

PLANTING THE SEED

Incorruptible
Seed



Corruptible
Seed



CHOOSE

PLANTING THE SEED

Lesson Two

Any farmer can tell you that in order for seeds to germinate, they have to be planted into the soil or an environment where germination can occur. They must receive proper nutrients to begin the growth process. In this lesson, we will discover the methods used to plant seeds within us. In the parable of the sower, we see that someone is planting seed, and in this case the seed happens to be God's Word.

The devil, as we know, is planting his seed also. **Matthew 13:25** says, ***“But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.”*** Notice he just went his way, after he sowed his seed, it produces of its own accord. That is the nature of seed.

God is sowing seed through preaching, teaching, evangelism and other various vehicles, including your environment. He's attempting to convey His thought to you that you might allow it to come into your heart, the inner man or subconscious mind. **James 1:21**, ***“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”*** The thing to be mindful of here is Satan imposes his seed on us whereas God simply presents it, out of respect for our free will.

ULTIMATE CONTROL

You are the one with the ultimate control as to what seeds are going to be planted within you. You are the one doing the sowing. God is providing the seed for you to sow in yourself and in others. **2 Corinthians 9:10** says, ***“Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.”***

The enemy has perpetuated his seed, his lie, in the earth. **John 8:44** says, ***“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”*** According to this verse, he has sown his seed and produced offspring as a result of it, but you are the one with the sovereign decision as to what kind of seed you are going to allow to germinate in you.

God has given you a free will. The power of decision is yours, yet many are being deceived by the enemy for they do not understand the principles of the seed and thereby allow whatever their environment might condition them with to enter into their heart. **1 Peter 5:8**, ***“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”***

The devil's seed is directly associated with the fallen nature of man and thereby produces the works of the flesh. **(Galatians 5:19-23)** God's seed is directly associated with the regenerated nature of man and works from within the human spirit. It produces the fruit of the spirit. In other words, God's seed grows on contact in the spirit and the wicked one's seed grows in the flesh. Man is made up of three parts, spirit, soul, and body (Gr. **pneuma, psuche, soma**). All three parts of your being come together to form one whole person. **1 Thessalonians 5:23** says, ***“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

Originally, God intended man to walk by His Spirit, the candle of the Lord, in the light. **Proverbs 20:27**, ***“The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.”*** After the fall, man entered into darkness when the lie of Satan was sown into him. The spirit died as a result of disobedience to God and man became driven by his fleshly appetites.

This is why God had to destroy the earth with a flood. **Genesis 6:17**, ***“And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh.”*** There was at that time no disciplinary standard of His Word in the

earth and the seed of the serpent took its course and brought man down to his lowest state. God began to make covenants with man through Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others to raise a standard for His Word or His Seed in the earth.

The devil has been the perpetrator or puppeteer of fallen man, pulling the strings, affecting the emotions and the human spirit from the outside in. Please take note of the statement, “from the outside in.” God's goal is to sow seed within the inner man and transform him from the inside out. This is why Jesus, when he proclaimed repentance, used the Greek word, **matanoea**, which means to make an one hundred and eighty degree turn about in one's mind, an about-face within the mind. **Metanoeo**, on the other hand, is the Greek word used for repentance when referring to the changing of your ways. This word was predominantly used by John the Baptist, a prophet of the Old Testament or covenant (**the law**), which worked from the outside in. The law worked from the outside in trying to change man with “**do nots**,” it was a schoolmaster, *Galatians 3:24*, “**Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith,**” to show us our inability to change on our own and that we need the Savior to give new birth to our human spirit so that we might see what we are, rather than what we are not.

Now we can change through the inner man by acknowledging who we are, in Christ. *Colossians 2:20-23*, “**Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh,**” and *Philemon 1:6*, “**That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**”

Paul gave continuous exhortations concerning the mind, that we are to mind the things of the spirit. *Romans 8:5-6*, “**For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit, For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**”

He was illustrating the fact that the conscious mind is that point through which seed is sown and adhered to.

THE SOWING PROCESS

We can either strengthen and fortify our inner man and be governed by it, through the power of the Holy Spirit, or strengthen and fortify the flesh and nurture it and be moved by false hopes, false appetites, and emotional letdowns.

