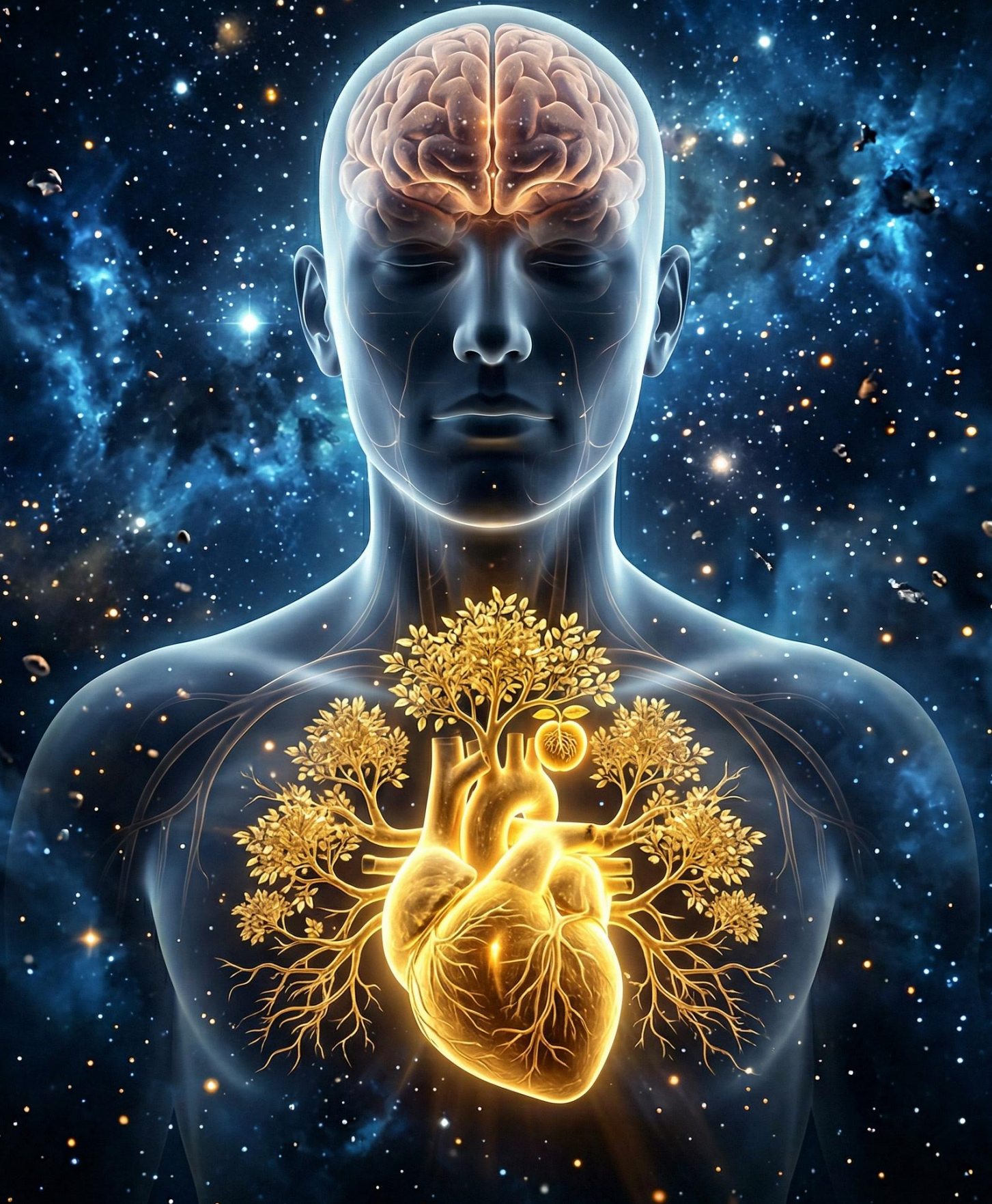


# GERMINATION



## GERMINATION

### Lesson Four

When seed begins to germinate, seed begins to multiply. One becomes two, two becomes four, four becomes eight, etc., until an entire entity of whatever the seed was designated to develop, has formed. And within the fruit of whatever has formed, there is more seed and a process known as geometric growth begins to occur.

Dreams, visions, happiness, joy, peace, salvation, healing, love, you name it, it begins to spread very rapidly as their seeds are germinated and begin to multiply. Churches grow, businesses grow, people grow personally (historically this has been called revival).

