 FOR TO ONE IS GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT THE WORD OF WISDOM; TO ANOTHER THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE BY THE SAME SPIRIT;
9 TO ANOTHER FAITH BY THE SAME SPIRIT; TO ANOTHER THE GIFTS OF HEALING BY THE SAME SPIRIT;
10 TO ANOTHER THE WORKING OF MIRACLES; TO ANOTHER PROPHECY; TO ANOTHER DISCERNING OF SPIRITS; TO ANOTHER DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES; TO ANOTHER THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:
11 BUT ALL THESE WORKETH THAT ONE AND THE SELFSAME SPIRIT, DIVIDING TO EVERY MAN SEVERALLY AS HE WILL.**

He appoints our service in the church and in its gatherings. The Holy Spirit gives life to the prayers of the believers and grants them authority.

JUDE 20

20 BUT YE, BELOVED, BUILDING UP YOURSELVES ON YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH, PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST,

EPHESIANS 6:18

18 PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, AND WATCHING THEREUNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL SAINTS;

ROMANS 8:26

26 LIKEWISE THE SPIRIT ALSO HELPETH OUR INFIRMITIES: FOR WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AS WE OUGHT: BUT THE SPIRIT ITSELF MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US WITH GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED.

He leads the church in witnessing—that is, when and where. He fills our witness with power. He reveals Himself to the church as the Spirit of glory. In all this He is the "power from on high." He is the oil which anoints and shines. He is the fire which blazes. He is water which cleanses. He is the early rain which refreshes. He is a quiet, soft rustling. He is a rushing wind, mysterious yet mighty.

ACTS 2:1-4

1 AND WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST WAS FULLY COME, THEY WERE ALL WITH ONE ACCORD IN ONE PLACE.

2 AND SUDDENLY THERE CAME A SOUND FROM HEAVEN AS OF A RUSHING MIGHTY WIND, AND IT FILLED ALL THE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE SITTING.

3 AND THERE APPEARED UNTO THEM CLOVEN TONGUES LIKE AS OF FIRE, AND IT SAT UPON EACH OF THEM.

4 AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.

As to the future, the Spirit is the guarantee of our deliverance, the "seal" of our salvation, the earnest of our inheritance, the interest on the coming glorious estate, and the first-fruits of the coming eternal harvest. Thus, the significance of Pentecost reaches on into eternity. Through the Spirit we are sons, and as sons, heirs, and as heirs, we are sharers of His coming glory.

ROMANS 8:14

14 FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.

GALATIANS 4:6-7

6 AND BECAUSE YE ARE SONS, GOD HATH SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO YOUR HEARTS, CRYING, ABBA, FATHER.

7 WHEREFORE THOU ART NO MORE A SERVANT, BUT A SON; AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST.

ROMANS 8:17

17 AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS; HEIRS OF GOD, AND JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST; IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY BE ALSO GLORIFIED TOGETHER.

These verses tell us that we can know that we are saved. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God. This means that we are on our way to heaven. Salvation is our ticket into heaven. But to be totally obedient to the Word of God, we are to witness to other people. Our reward in Heaven is going to be dependent on whether or not we share Jesus and the Plan of Salvation with other people. We have been saved so that we can go to heaven and be responsible for other people getting there, as well. Not only are we blessed when we share Jesus, our whole nation is blessed. As Christians, we have failed to see the connection between the Spiritual need for witnessing and the welfare of our country.

To further explain, let's go back and review the overall plan of God for His people. But first, let's look at what God's will is not. In addition to God's will being that we are not to sin, He also wants us to have a positive reason for existing—winning others to Him.

GENESIS 11:1-9

1 AND THE WHOLE EARTH WAS OF ONE LANGUAGE, AND OF ONE SPEECH.

2 AND IT CAME TO PASS, AS THEY JOURNEYED FROM THE EAST, THAT THEY FOUND A PLAIN IN THE LAND OF SHINAR; AND THEY DWELT THERE.