Many people are falsely persuaded by the concept that the born-again experience is enough in and of itself to change an individual. Indeed, the change has been accomplished with that experience but the manifestation comes with mind renewal. The born-again experience is the beginning stage of renewal but even that experience is a result of seed sown and the process is as follows: The seed is first brought to you through your environment, through the senses, the five gates, smell, touch, taste, hearing, and seeing. This is why Paul said (*Philippians 4:8*, “**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**”) to dwell on good things, good thoughts, good reports, virtuous things, etc.

In essence, the things we are hearing and seeing are the things we are thinking upon, and sowing, either to the flesh or to the renewed, regenerated nature of our spirit as a result of regeneration by faith in Christ's sacrifice. Again this is why Paul says to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. *Romans 12:2*, “**And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.**”

For further proof let us look at *James 1:14-15*, “**But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**” Notice the word “conceived.” This gives us the insight that something has been planted. A particular seed has been conceived concerning the lust of the flesh. And when it is conceived, it brings forth sin and no matter how hard you try you can't stop it. James also gives the antidote as does Paul in the book of Galatians. Let us go back to *James, Chapter 1, verse 21*, it starts out with the word “**Wherefore,**” meaning, “taking into consideration the aforementioned,” he goes on to say, “**Lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness.**” The first part of this verse (21) is dealing with the works of the flesh. The second part deals with the soul, “**and receive with meekness the engrafted (the implanted) word, which is able to save (or renew or transform) your souls,**” resulting in the release of fruit from your inner man, your spirit man. You can have wrong thinking in you, in your soulish realm, blocking fruit from coming forth from your spirit.

If we plant God's Word within us it will save our souls, and renew our mind. Our soul must be renewed through our mind so that what is in our spirit can be released. This is why *3 John 2* says “**I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.**” It all pivots on the prospering of our soul.

Going back to *James 1:21*, the first part is referring to the seed of the serpent, to lay apart that seed, and receive the seed of God's Word, the “**engrafted or implanted Word**”. Here the word (engrafted) comes from the Greek word “**emphutos,**” meaning implanted. In the same way a natural seed is planted into the soil of the earth and covered over to await germination, so also is the seed of God's word. This holds true for both corruptible and incorruptible seed.

THE MIND IS THE BATTLEGROUND

Considering the fact that man is a relatively young specimen of creation and the focal point of a spiritual war taking place in the unseen, and that man's present and eternal existence being the very object of this strategic battle (the seeds of thought being the weapons), we can understand why God's word tells us that the mind is the battleground. *2 Corinthians 10:3-5*, “**For though we walk in the flesh (or physical realm) we do not war after the flesh: for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (or physical).” Notice the emphasis on warfare and weaponry here. This, of course, indicates that there is a war going on at this present time, and it's in the mind. Let's continue the verse, “**but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.**” Strongholds are corruptible seeds that have rooted themselves within us either genetically or environmentally, continuing the verse will prove this. “**Casting down imaginations.**” Through our imagination seeds are sown within our mind. Continuing, “**and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.**”**

The high things that Paul is referring to that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God are obviously thoughts since knowledge is thought. These high things are exalting themselves against God's knowledge which is salvation through Christ, health in our bodies, prosperity for our lives, joy, happiness, our calling in life, etc. The high things that are exalting themselves against God's knowledge are the opposite, rebellion, sickness, disobedience, depression, destruction, poverty, etc. Then the verse continues, “**And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**” God has given us the power, through the Holy Spirit, to cast down the seeds or wrong thinking that Satan has sown either through us or through our forefathers. He wants us to take those thoughts captive, every one of them, and bring them into obedience to Christ. In other words, the thought of “I can't amount to anything,” that would be the opposite of what God says about you. God says you can amount to great things, that you have a great calling on your life. If you want God's plan, you have to adhere to the knowledge of the **seed** of God's Word and displace the lie that tries to thwart your progress, the one that says you can't amount to anything. A good scripture for this is *Philippians 4:13*, which says, “**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheth me.**” All things.