Likewise, on the other hand, a negative seed can be sown as well. As Paul said, when a seed germinates it produces a root, and if the root happens to be a root of bitterness, many thereby are defiled. This is why the church doesn't grow or families are broken, because when the root grows it produces bad fruit others may eat thereof and germinate the same root of bitterness in them as well. **Hebrews 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."** Again, if it's a good root many thereby are blessed. What happens is the root grows into a fruit-bearing entity, then people eat the fruit thereof and consume the seed that is in the fruit. (The seed of thought.) The seed begins to germinate in them and produces a root which begins to grow and bear fruit, corrupt fruit, from corruptible seed and good fruit from incorruptible seed, then others eat of that fruit and thereby many are defiled or blessed depending on what kind of seed it is. It is a process of multiplication.

Jesus explained the growth of a seed this way in **Mark 4:26-29, "And He said, so is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."** Notice he said the earth brings forth fruit of herself, in **verse 27** and in **verse 28**, he knoweth not how. In other words, it's not up to us to make the seed grow. It's up to us to plant it and God will water it and cause it to bring forth fruit, some 30, some 60 and some 100 fold. **Mark 4:20, "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirty fold, some sixty, and some an hundred."**

The question is, where is the kingdom of God? Jesus said the kingdom of God is within you, **Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you,"** and sowing the seed within us is precisely what His message is. Then, when the fruit is brought forth we harvest it and are blessed by it. Through this principle we can have whatever we need and desire and help others to have the same, and God is glorified as a result. God's plan for us is very powerful, yet very simple. His plan is for us to learn this principle, internalize it, practice it and then teach it to others. If the church would only get hold of this concept it would explode exponentially, even as Adam and Eve exploded into the populous of the earth. Here's how it works.

Example: One teaches and trains 5 and teaches them to teach others to do the same, which means they learn this concept, use it and then find someone else to teach it to. At level one there are 5, at level 2 there are 25, because the first five are teaching 5 each and there are now 25 people being taught. At level 3 there are 125, at the level 4 there are now 625, level 5 has 3,125 people being taught and practicing this principle for abundant living. Notice we are only 5 people away from the first person. Well hold on to your seat...at level 6 we now have 15,125 people being taught this principle and applying it. This brings us to a grand total of 19,030.

Notice the explosive growth. This is called geometric growth. And as a result, there are more people at the sixth

level than there are in the first five levels combined. The seed principle in every dimension works through the exponential or geometric growth curve.

Another example is when we double a penny every day for four weeks or twenty-eight days.

Would you rather have \$500,000 or the penny doubled every day for 28 days? First of all let me say this, after two weeks you will have approximately \$81.00. Now, this is half way through the 28 day period. Do you want the penny or the \$500,000? If you understand the growth curve employed here you will quickly take the penny, because on the 28th day you will have accrued \$1,300,000.

Get a calculator and see for yourself. And so it is in all dimensions with the seed principle.

### **PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE**

According to the penny analogy, for the first half of our endeavor we will experience very little growth (as in our example, after 14 days only \$81.00). It is at this point that most people quit, but if we continue the seed will grow, it will multiply and produce overwhelming fruit. Fruit that is uncontainable. Fruit from the spirit, fruit from the soul, fruit from the body, fruit from our natural environment, but the key is patience and endurance. The problem is most people give up and lose out because they don't see immediate results or they get double minded and hinder the seed principle by digging the seed up, look at it to see if it's growing. The book of James, chapter 1, verses 7 and 8 says, don't even think you'll receive if your double minded!

Don't build on emotion, build on truth. When you build on emotion that is an open door for double mindedness, and as James said, you won't receive anything. Let me give you an example. You start a project and then you stop the project - or you begin to sow good seed in yourself and you begin to see yourself as God wants you to see yourself and then after awhile things begin to happen that you don't like and it triggers that old mentality in you and then you go back to the old ways - well, you're never going to experience success because of that.

God told Abraham he would multiply as the sands of the sea and as the stars of the heaven. How did he do it? Through the seed principle. At that time the corruptible seed was running rampant in the earth. This is precisely why God chose Abraham to begin raising a standard against the corruptible seed. God produced a race of people using His word as their standard. He bred them, internalized His truth into that race, He told them He would bless them, He had them read it to themselves and each other. They thought it, taught it, and they believed it. This is why Israel prospers. This is why the Jewish people, wherever they go, prosper. This is why everything they touch is blessed.

It is not just because of the fact that God promised it to them, but because of the fact that it has been ingrained generation after generation into their nature, through God's seed principle and they are prosperous by nature.

