



On Good Ground

PRICELESS
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A Word from the Lord

The word of God is central to the life of a child of God. Let's put it together: *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3). *"The just shall live by faith"* (Hebrews 10:38). *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17).

It's clear that we need the word of God to live the kind of life God wants us to live – a life of faith. This explains why the devil tries to get us engaged in busyness. He would rather see us busy pursuing personal goals, hanging out with friends, watching television, or even running from church event to church event, because he knows every activity brings with it the great potential to crowd out the word of God.

Here's a truth we have to grip as if our life depended on it (because it does!): nothing that God is doing now or will do in the future takes place unless there is a word from the Lord. Nothing. We can fast and pray as much as we want; we can worship and praise God; we can be involved in every ministry in the church, and it wouldn't matter if we did not have a word from the mouth of God.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was with God the Father at the beginning: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). We're also told that in the beginning, *"the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters"* (Genesis 1:2).

Although God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were present together at the beginning, nothing was happening. The earth was still a dark and empty place – until God spoke a word: *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light"* (Genesis 3:3). Once God spoke and said, "Let there be light," things began to change. It is the same thing in our lives today.

We need to hear God speak unto us when we read the Word, hear anointed preaching or pray unto Him in our prayer closet. Without a word, nothing is going to change in our lives. But once, we have a word, look out! There is no telling what we can do in the power of the Lord.

Many years ago, there was a fierce storm raging on the sea, and the disciples' boat was being battered and tossed to and fro. At that point, Jesus came on the scene, walking on water. The disciples thought He was a ghost, so Jesus sought to calm their fears by telling them, *"Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid"* (Matthew 14:22-27).

Upon hearing this Peter replied, *"Lord if it be thou, bid me to come unto thee on the water"* (v.28). Jesus then spoke a word: *"Come."* Peter got out of the boat and began to do the miraculous: he began to walk on water! (v. 29). I believe Peter took four steps – "C-O-M-E." Glory to God!! When he got to the "E" he didn't have any more word to stand on, so he began looking around at the wind and waves, causing fear to enter his heart. Without a word to stand on, he began to sink (v. 30).

Beloved of God, the Lord has not changed. If we are going to make it through the major storms of life or even the simple challenges of each day, we are going to need a word from the Lord. In order to get the word that we need, we are going to have to make time for the Word of God. Quiet time. Quality time. One-on-one time. With the Word of God as our foundation, there is nothing that can stop us from fulfilling our divine assignment in the earth. We will see and be the miracles that God long ago ordained.

So no matter how much you may have on your plate at the moment, make sure that you always make room for the Word of God. The Word is your life (Deuteronomy 32:46-47). If you want to live the life God wants you to have, a life where you make a difference every day in Jesus' name, you need a word from the Lord. Be sure to take the time to hear and to heed what the Lord is saying to you at this hour.

BIBLE QUIZ

Multiple Choices. Often we are faced with decisions that we must make. And the best thing to do in those situations is ask for wisdom that we might make the right one. God says He will give it liberally to anyone who asks. So with that said, here are just some general questions offering multiple choices. Some obvious, some not so obvious. See how many you can answer. It's only eight this time! And don't forget to give us the Scripture and most of all, don't forget to ask God for wisdom! ☺

- Who led a rebellion against the authority of Moses and the ground swallowed them up?
 - Joshua
 - Aaron
 - Miriam
 - Korah
- Who took the place of Judas as one of the disciples?
 - Joseph
 - Matthus
 - Luke
 - Paul
- The gift of the Holy Spirit that was given in Acts chapter 2 was spoken by which prophet of the Old Testament?
 - Joel
 - Daniel
 - Habakkuk
 - Malachi
- Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good _____ of Jesus Christ.
 - warrior
 - servant
 - soldier
 - apostle
- Who did Ruth marry after her first husband died?
 - Mahlon
 - Boaz
 - Elimelech
 - Pharaoh
- When Hezekiah was sick unto death, what prophet told him that he was going to die?
 - Ezekiel
 - Samuel
 - Joel
 - Isaiah
- What sign did God give to Hezekiah so he would know that God would add fifteen years to his life?
 - The shadow on the sun dial would go back ten degrees
 - gave Hezekiah great riches
 - gave Hezekiah great wisdom
 - made him king of Judah
- In Revelation 4:1 who is told to "Come up hither"?
 - the church
 - John
 - Christians
 - Paul

