

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXX

October 18, 2020

No. 42

“I Don’t Know How...”

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On a full day when Jesus was speaking the spiritual truths of the Kingdom of God in the form of parables, He focused attention upon “growth” in the natural world. Jesus says, “...if a man should cast seed upon the earth; and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring up and grow, he knoweth not how. The earth beareth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the fruit is ripe, straightway he putteth forth the sickle, because the harvest is come” (Mark 4:26-29).

The science of germination is fascinating. The term “*germination*” comes from the Latin word “*germinans*” meaning “to sprout forth,” making it relevant to Jesus’ parable. The process of the seed sprouting into a plant is known and can be understood by children and adults. The young can know that the planted seed first produces roots; then the early leaf comes forth from the seed cavity; and it sprouts forth from the ground to form other leaves to sustain the plant unto maturity. Later, the young student may learn that the seed will only germinate after its “kind.” While there are many types of grasses, a wheat seed will only produce a wheat plant; a barley seed will only produce a barley plant and a corn seed will only produce standing corn. This inherit genetic law

assures the same result in generations to come.

God set forth this law of the seed from the very beginning. “And God said, ‘Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit-trees bearing fruit after their kind wherein is the seed thereof, upon the earth: and it was so (Genesis 1:11). As God distinguishes the grasses from the fruit bearing trees, we see the difference while acknowledging that the law of seed producing after their kind is common to both.

In the parable, after the man sows the seed, he sleeps and rises while something springs forth from the earth. The man sowed seed, but after a few days the stem of a plant springs up from the earth and growth ensues. The sower “*knows not how.*” Jesus quickly directs our attention to the growth process occurring: “*The earth beareth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.*” Once the man sowed the seed, the unseen germination process started working in the soil without his expertise, for he “*knows not how.*” It is the earth bearing fruit of herself, not of the sower himself.

Jesus is illustrating the reality of spiritual growth connected with sowing God’s Word in the hearts of men. Earlier, Jesus had

explained the parable of the sower by connecting the Word, the seed, to the different types of soil, the various conditions in men’s hearts (Matthew 13:14-20). In the present parable, Jesus continues the spiritual application of the sown seed by emphasizing the growing properties of the seed that ensue when sown in the heart.

We do not have to know how the seed grows, but we know that seed must be sown before growth can begin. God’s Word must find the heart of man if it is ever to germinate. Today, we begin a united effort in preaching the Word – sowing God’s spiritual Seed. Every weeknight we will be spreading the Word with the preaching of timely messages designed to reach the heart by instructing the mind, awakening the emotions, charging the will, while fostering growth.

The sower may not know how the seed grows but he has his sickle ready for harvest. We often feel sad because of the lack of immediate response to the preached word. But the word may have just entered a reflective heart needing time to sprout. Join us this week in sowing the seed of the kingdom as we anticipate a good harvest. More and more saved souls living strong spiritual lives unto the end begins with you and me spreading the Word!