

## GOD IS WORKING

3/12/17

*God has much to offer the human race and reveals his love and purposes in many ways. He wants us to have a good and happy life, but knows this is not easy when corrupted moral and social choices prevail. Jesus spoke of these opportunities and wanted us to faithfully seek them. He spoke of the coming Holy Spirit and its miraculous ability to not only provide salvation, but to also offer evidence and vastly improve our quality of life. He also gave the power and motivation to spread the Gospel to family, friends and strangers.*

**The promise and evidence are presented in this one simple scripture. ACT 1:8** But ye shall receive power (miracle working ability), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you (this serves as proof as well as ability): and ye shall be witnesses (a speaker of the truth with miracles present) unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. The power of God provides us with many life improving abilities... this simple yet powerful experience is a strong drawcard to people.

**Not a lot is going to happen unless we also develop a working love of the truth. 1JOH 3:18** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. God works for us when we put the Holy Spirit to work. This is almost impossible to maintain, unless we develop a love of the truth and an appreciation of who we are and what we have received. Love is a fruit of the spirit... from living spiritually.

**We are called to bring forward much fruit, not to simply agree with the scriptures alone. JOH 12:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. Jesus uses a parable of the cycle of life of seed plants, to help us understand how our life can be greatly expanded and filled with much more blessing and joy. **JOH 15:8** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As soon as our focus moves away from ourselves and we start living for the benefit of others, then the real blessing begins.

*What gives you the most joy... personal benefits alone, or to see the Lord at work in your family and friends? Every week the voice gifts confirm the working of the Lord. A continuous flow of new people and baptisms is also a sign of God working. The recent testimonies of blessings happening in Nepal with healings and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit... all of these things are the 'much fruit' that the Lord said we should bring forward in his name. If the real working of the Spirit does not bring us much joy then what will? Do we really believe in eternal life? Do we really want a better world? Is God our real, first love? The following parable will help us position ourselves where true blessing and contentment comes from.*

**The parable of the sower reveals the results of life choices and priorities. MAR 4:14** The sower soweth the word. **15** And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. Many hear the word of God, but fail to act on it for one reason or another. **16** And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; **17** And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. This tends to reflect the early part of salvation where values and priorities are being established. If God is not number one in thought and deed, then there will be no lasting strength. **18** And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, **19** And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful That which was once fruitful can fade... this is why it is far wiser to keep attending to the basics of prayer, reading, fellowship and witnessing. Nothing ever chokes out those who discipline themselves and always put the Lord first. **20** And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. It is our choice which type of ground we offer... thus it is vital that we apply God's advice for the far better life we can enjoy. No one ever makes their choices by accident... good ground comes from good choices by faithful people. Bad choices won't alter the return of the Lord, the resurrection of the just and the death of the wicked!!

*Reality check... long term choices bring eternal blessings while short term goals, should they be your priority, will never work in the longer run. We all have our own strengths and abilities and we also have our weaknesses and failings... God is not limited by our disposition, he is limited when we fail to put him first. Remember... MAT 6:33* But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. No

*matter what we think, believe or say, our actions become what we are known for... this is even more so with our families and close contacts. God is working openly and powerfully; seek to be part of the action.*