(Answers on next page)



Corporate prayer at the church is held every other Monday at 7pm. Since we started we have seen God move in some mighty ways. We are praying and want to pray for you. If you have any specific prayer requests feel free to let us know. Email us at prayer@ongoodground.org.

Need a Word. Want to receive daily encouragement? Or be notified of What's Happening Now with the ministry, there's an APP for that! On Good Ground NOW has an APP! And it's free! Download it NOW!



Once upon a time a very strong woodcutter asked for a job as a timber merchant, and he got it. The pay was really good and so were the work conditions. For that reason alone, the woodcutter was determined to do his best. His boss gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to work. The first day, the woodcutter brought 18 trees. "Congratulations," the boss said. "Continue to do it that way!" Very motivated by the boss' words, the woodcutter tried harder the next day, but he only could bring 15 trees. The third day he tried even harder, but he only brought 10 trees. Day after day he was bringing fewer trees than the day before. "I must be losing my strength," the woodcutter thought. Concerned, he went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on. "When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" the boss asked. "Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been too busy trying to cut the trees..."

Not going to say a lot... only that sometimes we get so busy doing the "job", doing the "ministry" that we don't take the time with the One we need to get the strength we need to do it with... Let us not be so busy "doing" that we forget to sharpen our tool. Just a little something to consider.



A MOMENT WITH GOD

"Help me to remember that nothing will happen today that You and I can't handle together."



"The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works."

-Psalm 145:9 NKJV



Two Enemies of Faith

Walking with God requires having faith in God and in His Word. Each day, we face many challenges to our faith, and they come from all angles. Problems at home, difficult co-workers, unexpected tragedies, bad news from near and far, money and health issues, spiritual battles of various kind. Thank God He made us more than conquerors (Romans 8:37), enabling us through Christ to overcome everything that comes our way. Yet, if we are to overcome indeed, we are going to have to slay two chief enemies of faith: fear and laziness.

Most Christians will not admit to struggling with either enemy. Right this very minute, there are some who are whipping out 2 Timothy 1:7 – “*God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*” Yes, beloved, *God* has not given you a fearful spirit, but the devil is at work in your life every day trying to scare the living daylights out of you. The scripture does not say Christians do not get afraid, it just tells us that when we do, that fear did not come from God.

Most Christians also would not admit to being lazy. Most pride themselves on being hard workers. But it’s been said that in every church 20% of the people do 80% of the work. I think those figures are more like 10/90. (And all the pastors said, “Amen!”). Some folk wouldn’t know what hard work was if it tripped them and made them drop their coffee and doughnut!

Seriously though, fear and laziness are two enemies of faith that every Christian must confront, subdue and defeat in order to live an abundant life. Let’s take a look at how these enemies work.

In Mark chapter 4, Jesus told His disciples, “*Let us pass over unto the other side*” (v. 35). The disciples and Jesus thereupon boarded a ship and were soon in the midst of a fierce storm. Jesus, was not troubled at all; in fact, he was sound asleep on a pillow (vv. 36-38). The disciples woke Him up, saying, “*Master, carest thou not that we perish?*” Jesus got up, rebuked the storm and, we’re told, “*there was a great calm.*” (vv. 38-39). Jesus then rebuked his disciples: “*Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?*” (v. 40).

Jesus made it plain that fear and faith cannot be operable at the same time. The disciples had a word from Jesus that they would get to the other side. That word should have filled them with faith, even in the midst of the storm. But once the disciples allowed fear to enter in, faith was evicted, and they had “no faith.” The script needs to be flipped. Whenever fear tries to move into our hearts, we must use the Word of God to stir up our faith and put fear on the run.