The problem seems to be that when people hear “**obedience of Christ**” they think of some religious dogma. Obedience of Christ really means obedience to the mind of God, which is not embodied in a set of rules and regulations, but rather His good will for our lives. Quoting a verse in *Luke 2:14* that says “**Peace on earth, good will toward men.**” That’s what God has in mind. Peace on earth, and good will toward men. That’s what the angel proclaimed at the birth of Christ.

The mind of man is the battleground, it is the faculty of our being through which thoughts are transferred into our “**program**” if you will. Our experiences, the things we hear, the things we see enter into the mind and work their way into the depths of our being and become part of us, thereby making us what we are. So the proverbial saying “**you are what you eat**” takes on a whole new meaning when applied to the spiritual aforementioned truths.

THE ABIDING FACTOR

Jesus said in *John 15:4*, “**Abide in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye except ye abide in me.**” Genuine fruit bearing as a result of the “**seed principle**” can only come through consistent acknowledgement that we, of ourselves, can do nothing. But, in Him we are everything we need to be and can do everything we need to do. In *verse 5* He said, “**I am the vine, ye are the branches; he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.**” This statement and designated law is what separates the “**positive thinkers**” from the “**Word thinkers.**” One makes **self** the source, the other makes **God** the source. The positive thinker is self reliant, the Word thinker is Christ reliant.

Within the core of the believer lies all the power we will ever need to experience any of God's benefits or attributes. Within us is everything we need to **be**, everything we need to **have** and everything we need to **do**. It was placed there the moment Christ entered your spirit. Even prayer is answered according to that power. *Ephesians 3:20* says, “**Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.**” But it must become released, and it will, through the application of two laws. First, the law that says we must abide in Him, acknowledging that in Him, “**I am everything I need to be, I have everything I need to have and I can do everything I need to do.**”

We must be keenly and constantly aware of the dead works factor. Dead works are something we do in the “**self life**,” in our own strength, as opposed to in Christ, or in Him and in His strength. Dead works are rooted in the conscience and based on guilt, they are performed to compensate for that guilt. This is why Paul said, in *Hebrews 9:14*, “**How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**”

Furthermore, dead works are something done in order to accomplish some level of perfection unto God, or to obtain His joy or His benefits and as a result one seems to become perfected through their own works, and since they are their own ritualistic regulator, legalistic works rooted in the self life or in one’s own strength, tend to satisfy the flesh and then they can then say, “I have perfected myself,” and therefore it is really rooted in pride. That’s the foundation for it and the motivation for it.

You see, there is nothing we can do to obtain that righteous status with God, or to be in right-standing with God. That status that gives us access to all His benefits and His character, thereby giving us mental and emotional stability, physical health and many other things, whereas many other religions of the world teach you that you become perfected in increments or come through other lives or incarnations, etc. That is what separates the true doctrine of faith and grace brought to us by Paul, mainly through the Pauline Epistles and, of course, in the parables of Christ.

This is what separates us from the myriad of other religious dogmas and concepts even in the so-called Christian church world where there are so many icons and religious artifacts and rituals and obligations that one can **do** to

acquire something, or to obtain a certain level of spirituality, etc. And, of course, these are all dead works, they mean nothing. **They are dead. They mean nothing to God.** God does not delight in sacrifice, the scripture says, He does delight in obedience. He is not delighted in all these sacrifices. The sacrifices do not bring us anything from Him.

What we need to do is focus on the work of the cross and the work that His Son accomplished to make a way for us to attain the virtue of His very person, the person of God, through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit coming into our spirit. Through the work of Christ giving himself to make us righteous. He is our propitiation, a substitution, for our sins that we might have access unto God, freely.

Now our human understanding does not compute this, especially if we are a very rational thinker or an expositor on the philosophies of this world, or an intellectual. It is hard to conceive that God would incarnate Himself into a man and walk the earth, teach who He really is and then sacrifice Himself that we might be redeemed.

But, indeed, this is what we do believe to be true. It is that simple. It does not consist of dogma, doctrines, or traditions of men, or rituals, or icons, or rights, or holy days, or non-holy days, or various signs and gestures. These things amount to nothing but dead works. Paul says in the scriptures that these things will be burned up.