3 AND THEY SAID ONE TO ANOTHER, GO TO, LET US MAKE BRICK, AND BURN THEM THOROUGHLY. AND THEY HAD BRICK FOR STONE, AND SLIME HAD THEY FOR MORTER.

4 AND THEY SAID, GO TO, LET US BUILD US A CITY AND A TOWER, WHOSE TOP MAY REACH UNTO HEAVEN; AND LET US MAKE US A NAME, LEST WE BE SCATTERED ABROAD UPON THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH.

5 AND THE LORD CAME DOWN TO SEE THE CITY AND THE TOWER, WHICH THE CHILDREN OF MEN BUILDED.

6 AND THE LORD SAID, BEHOLD, THE PEOPLE IS ONE, AND THEY HAVE ALL ONE LANGUAGE; AND THIS THEY BEGIN TO DO: AND NOW NOTHING WILL BE RESTRAINED FROM THEM, WHICH THEY HAVE IMAGINED TO DO.

7 GO TO, LET US GO DOWN, AND THERE CONFOUND THEIR LANGUAGE, THAT THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER'S SPEECH.

8 SO THE LORD SCATTERED THEM ABROAD FROM THENCE UPON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH: AND THEY LEFT OFF TO BUILD THE CITY.

9 THEREFORE IS THE NAME OF IT CALLED BABEL; BECAUSE THE LORD DID THERE CONFOUND THE LANGUAGE OF ALL THE EARTH: AND FROM THENCE DID THE LORD SCATTER THEM ABROAD UPON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH.

The old saying, "Birds of a feather, flock together," is a true statement. In the case that Fay just read, the group joined together for a wrong purpose. God said that even though they had an evil plan in mind, they would be able to accomplish it unless He stopped it. So, He did. He confused their language.

The church is supposed to be a group that has joined together for a good purpose. When this is really the case, God will help the church to accomplish its goal. Unfortunately, the church universal is not as joined together as the people of Babel. We have trouble agreeing on everything. This is nothing new.

LUKE 2:46-50

46 AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT AFTER THREE DAYS THEY FOUND HIM IN THE TEMPLE, SITTING IN THE MIDST OF THE DOCTORS, BOTH HEARING THEM, AND ASKING THEM QUESTIONS.

47 AND ALL THAT HEARD HIM WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS UNDERSTANDING AND ANSWERS.

48 AND WHEN THEY SAW HIM, THEY WERE AMAZED: AND HIS MOTHER SAID UNTO HIM, SON, WHY HAST THOU THUS DEALT WITH US? BEHOLD, THY FATHER AND I HAVE SOUGHT THEE SORROWING.

49 AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, HOW IS IT THAT YE SOUGHT ME? WIST YE NOT THAT I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS?

Jesus had been discussing the Word of God with those who were supposed to have an understanding of the Word. The teaching of the Word was pretty well confined to the temple. Ordinary people did not have access to studying it. This is contrary to the will of God. He wants everyone to know His Word.

Often times, people, including those who should know the Word would mix traditions and previous beliefs with their worship of God. The erroneous beliefs over time crept their way into the temple. So, there was no place where the pure Word of God was being taught. Jesus knew that if people were ever to understand the Word, it was going to have to be explained in the simplest of ways. He preached the Sermon on the Mount which applied to the everyday life of those who heard it. Still the people did not receive all that He had to say. They had trouble with seeing how the Word applied to them individually. Of course, it was easy to see how everyone else was missing the mark. Jesus then preached a second message to the multitude. This time His sermon was by the sea and was much more assessable than when He was on the mountain. For the first time Jesus used parables to teach His points. He wanted the people to be able to relate to natural things and then be able to see the spiritual significance.