It’s the same thing with laziness. In Matthew 25, Jesus shares the parable of the talents in which a man gave five talents (a measure of money) to one servant, two talents to another and one talent to a third (vv. 14-15). The first two were faithful stewards and each doubled their money. The master was pleased, calling them “good and faithful servants” (vv. 16-23). The third servant was not so fortunate. Hear his own words, as he tried to explain why he did nothing with the talent he was given: “*I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours*” (v. 25 NKJV). Fear kept him from operating in faith.

The master responded by calling him a “wicked and lazy servant.” He told that servant he should at least have put the money in the bank so that it could have earned interest (vv. 26-27). Whereas the first two servants were invited to enter into the joy of the Lord, the third servant was cast into outer darkness, but not before his one talent was given to the servant who had 10.

Laziness kept that third servant from operating in faith with what his lord had given him. It will do the same thing with us. We must be careful here, because laziness will make all kinds of excuses to cover up inactivity. Proverbs 22:13 says, “*The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’*” Laziness makes up all kinds of excuses to avoid work. That’s why most lazy folk don’t know that their lazy!

In the end, if we are going to live a life of faith we must examine ourselves to be sure that fear and laziness have no part in us. Both are enemies of our faith that simply cannot be tolerated.

We are so busy waiting for God to use us in magnificent ways that we are missing out on the ordinary ones.

We miss out on our miracles because we are hearing what God said, but not doing what God said to do.

We should never confuse “more” with “better.”

A person after God’s own heart is in a distinguished place.

God separates us so we can grow into our anointing.

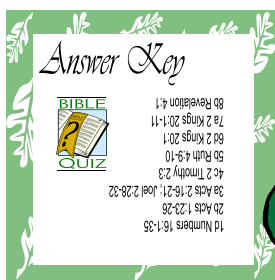
The people who are in front are easy targets.

Just because everything falls into place, doesn’t mean it’s from God.

The first thing the enemy will do after God speaks a Word to us is challenge what God has said.

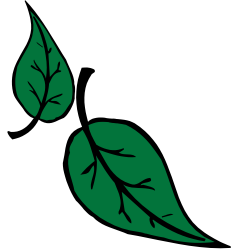
The Prayer of Salvation

God, I come to You in the name of Jesus. You said that all have fallen short of the glory of God. You sent Your Son that I would be saved. Forgive me of my sins, Lord. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died for me and You raised Him from the dead. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and believe that I have been born again. Thank You for loving me, for forgiving me and coming into my heart. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.





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Have you shared the Good News yet?

"But the ones that fell on good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." - Luke 8:15



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May the Lord God bless you in astonishing ways!
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THE BEST ROBE

In the story of the Prodigal Son, we're told about the younger of two sons who received his inheritance early from his father and quickly turned to a life of partying (Luke 15:11-14, 30). The party soon came to an end and the son found himself feeding and living among swine, which for a Jew was unbearably degrading. He decided that he would return home and admit his sin to his father and accept his lot as a servant (vv. 15-19). But we know how the story ends. When the son is yet far off, the father spots him walking on the horizon and he runs to him, embraces him and greets him with a kiss. He then tells his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet" (vv. 20-22). This story, of course, reflects the grace of our Heavenly Father toward us. God the Father has readily forgiven us through Christ Jesus of all our sins. He has embraced us in His love and made us righteous in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). We don't have to "make up" for our transgressions, we just have to accept what Jesus did on Calvary's cross. When we do, the Father gives His angels the command, "Bring forth the best robe." If you have accepted Christ, but yet feel unworthy, know that it's not about you, it's about Jesus and what He did for you. So just lift up your head, accept your garments of salvation and your robe of righteousness and give God the praise for His awesome love and His amazing grace (Isaiah 61:10).