God began with Abraham, Abraham had the child of promise, Isaac. Isaac, had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob had twelve, which produced the twelve tribes of Israel, and the exponential curve took its course. That is to say in the natural – genetically, physically, psychologically, and also internally. The internalization of God's word into them made them a super race, and it's a wonder to behold them because of it.

Historical fact can prove this out when we see that many of the major discoveries were made by Jewish scientists. A majority of them attain high professional status and it is not uncommon to see them accruing great wealth. Their prosperity can be seen in virtually every nation of the world; even in depressed economies where it would be unlikely for them to succeed and prosper, they continue to succeed.

## OBSTACLES TO GROWTH

Once a seed is germinated, the growth is so slow at first we are tempted to quit. We are tempted to doubt. This is where learning the obstacles to growth are essential and those obstacles are:

A. **Deception** - *Mark 4:14, "The sower soweth the word. and these are they by the wayside, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts."*

Notice the word was in their hearts but Satan stole it, the same way he stole the word from Eve, through **deception**. After the seed germinates and begins to grow is when the true test comes. Satan will tell us things like, "You can't make it." He'll send people against us that he has control over, even our closest friends, and finally he will even send our family to be used to get us into the realm of our emotions.

Satan is the master of deception and he wants you to stay down. If he can find a way to get you to doubt God's word, that is when he can steal it from you. If he can find a way to get you to doubt your dream that is when he can steal it from you. Those in connection with your dream or the seed you have sown, may fail you. They may tell you one thing and do another. A personal note – It's like when we played marbles. You would see a real good marble and you would play dumb and say "that's a lousy marble" but you knew it was a good one and you wanted it, so you put it down so they would degrade it and think it wasn't worth anything and then you could deceive them out of their marble. That's what the devil gets you to do with your dreams and your visions. With God's word he gets you to think, "This isn't any good, this doesn't mean anything to me, what am I doing here, this isn't worth anything." And then he steals it all from you.

And finally, don't rely on your senses, they will deceive you and Satan will steal the seed. Be moved by what you **know inside** to be true, not by what you **feel**. Stand by the rationale of what you originally saw to be true. When the lights seem to go out, **know everything is still there**.

B. **Rejection** - *Mark 4:16-17, "And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the Word, immediately receive it with gladness; 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."*

Rejection is one of the hardest things for a person to accept, but remember even Christ was rejected and continually warned us that others would reject us. A servant is not above his master. People will say to you, "you can't do it," people will reject your dream and say they don't want to be part of it, people will not believe in the new you, and the rejection may even come from your closest friends. Be prepared, be ready. If you're prepared to meet this obstacle, your odds are greater in overcoming it. Remember Jesus said if they reject you they are rejecting Him, not you. If it's a dream you're trying to share, remember they're rejecting the dream and not you personally. Never take rejection personally. Everyone wants to be favored, but believe me once you've endured the rejection and you begin to experience the prosperity of the seed principle, those same people who rejected you will be flocking around you. They are the fowls of the air that come to try to find lodging in the shadows of your branches Jesus spoke of in *Mark 4:32, "But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it."*

After you've planted your seed, germinated it, and cultivated it, you will begin to experience astounding growth and you will have more friends than you can count. Seed sowing, germinating and cultivating is a lonely time, that's why David said, "*Sow in tears,*" hang tight and you'll be victorious, he also said we'll "*reap in joy.*" *Psalms 126:5, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."*

C. **Comfort Zone** - *Mark 4:18-19, "And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the Word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entering in, choke the Word and it becometh unfruitful."*

This is probably going to be the hardest obstacle for you to overcome. It is that of the daydreamer. The one who dreams of riches, the one who dreams and lusts for things, the one who is preoccupied with worry concerning the cares of this world and comforts themselves in false dreams and false hopes, but never gets up to make a move because they are afraid to leave their comfort zone. This is the person who buried his talent in the parable of the talents. *Matthew 25:24-28, "Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents."*

He would rather lust for riches and become preoccupied with cares rather than actually go out and make a conscious effort to make his dream come true. Notice the verses in Mark does not say riches themselves, but the deceitfulness of riches. It does not say other things, but the lust of other things. In other words, strong desires within the heart to be successful, dreams of success, deceitfulness of success in the sense that this person finds so much satisfaction in fantasy that they never venture out, they never do the exploits spoken of in the book of Daniel.