MATTHEW 13:1-23

1 THE SAME DAY WENT JESUS OUT OF THE HOUSE, AND SAT BY THE SEA SIDE.

2 AND GREAT MULTITUDES WERE GATHERED TOGETHER UNTO HIM, SO THAT HE WENT INTO A SHIP, AND SAT; AND THE WHOLE MULTITUDE STOOD ON THE SHORE.

3 AND HE SPAKE MANY THINGS UNTO THEM IN PARABLES, SAYING, BEHOLD, A

SOWER WENT FORTH TO SOW;

4 AND WHEN HE SOWED, SOME SEEDS FELL BY THE WAY SIDE, AND THE FOWLS CAME AND DEVoured THEM UP:

5 SOME FELL UPON STONY PLACES, WHERE THEY HAD NOT MUCH EARTH: AND FORTHWITH THEY SPRUNG UP, BECAUSE THEY HAD NO DEEPNESS OF EARTH:

6 AND WHEN THE SUN WAS UP, THEY WERE SCORCHED; AND BECAUSE THEY HAD NO ROOT, THEY WITHERED AWAY.

7 AND SOME FELL AMONG THORNS; AND THE THORNS SPRUNG UP, AND CHOKED THEM:

8 BUT OTHER FELL INTO GOOD GROUND, AND BROUGHT FORTH FRUIT, SOME AN HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTYFOLD, SOME THIRTYFOLD.

9 WHO HATH EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR.

10 AND THE DISCIPLES CAME, AND SAID UNTO HIM, WHY SPEAKEST THOU UNTO AND SOME FELL AMONG THORNS; AND THE THORNS SPRUNG THEM IN PARABLES?

11 HE ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN UNTO YOU TO KNOW THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT TO THEM IT IS NOT GIVEN.

12 FOR WHOSOEVER HATH, TO HIM SHALL BE GIVEN, AND HE SHALL HAVE MORE ABUNDANCE: BUT WHOSOEVER HATH NOT, FROM HIM SHALL BE TAKEN AWAY EVEN THAT HE HATH.

13 THEREFORE SPEAK I TO THEM IN PARABLES: BECAUSE THEY SEEING SEE NOT; AND HEARING THEY HEAR NOT, NEITHER DO THEY UNDERSTAND.

14 AND IN THEM IS FULFILLED THE PROPHECY OF ESAIAS, WHICH SAITH, BY HEARING YE SHALL HEAR, AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND SEEING YE SHALL SEE, AND SHALL NOT PERCEIVE:

15 FOR THIS PEOPLE'S HEART IS WAXED GROSS, AND THEIR EARS ARE DULL OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED; LEST AT ANY TIME THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART, AND SHOULD BE CONVERTED, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM.

16 BUT BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES, FOR THEY SEE: AND YOUR EARS, FOR THEY HEAR.

17 FOR VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT MANY PROPHETS AND RIGHTEOUS MEN HAVE DESIRED TO SEE THOSE THINGS WHICH YE SEE, AND HAVE NOT SEEN THEM; AND TO HEAR THOSE THINGS WHICH YE HEAR, AND HAVE NOT HEARD THEM.

18 HEAR YE THEREFORE THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

19 WHEN ANY ONE HEARETH THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM, AND UNDERSTANDETH IT NOT, THEN COMETH THE WICKED ONE, AND CATCHETH AWAY THAT WHICH WAS SOWN IN HIS HEART. THIS IS HE WHICH RECEIVED SEED BY THE WAY SIDE.

20 BUT HE THAT RECEIVED THE SEED INTO STONY PLACES, THE SAME IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD, AND ANON WITH JOY RECEIVETH IT;

21 YET HATH HE NOT ROOT IN HIMSELF, BUT DURETH FOR A WHILE: FOR WHEN TRIBULATION OR PERSECUTION ARISETH BECAUSE OF THE WORD, BY AND BY HE IS OFFENDED.

22 HE ALSO THAT RECEIVED SEED AMONG THE THORNS IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD; AND THE CARE OF THIS WORLD, AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, CHOKE THE WORD, AND HE BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL.

