

Cultivating a Hunger for God's Word

1 Peter 2:1-3

PART THREE

Accumulating Knowledge

All the world is information. And everything is a situation.

Collecting Information

Ideology weaponizes information and turns it into propaganda that drives its agenda.

"Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly" (Psalm 85:8).

God has sent His word to us to reveal truth to us, to impart life to us, as it reflects His image and glory.

"Did God actually say...?" (Genesis 3:1). **Satan is seeking...**

- ✓ **to distract** – taking her attention off God's word and causing her to consider alternative counsel.
- ✓ **to cast doubt** – this alternate false information causes her to question God's word.
- ✓ **to distort** – God's Word now corrupted distorts His image, which causes idolatry.
- ✓ **to outright deny** – this first Lie is a direct attack on the goodness of God.

"your word" is used 23 times in the **Psalms**.

According the psalmist in 119, God's Word...

- 1) Keeps a young man's pure (v9).
- 2) Keeps us from sinning (v11).
- 3) Gives us life (v25, v107).
- 4) Melts away sorrow and strengthens the soul (v28).
- 5) Engenders trust in the Word (v42).
- 6) Gives us hope (v49, v74, v81, v114),
- 7) Comforts us in our affliction (v50).
- 8) Displays the goodness of God (v65, v68).
- 9) Keeps us on a right path (v67, v101-102).
- 10) Gives us understanding and develops discernment (v104, v169).
- 11) Guides our path (v105).
- 12) Keeps us safe (v117).
- 13) Gives us truth (v160).
- 14) Elicits our praise (v162, v164, v171, v172).
- 15) Brings peace (v165).
- 16) Brings salvation (v166, v174).
- 17) Brings deliverance (v170).

18) Brings help (v173).

“for you have exalted/magnified your word above all your name” (Psalm 138:2; NKJ).

Spiritual growth occurs through a consistent diet of transformational Truth found in God’s Word alone.

The Parable of the Soils

“The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11).

“The sower sows the word” (Mark 4:14).

“And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it” (Mark 4:4).

“Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away” (Mark 4:5-6).

“Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain” (Mark 4:7).

“And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold” (Mark 4:8).

The Parable of the Soils explained by Jesus (Mark 4:15-20):

“And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.”

“And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.”

“And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”

“But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

The seed of the Word of God is planted in the heart. The condition of the heart determines its fruitfulness.

“You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way” (Hosea 10:13).

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:7-9).

“Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you” (Hosea 10:12).

Our task in life is to sow the seeds of God’s Word – in our own hearts and the hearts of others. But God alone gives the increase.

“And [Jesus] said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come’” (Mark 4:26-29).

Jesus continues to sow the Word through His Church:

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12; 14-15).

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

“Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things” (Jeremiah 14:22).

The truth of God’s Word consistently sown becomes the steady rain that softens the soil of the heart and provides nutrition for growth.

“And [God] will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous” (Isaiah 30:23).

“Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the Lord have created it” (Isaiah 45:8).

The “washing of water with the word” (Eph. 5:25) stimulates new life. The tender seedling needs good soil and constant watering to grow and remain healthy, strong, alive, and fruit bearing.

“Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature” (1 Corinthians 14:20).

“I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation” (Psalm 119:99).

The growth of the Word of life planted in your heart, God promises to bring to full harvest. But you must seek Him daily by sowing His Word in your heart. You must yield to the work of His Spirit.

“are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18).