The Law of Acknowledgement

I call acknowledgement a law. I believe acknowledgement to be a cause and effect type of law that works internally in man. Man has the ability to acknowledge things. He has to take into account “knowledge” and decide whether he, after he esteems it, says “Yes, I acknowledge that to be true.”

In order for the law of acknowledgement to be applied we must begin to learn the things that **God** says we can do, **God** says we are, and **God** says we can have. *Philemon 6* says the activity of our faith becomes effective by acknowledging every good thing which is in us in Christ Jesus. These are infinite. There is an infinity of things within us pertaining to character, possessions, health, or emotional stability, etc., and *Philemon 6* says, ***“That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”***

Which is in you, period? **No!** Which is in you, in Christ Jesus. You see, in Christ it is infinite, in self it’s limited. So, in Christ, it’s every good thing that you can conceive forever, throughout your whole life. It is something that’s within your spirit.

Jesus said it clearly, that the kingdom of God is within you - so everything that is in the kingdom is actually deposited, right now, in your spirit if you have been regenerated by the power of God. Through the sacrifice of Christ you have everything deposited within you, right now, but it needs to be released. And it gets released through the application of the seed principle and the many facets thereof.

Colossians 2:2 says, that the full assurance of understanding (which is indeed great assurance), leads to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God. Once you understand, you will see it to be true. You will acknowledge it, then it will become part of you. ***“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ,” Colossians 2:2.***

Colossians 3:10 says that the new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him. ***“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.” Colossians 3:10.*** Knowledge is the key word here, and it comes through seeing something and acknowledging it to be true for one’s self.

Once we learn what it is we are, what it is we have, what it is we can do, and we acknowledge it (and continue to acknowledge it) then displacement will occur in the inner man.

By the inner man I mean that part of you called the Soul. We are comprised of three parts – spirit, soul and body. In the spirit is the kingdom of God and it is released as we renew the soul to give it passage, out from the inner man. Then we'll have everything God wants us to have, we'll do everything He wants us to do, and be everything He wants us to be by simply acknowledging it and acting on it.

Of course, acting on it comes as a result of being impregnated with that particular seed. You get so filled with that desire for that particular character trait that you act on it and it manifests in you. Whatever it may be - that exploit you are considering for your life such as starting a business or some other kind of dream – these things are impregnated in our spirit as a result of God depositing them there. We must acknowledge them and continue to acknowledge them as being ours, until there is a manifestation. *Philemon 6* says that the communication of our faith becomes effective, it becomes effectual, it begins to work, and things begin to manifest themselves as a result of that acknowledgement.

As the inner man is renewed through acknowledgement, or saved as James says, then the power of the Spirit within us will be released and we will experience complete success.

Be patient because this process takes time. Remember Jesus said that the disciples were **clean through the words He spoke** to them after 3-1/2 years of **speaking** and disciplining them in the realm of their soul. The scripture referred to, *James 1:21*, says **“Now receive with meekness the engrafted words which is able to save your souls.”** We see here that it is the Word that saves or transforms your soul, as you renew yourself with it.

Paul gives us a clear cut example of this, but it is so simple that believers miss it. He shows us to break the power of sin through the law of **acknowledgement**. In *Romans 6:11*, **“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord,”** he shows us what we have to do to break the power of sin. By this we mean the power that something has over us to make us fail in any way, shape, or form. That thing that keeps us from our goals. We can know how to break that power that's hindering us in any way.

It's very simple, that scripture in Romans says, **“RECKON YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN.”** It says right there that you are dead unto sin, that sin has no power over you. In other words, if you were to poke a dead individual with a pin they would not react. So, you should not react to sin because you are dead to it, in Christ. And what do you have to do to become dead to that power? **Nothing at all.** **You can't do anything, except recognize, acknowledge, and realize that it is already done,** that you can't add to it, that it is done. But you have to remember that there is another part to this that is equally as important, let's read on, **“BUT ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.”**

So you see, you are dead unto sin, but alive also unto God. You are dead to that power that pulled you away from God and you are alive unto that power that pulls you toward Him.

