

CHOKING TO DEATH

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*The prophetic parable of the 'sower', reveals the frightening reality that many Christian will be choked to death from bad choices and poor scriptural discipline. There is a very serious side to God which can be easily overlooked by modern, 'feel good' approaches to fellowship and eternal life. God refuses to accept anyone who knowingly waters down his word and his requirements. **GAL 6:7** Be not deceived; God is **not mocked**: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Once a person responds to the salvation gospel through receiving the Holy Spirit with the God given sign of speaking in tongues, it is fully expected that a strong commitment will continue. It is easy to overlook the fact that every day, life and death are continually in play. We don't have the luxury of taking God or our fellowship for granted... there is a job to be done and the urgency only increases; it never eases.*

*The distressing concept of choking to death is revealed in this parable. **MAR 4:18** And these are they which are sown among **thorns**; such as hear the word, **19** And the **cares of this world** (natural needs and interests), and the **deceitfulness of riches** (building of assets), and the **lusts of other things** (pleasures of this world) entering in, **choke** (suffocate, both by hidden and obvious means) **the word** (the benefits of God's words and their workings), and it (God's word) **becometh unfruitful** (spiritual practices are limited). Lack of fruit is an insult of major proportions to God and his son and damaging to the human race. The scriptures are always encouraging us to put spiritual responsibilities ahead of natural ones... otherwise we will find that we are not very fruitful at all.*

*God won't be mocked... he is always responding to the choices that people make. **JOH 15:2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he **taketh away** (we see this all the time): and every **branch** that beareth fruit, he **purgeth it**, that it may bring forth more fruit. God wants everyone to bear fruit and prosper, but that is their personal choice. Those who don't are often removed by the Lord; so those who bear fruit won't be hindered. Sin is the only fruit that develops when spiritual practices are left wanting.*

*Rather than face reality, many would rather hear soothing things... alternative to the truth. **2TIM 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; **4** And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. **5** But watch thou in all things, endure **afflictions**, do the work of an **evangelist**, make **full proof** of thy ministry. This is the same as the scripture in 1Corinthians 1:7, where Paul encourages all church members to not fall behind in the spiritual gifts and life choices. When the blood flow to the brain or the air flow to the lungs is restricted... choking occurs. This is also true of spiritual activity... keep healthy.*

*There are numerous prophetic warnings against 'choking'. **2THE 2:3** Let no man **deceive** you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a **falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; When we are starved of spiritual energy, we will fail rapidly and lose awareness.*

***JAM 1:14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. **15** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. The type of 'choking' often described in the bible, is similar to suicide. In the Lord, failure is a definite choice with no excuses.*

*This world needs to be resuscitated... that is why we are taught the urgency of raising the spiritually dead. Modern medicine has also come up with an 'anti-choking' procedure. **The Heimlich manoeuvre** is the manual application of sudden upward pressure on the upper abdomen of a choking victim to force a foreign object from the trachea. **JOH 3:8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is **born of the Spirit**. People receive the breath of spiritual life when they receive the Holy Spirit; the new air gives them a new voice, they speak in tongues. All the obstacles of sin and unbelief are cleared from their soul as the Spirit enters in. Redeeming the troubled and fallen works on the same principle... **JUDE :22** And of some have **compassion** (offer help), making a difference: **23** And others save with fear, **pulling them** (to snatch up, use spiritual force) out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

*This is the very powerful reminder of the type of life that prevents choking and also recovers the dead and dying. **1PET 4:8** And **above all things** (this verse helps us to prioritise our actions) have **fervent** charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. **9** Use hospitality one to another without grudging. **10** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God. Seeing this world has no dominant power over your daily spiritual life... you can avoid the bad choices that have choked the life out of more saints than any other threat.*