23 BUT HE THAT RECEIVED SEED INTO THE GOOD GROUND IS HE THAT HEARETH THE WORD, AND UNDERSTANDETH IT; WHICH ALSO BEARETH FRUIT, AND BRINGETH FORTH, SOME AN HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME THIRTY.

This parable is easy to understand. The Word of God is the seed that is talked about in this parable. The parable describes how the Word was being received in the hearts of people. Note that it is only those that had hearts made of good soil that received rewards because they were the only ones who produced fruit. We are saved to serve. Producing fruit is our purpose for being here as children of God. Jesus did not stop with this parable. He continued with another parable.

MATT 13:24-30

24 ANOTHER PARABLE PUT HE FORTH UNTO THEM, SAYING, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKENED UNTO A MAN WHICH SOWED GOOD SEED IN HIS FIELD:

25 BUT WHILE MEN SLEPT, HIS ENEMY CAME AND SOWED TARES AMONG THE WHEAT, AND WENT HIS WAY.

26 BUT WHEN THE BLADE WAS SPRUNG UP, AND BROUGHT FORTH FRUIT, THEN APPEARED THE TARES ALSO.

27 SO THE SERVANTS OF THE HOUSEHOLDER CAME AND SAID UNTO HIM, SIR, DIDST NOT THOU SOW GOOD SEED IN THY FIELD? FROM WHENCE THEN HATH IT TARES?

28 HE SAID UNTO THEM, AN ENEMY HATH DONE THIS. THE SERVANTS SAID UNTO HIM, WILT THOU THEN THAT WE GO AND GATHER THEM UP?

29 BUT HE SAID, NAY; LEST WHILE YE GATHER UP THE TARES, YE ROOT UP ALSO THE WHEAT WITH THEM.

30 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.

In the previous parable the good ground produced fruit. In this parable, people are the seed. Only those with good hearts are called the wheat. The wheat is those that produce fruit. But we all know that the enemy does not want Christians to produce fruit by winning souls. He does everything he can to prevent this. Even in the church, he sows bad seed, bad people. They are called tares in this parable. Jesus said to let the tares grow up with the wheat. We are not to judge people. Our judgment call might be wrong. We might hurt our brothers and sisters in the Lord if we try to separate the wheat from the tares. It would be possible to destroy a whole

family if we misjudged someone. This is why Jesus said to let them grow together until harvest time. At that point, Jesus, the One appointed by God to be the judge, will separate the wheat from the tares. He will be 100% accurate in His call. Our responsibility is to produce fruit.

Jesus called His disciples to carry on His ministry. They were to deliver the message of salvation.

JOHN 21:14-17

14 THIS IS NOW THE THIRD TIME THAT JESUS SHEWED HIMSELF TO HIS DISCIPLES, AFTER THAT HE WAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD.

15 SO WHEN THEY HAD DINED, JESUS SAITH TO SIMON PETER, SIMON, SON OF JONAS, LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE? HE SAITH UNTO HIM, YEA, LORD; THOU KNOWEST THAT I LOVE THEE. HE SAITH UNTO HIM, FEED MY LAMBS.

16 HE SAITH TO HIM AGAIN THE SECOND TIME, SIMON, SON OF JONAS, LOVEST THOU ME? HE SAITH UNTO HIM, YEA, LORD; THOU KNOWEST THAT I LOVE THEE. HE SAITH UNTO HIM, FEED MY SHEEP.

17 HE SAITH UNTO HIM THE THIRD TIME, SIMON, SON OF JONAS, LOVEST THOU ME? PETER WAS GRIEVED BECAUSE HE SAID UNTO HIM THE THIRD TIME, LOVEST THOU ME? AND HE SAID UNTO HIM, LORD, THOU KNOWEST ALL THINGS; THOU KNOWEST THAT I LOVE THEE. JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, FEED MY SHEEP.