Now notice the word **“reckon.”** It is an archaic word rooted in the same word as **“recognize.”** I'm sure you will agree that recognize and acknowledge are basically in the same vein. To recognize something, see it and acknowledge it, assimilate it, make it yours and you will see the manifestation of it. In other words, recognizing and acknowledging what we already are, or what already is, and hold to your profession of it.

We don't want to be susceptible to lies, false images, illusions. Many times our illusions of what we think is, are not true and we esteem that others have the same perception as we, and limit ourselves thereby. We assume that others will think the same limited way as we, and consequently we are limited, even in our dream, to make or take

that exploit as spoken of in the Book of Daniel.

When you recognize something you acknowledge it. If that something is something you want to be a part of you (or in you), you acknowledge it as being yours.

Paul is saying, very simply, to recognize that you are dead, not that you are going to be dead through works, but that you are dead to sin and that you are indeed now alive in Christ.

The law of acknowledgment can be applied to **any promise in scripture** and any statement of beneficence that is conveyed in the past tense or present tense (if it's in the future tense then, of course, we must wait for that manifestation to come – like the transformation of our mortal bodies putting on immortality). The following are scriptures written in the past tense that you can acknowledge as being done in you. “Ye ARE complete in him,” *Colossians 2:10*, notice it says ye ARE complete; or in *Ephesians 1:3*, where he says, “hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ,” or “we are buried with Him by baptism,” *Romans 6:4* and “we have been planted together in the likeness of His death,” *Romans 6:5* and again, “knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him,” *Romans 6:6*. It's not going to be crucified with Him, it is crucified with Him.

As far as God is concerned, it is already complete. Now all you have to do is simply acknowledge it. In *Ephesians 1:3*, where He says, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings.*” The word “hath” is past tense, which means it's already done, so we acknowledge it, receive it and it manifests.

It's that simple. We don't have to go through a religious rite. We don't have to go through some kind of succession or ritualistic endeavor to accomplish it, simply acknowledge what already is. This is the thing that God wants to convince us of, that it is done, that **it is finished**.

Here are several verses for you to think about: *Romans 6:4*, “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism.*” The old sinful nature has been buried, it has been done away with. “*We have been planted together in the likeness of His death,*” *Romans 6:5*. As you can see here, it's past tense (we have been planted). “*Knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him,*” *Romans 6:6*.

Did you catch that? That our old man is crucified, with Him. It's not going to be, it is done. I don't have to do this with willpower, NO, it's already done. Acknowledge what already is, that your old man (your old nature, that old fallen man) is crucified with Him. It's **not going to be** crucified, with Him, **it has been** crucified with Him. As far as God is concerned, it is already complete. The redemptive act is finished. *John 19:30* says, “*It is finished.*” All we must do now is acknowledge it and this will begin to cause **displacement** of the seed of the serpent in our soul and **replace it** with the seed of God's Word.

OUR PROFESSION or FAITH POSTURE

This is why Paul exhorts us in *Hebrews 4:14*, “*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession,*” to hold fast to our profession of faith, seeing that Jesus Christ is the high priest of our profession. In other words Jesus Christ has completed the work and His profession is, “**It is finished**” in us. That is His profession before the Father and that is the profession we should have. That is our profession or our faith posture. Jesus presents all of these professions of faith that pertain to what we have and what we are to our Heavenly Father. He presents them right to our Heavenly Father, and He dispenses them back to us.

THE LAW OF DISPLACEMENT

As a result of the law of acknowledgement, the power of the law of displacement will begin to take effect. As light is more powerful than darkness in the natural world, so it is in the spiritual world. One does not walk into a room that has no light and try to remove darkness. One simply turns on the light switch and displaces the darkness. It just goes away, it is displaced. You don't have to chase it away.

God's word is a light. *Psalms 119:105* says, ***“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*** It is a light for my immediate steps and also a light for my future. If it's a light unto my feet it represents the here and now, and if it is a light unto my path that represents the future. Jesus said, *John 8:12*, ***“I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*** Just turn on the Word of Truth and the lie will go. It is that simple.