Be watchful of the comfort zone. Step outside that comfort zone. At first you will feel insecure, but you will develop confidence, your faith will grow as you experience success and you'll never want to go back to that zone again.

D. **Attrition** - *Mark 4:20, "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some 30 fold, some 60, and some 100."*

Notice all the seed sown fell on good ground. The ground wasn't bad. The seed was God's Word, so, of course, it was good. So something was off, otherwise it would have all brought forth 100 fold. Notice the succession that Jesus names these various levels - starting off with the least first, ending up with the greatest. At the beginning when you are developing your ability to sow seed, you will not experience great success. The seed is good, the ground is good, your **abilities** to sow and cultivate it may not be good, nor can they be. When you are a novice, you will experience a 70% attrition rate (failure rate) according to the first scenario. As your ability develops you begin to experience a 40% attrition rate, as in the next scenario, and eventually you will begin to experience 100% success. In the first scenario, your attrition factor is greater than your success factor, this may discourage you - if you allow it. Remember your abilities will grow, you'll learn what fertilizer works, how much water to put on the seed, how much sunlight it needs, but when you're seeing such a high attrition rate, it can be discouraging. Satan will tell you it's unprofitable, that you're working hard for nothing. Don't believe it for a minute. It's all coming together and, according to Christ, you will eventually experience 100% success.

### **SUCCESS/GROWTH FACTORS**

In order to ensure proper growth in the germinating seed, there are certain success factors that we will have to observe.

A. **Surrounding yourself with a good environment and good friends.** The things you see and hear on a casual level are very important elements of nutrition to the seed. This is called osmosis. Through this process you will absorb the good character of others who have cultivated good character. If you study the following verses

you'll see their application to this

**Matthew 1:1, "The generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham," Psalms 1:1-3, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalms 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"**

The people you communicate with, those to whom you go to for counsel, those who you call "friend," must be people who are of like precious faith. You do not want to communicate your dreams or things that God has revealed with people that will try to hinder your faith or steal your dream. Be insightful and discerning about sharing your dreams or plans with others. Remember, Jesus prayed all night before choosing His 12 disciples to share His plan with, and even one of them betrayed Him.

**B. Through hearing ourselves and others. Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," 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," and Psalms 1:2, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."**

God's word actually teaches us to speak to ourselves. The Hebrew word for meditate is "**hagah**," which means to ponder or imagine by muttering to oneself (in pleasure or in anger). **Psalms 42:5, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance."**

**Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,"** exhorts us to do the same. Example: When you feel you cannot do something or someone tells you cannot do what God is telling you, you might say to yourself, "**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,**" **Philippians 4:13.** This will cultivate, fortify and water the seed in that particular area. Find scriptures or other statements that are wholesome that relate to the area you are working on. Decrees, affirmations, professions or confessions - pray and author some of them yourself integrating them with scriptural references. Place them on the mirror in your bathroom, place them on the refrigerator door, place them on the car dashboard. You can even make audio cassettes in your own voice saying the things you want to say to yourself, about yourself, in accordance with God's Word and play them in your drive time to and from work, or while doing housework. I am sure if you try you will think of other vehicles as well.

**C. What we see. Jesus said that if your eye is single, your whole being will be full of light. Matthew 6:22-23, "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" and Luke 11:34, "The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness."**

The word of God also says to keep His insights before your eyes. **Proverbs 4:20-21, "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart."**

It is no wonder we are told to anoint our eyes with eye salve by Jesus Christ in **Revelation 3:18, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."** **1 John 2:16, "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world,"** also it speaks against the lust of the eyes. It has been said that the eyes are the windows to the soul. The eyes as well as the other four senses, taste, hearing, touch and smell are inroads into the inner man.

D. **What we think.** *James 1:8*, says “*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*” If the mind is the battleground, we must learn to control it. 2 Cor 10:3-4 Even if we find ourselves doing something that we know God would not want us to do, our mind must be filled with the thought that our negative activities are dead and we are a new person in Christ. This is why God gives grace to the believer. He gives us time to enact a change, and it comes through a change of mind. **Think on good things. Think of what you are, not what you are not. Think of what you can do, not what you can't do.** Think of what you can have, not what you can't have. Even better yet, think about what you shall have and it will all inevitably happen. Jesus said to Peter, when Peter walked on the water and began to sink, “*Why did you doubt?*” (*Matthew 14:31, “And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”*), the Greek rendering is, “*Why did you hesitate in your mind?*” Learn to keep your mind focused on the truth. Learn to look at Christ and your ability in Him. See yourself with your mind's eye as complete in Him, with all the abilities that you have in Him. Learn to think big with God, don't limit Him. Try to see the big picture. The children of Israel, when following Moses out of Egypt, limited God through their confessions and their thinking. They doubted God. They doubted God's ability. Learn to talk to yourself with your own mind. This is what Paul meant in *Ephesians 5:19*, “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*” If someone puts you down, contradict it within your own mind. If they say you can't do something that God told you that you can do, you don't necessarily have to rebuke them openly, but within your own mind say, “**No, no, I am going to do it, I can do it, and you are wrong, and I don't receive your negativity.**”

