

GrOwth- Mark 4:1-20; 1 Kings 3:7; 2 Samuel 11:1-2; Luke 14:15-24

Without seed there is no harvest. The word of God is seed. The other thing you need is good soil. In church there are four types of people; there are those who are Exploring God, there are the ones who have begun a relationship with God, those who are closer to God and then those who are God centred. These stages are not dependant on how long you have been a Christian or coming to church. If you hear the word of God and accept it into the good soil of your heart, it will produce a harvest, 30, 60, 100 fold.

Do we know how to go in and go out of God's presence. Going in is not always that good. We were designed to be a river and not a reservoir. The goodness of God's presence is only good when you come out of it. Our behaviour is base on our belief system. Do we walk the talk? Though David knew how to go in and out he had a moral failure because he wasn't where he should have been. 2 Sam. 11:1-2. he stayed behind when he should have went out. If we say we are believers we need to behave like one. What you do is not only your business. If you are Exploring God you are on your own, otherwise you belong to God, and it's all about what He wants.

How do you go from being an explorer to a beginner; by a gift of grace which is salvation. Salvation is a gift we receive not a goal we achieve. You go from a beginner to being closer to God by the word of God. if you're not in the word, devotionally or studying it, if it is absent from your life, you will not get closer, period. Where is the word in your life? Do you feel close to God? how do you get God centred? It's by giving, not only financially, but our time, talents and pursuits. It's through the valleys in life that you learn to grow closer to God. Our missionaries are doing what we are called to do. It's not just about overseas, it's about here too. A beginner in God is only acquainted to Him, when we get closer to Him He becomes our friend, when we are God centred we are married to Him.

Where do you stand? God is calling us to move closer to Him; to move from acquaintance to passionate. We talk about what we are passionate about; we need to be passionate about Him. We overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and by our witness (testimony). As Christians our priorities need to be reading and studying God's word for our benefit first, our family second and then ministry. His life has to flow into us first before it can flow out to others. What we receive we need to give out. From learning to love Jesus we need to go out and win others. We have a responsibility to our community. There are people watching to see if our walk and talk match up. We are not here to sit and wait for His return. There are people who need to hear. Read the word first and let God ordain your day. Let it flow out of you and not get stagnant by keeping it to yourself. Who is your neighbour, who do you work with? What is your influence on them? Are you doing everything you can to be a witness for Jesus? Let's spend our time reaching others for Him.

Psalms 20