Finally, this is why Christ said, ***“for my yoke is easy and my burden is light,”*** *Matthew 11:30*. If Jesus said this then we can expect it to be true. In other words, it is easy, it is simple. If we are experiencing anything to the contrary, if it's becoming complex or overbearing to you, then we are walking in the realm of the **“self life.”**

We are trying to figure it out with our mind, our own understanding, wherein there is no power, wherein there is no source of spiritual vitality and energy. When Jesus said, ***“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,”*** *Matthew 11:28*, this is precisely what He was talking about, resting from your own self trying to fulfill what God wants you to be, or have, or do. In Him, we can, and it's easy. In self it's a heavy yoke. We are heavy laden, we are striving and we cannot succeed in this manner. It is wearisome to the soul. This is what is meant by resting from our own works or our own labors. In *Hebrews 4:1-16* Paul says that if we are going to labor that we should labor to not labor. That is, labor to enter into His rest. *Hebrews 4:11*, ***“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”*** Labor to realize that it is already accomplished in Him, and it will manifest itself from His power within us.

BEING SOBER

Most people, and by most people I mean probably a majority of up to 90% of all mankind, are unaware of these **principles** operating and fall prey unawares to many manipulative tactics utilized in this world to control mankind, religiously, commercially, or otherwise. *2 Timothy 2:25-26*, ***“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.”*** They actually oppose themselves by what has been planted within them. They can't overcome these obstacles, because the obstacles are actually within them. ***“If God peradventure will give them repentance,”*** changing of mind, ***“to the acknowledging of the truth.”***

Repentance is the first step. Changing your mind or saying I don't want to be that way any more. You have to acknowledge that you have a problem. Secondly, you have to acknowledge that you have an answer to that problem and that is **The Truth**. The scripture says, ***“If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.”*** We change our mind and say we want to turn around, that's the first step. That's repentance. We change our thoughts about sin. Then you begin to acknowledge the truth and the manifestation comes, and you don't oppose yourself any longer.

Now the rest of this verse is very meaty, so let's read on, ***“and that they may recover themselves.”*** Did you read that? **“RECOVER THEMSELVES.”** ***“Out of the snare of the devil.”*** You see, God already recovered you. Now you must recover yourself, by renewing the way you think. Blindness to this truth is the reason why people continually say, “Why hasn't God done this,” or “How come God hasn't come to my rescue,” and so on. He has done it all, it's already completed, it's already done, it's within you and you need to release it.

Let's continue, ***“that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil who are taken captive by him at his will.”*** They are taken captive by him, at his will, because his programming is within them. That's why Jesus said,

“You are of your father the devil and his works you will do.” It’s the programming in you.

Through a continual process of reinforcement of thought, line upon line, precept upon precept, within the conscious mind, a watering takes place of the seed that is sown within us. As we continue we must realize that the conscious mind must be alert, sober and vigilant, *1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* Your conscious mind can cast down imaginations and bind thoughts from entering in that would sow destruction and defeat. We must walk circumspectly, as in the root word **circumference** or all around us, *Ephesians 5:15, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,"* according to the word of God so as to become **aware of what is being sown into us**. Jesus said, “**take heed what you hear,**” in reference to this fact saying that it would be measured back to you. *Mark 4:24, "And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given."*

What we hear, see, and say comes back to us. It will manifest. It is planted within you and **you will see it come out of you and echo back.** The mind is the planting mechanism. The seed is being planted into your being through your conscious mind. Through prayer and meditation, we can sow the concepts of what we are in Christ into our inner man and begin to acknowledge victorious thinking and deny defeated thinking.

Psalms 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee," and *Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."*

If we will learn to continually feed our conscious mind with only good thoughts based on God's word we will build upon them through the power of the Holy Spirit and we will displace the seed of the serpent, because the fallen nature is dead in Christ and its power nullified. *Romans 6:6, "Knowing this, that our old man IS crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."* Simply recognize and acknowledge it done and you'll be home free, and that is a fact.

It’s that simple. That’s why it’s hard for some people to act upon it, because they say, “hey, that’s too simple, it’s too easy.” Many people can’t accept it because it’s too simple. They feel they must go through some kind of religious rite or atone for themselves. You cannot atone for yourself before God!

Jesus Christ is our atonement. He made the atonement for us. It is done. It is finished. He did it for you.