E. **What we do.** Paul exhorts us that we should not do anything beyond our faith in *Romans 12:6*. He says in that particular instance in referring to prophesy that one should prophesy according to their proportion of faith. The experience of success is the singular most powerful way of finalizing the rooting of success within us. So, also, failure is the most detrimental. **Failure hurts and makes us fearful of trying again. Therefore it's important to act, but it is equally important to act according to faith.** In other words, **build yourself up** in steps. If you were going to become a body builder or lift weights, you wouldn't start of with heavy weights, you would **work up** in increments. So, also, it is in faith.

James said, “*faith without works is dead.*” The corresponding action to what we believe will accelerate our growth. When we learn to act on what we know to be true, then and only then will we see results. If you over water and over fertilize a plant, that is just as detrimental as not watering it or fertilizing it at all. Therefore, there comes a time when we must step out and prove the will of God!

In *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,*” you will find that proving the will of God works in conjunction with mind renewal and Paul continues in the chapter to talk about works of faith. This is precisely what he intended to convey.

### **DO NOT FAINT**

*Galatians 6:9* says, “*And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*” If you do not see immediate results, don't quit. David wrote in *Psalms 126:5*, “*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him.*” In other words, that seed of that dream, if you go out there and keep going, you are doubtlessly going to come again and you will prosper as a result. You may weep while sowing your precious seed but you will doubtlessly rejoice when you see the fruit. But you must endure with patience.

Jesus knew this and endured the shame and suffering of the cross for the joy that was set before him (*Hebrews 12:2*). He linked himself to what was going to be the result of that suffering, rather than linking His mind and heart to the suffering. He understood that His very being was a seed, that He was planted, Himself, and as a result of the sowing of that seed He would produce the offspring of many sons of God. *Romans 8:29*, “*For whom he did foreknow, he*

*also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* He knew at the end that there would be great joy and He kept focused on the joy rather than the suffering and the task at hand.

Look beyond the sowing, look beyond the weeping, link yourself to that, look beyond the disappointment to what you know is true and you will enter the rest in Christ.

***Hebrews 4:11, “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” This is the only labor Christ expects of us, the labor to enter into His rest.*** To labor until we see things the way God sees them and then watch as the explosive exponential curve begins to come into play.

### **DREAMS AND VISIONS**

The scriptures say where there is no vision or no goal the people perish. ***“Where there is no vision, the people perish:” Proverbs 29:18.***

In ***Acts, Chapter 2***, Peter says, quoting the prophet Joel, that young men would see visions and old men would dream dreams. What this is saying is that if we will listen to God's leaders, listen to their dreams, they will give us a vision. Dreams and visions are essential in motivating us to succeed. Pray, pray, pray until God shows you, through the Holy Spirit, His plan for your life. He will confirm it through the counsel of others. He will confirm it through His written Word, He may send you a prophet or He may give you a dream to confirm it. Meditate upon Him and He will project His desires into your heart. Most of all, make sure it lines up with the written Word.

Our dreams and goals and our priorities should lie in the sowing of the Word within us. We can have no dreams or goals without God's Word and the work of Christ as a basis. As we seek God for His plan and begin to internalize it and then act upon it we will experience success and great fruitfulness. Our seeds will begin to germinate and through geometric growth, our creativity will spread and multiply into others until many thousands of people are touched by our lives. Look at the life of Christ, here is a man who came into the earth, God's incarnate Son, He had little tangible resources. He didn't have the power of the media at His disposal, no television, no radio, the printed page, fax machines, computers, video tape players, car phones, telecommunications, etc. Look at the change He made in the earth. He sowed Himself into others and, with a handful of men, made the most dramatic change in the history of mankind the world has ever seen. He simply sowed His dream into others and, after He had thoroughly trained and disciplined them, He even left because He knew the seed principle would work in and of itself. Billions of people throughout the last 2,000 years have been touched by His power, the power of His word, the power of the seed.