

Sunday, July 16, 2023
The Holy Spirit "In Me" Series
Threats to the Work of God's Spirit

The Most Important Teaching of Jesus

**"Jesus is able to plant (provide, instill)
the life of God
(Holy Spirit, Living Water, Living Words of God)
deep within a person
and change his/her life and purpose forever."**

John 4:10-15; "He would have given you living water." ...but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 7:37-39 "the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He said about the Holy Spirit... not yet given."

Luke 8:8 "And yet other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as much." (Parable of the Sower and the Seed: Mat. 13:3-23; Mk. 4:2-20; Luke 8:4-15)

**"The Holy Spirit dwelling in a person
will transform a person's life."**

- **The Spirit of God reestablishes God's likeness and image in a person.** (John 3:2-8; Matthew 18:1-5)
- **Though we do not see it, the world is under the dominion of an evil and deceptive influence.** (Mat 16:15-17; Luke 4:6; John 8:42-47)
- **The Holy Spirit nurtures a child of God with understanding equipping him/her with the ability to discern wise behavior choices throughout life.** (John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15)

Threats to the Work of God's Spirit – Matthew 13:3-23

1. Jesus taught that He plants "truth" within us intended to give us understanding necessary to live life for God.

Mat. 13:4, 13 The seed is "the word of the kingdom"

Mark 4:14 The seed is "the word"

Luke 8:11 The seed is "the word of God"

Matthew 13:37 "the one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man"
Jesus taught that we need revelation from God to understand God's priorities in life. The Holy Spirit is His gift to help us grow in understanding.

2. Jesus taught that our inability and unwillingness to learn from God disrupts Spirit-led growth.

Mat. 13:18 "when one hears the word of the kingdom"

13:19 "no understanding- the evil one snatches away the words"
Luke 8:12 "the devil removes so they won't believe and be saved"

13:20 "receives- no root, affliction, persecution... falls away"
Luke 8:13 "in time of temptation fall away"

13:22 "hears- worries of the world, deceitfulness of riches choke the word and it becomes unfruitful."
Luke 8:14 "choked with worries, riches and pleasures"

13:23 "seed sown on good ground"- hears, understands, produces."
Luke 8:15 "heard the word in an honest and good heart and hold it"

**Jesus identified obstacles to spiritual growth:
the devil interfering with understanding
unwillingness to listen and learn
temptation and the opinions of others
prioritization of worry, riches and pleasure**

**Revelation from God with the teaching help of the Holy Spirit will
only change us if we choose to listen, understand and act.**

True Spirituality

- **We Need the Seed Planted to Grow! cannot grow without first learning to listen to God.**

We cannot grow without first learning to listen to God. Many of us are disabled in growth because we don't know the words of the kingdom.

- **Our greatest need in life is choosing investment of time to listen to and learn from God.**

Jesus: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." **Matthew 4:4**

Bible reading, small groups, sermons, friends,