



IT STARTS IN THE HEART

JEREMY PEARSONS

APRIL 26-30, 2021

DAY 1 – UNDERSTANDING WITH THE HEART

Let God's Word get into you and give you life, because it's alive and full of revelation. Avoid becoming complacent about what you think you know about God's Word. Tradition, religion and ignorance have caused men to come up with reasons why the Word isn't working. Revelation knowledge makes God's Word alive to you. There's a huge difference between natural understanding and spiritual understanding with your heart.

STUDY IT

- I. Let God's Word get into you and give you life, because it's alive and full of revelation.
 - As you find yourself in the space between your current experiences and the expectation of the promises of God, continue to hope and believe.
 - The thing that sustains us is believing that we will see change in our lives.
 - We need to be keepers of the faith.
 - "The strong spirit of a man sustains him in bodily pain or trouble, but a weak and broken spirit who can raise up or bear?" (Proverbs 18:14, *AMPC*).
- II. Avoid becoming complacent about what you think you know about God's Word; it cuts you off from more revelation.
 - The parable of the sower gives us answers (Matthew 13:3-8).
 - "Some seed" (meaning some of the same kind of seed) is scattered on different kinds of grounds.
 - In this parable, the seed only produced on 25% of the ground.
 - The seed was sown:
 - On the wayside. That's hard ground where animals and people walked, like concrete. The seed couldn't get into the soil.
 - On stony ground. That's ground with only a shallow layer of earth. The seed got only so far into the soil because underneath was solid rock.
 - On ground with thorns. The seed got in and sprang up. But thorns also sprang up and choked out the seed.
 - On good ground. This ground produced and bore fruit.
 - In each case, there was nothing wrong with the seed; the problem was the ground.



- III. Tradition, religion and ignorance have caused men to come up with reasons why the Word isn't working.
- To mask their lack of faith, they use reasons like:
 - Sometimes God's Word works, and sometimes it doesn't.
 - God's Word works for some people, but not for others.
 - God, in His sovereignty, chose for the Word to produce for one but not for another.
- IV. Revelation knowledge makes God's Word come alive to you.
- It is a privilege and an honor to have revelation in the Word of God—to open God's Word and understand what it is saying.
 - It's been given to you to know and understand the mysteries—to know things not everyone knows (see Matthew 13:11).
 - To him who has, more will be given (overflow, excess). But to him who has not, what he has will be taken from him (see Matthew 13:12).
- V. There's a huge difference between natural understanding and spiritual understanding with your heart.
- "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).
 - If there's a path that leads to death, there must be a path that leads to life and life more abundant.
 - To get on the path of life more abundantly requires that you:
 1. Be filled with the knowledge of the will of God.
 2. Be filled with the wisdom of God coupled with spiritual understanding.
 - To him who has spiritual understanding, more will be given.
 - To get more spiritual understanding, walk in what you understand now.
 - Understand and value the Word with spiritual understanding from your heart.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Understanding with the heart, revelation knowledge, is what changes us from what we are experiencing to what we are expecting. Meditate on God and His Word. Change is coming to those whose hearts are *good ground*!

Praise the Lord! Praise Him with an open heart!



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DAY 2 – QUICK TO RESPOND

The question: Why isn't God's Word working in my life to produce abundant life? Jesus spoke the parable of the sower, seed and ground, which is a master key to all His parables. Everything in life begins as a seed—including you and me. Jesus compared the wayside ground to a hard heart. Be quick to respond to God's Word.

STUDY IT

- I. The question: Why isn't God's Word working in my life to produce abundant life?
 - If you're somewhere in that space between what you are experiencing and what you are expecting, hold on in faith.
 - Don't be preoccupied with what things look and feel like. Change is coming.
- II. Jesus spoke the parable of the sower, seed and ground, which is a master key to all His parables (Matthew 13:3-8).
 - The sower sowed the seed. The same seed fell on the wayside, on stony ground, on thorny ground and on good ground.
 - The seed of the Word failed to produce something 75% of the time, but it did produce when it was sown in good ground.
 - There is nothing wrong with the ever-living, undying, incorruptible seed of the Word of God. We are born again by the seed of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23).
- III. Everything in life begins as a seed—including you and me.
 - Everything a seed will become exists inside it.
 - Everything you *are* existed when you were only a seed.
 - The huge redwood tree had all its hugeness inside the seed in which it began.
 - The amazing thing is not only how big it is, but that all of that tree used to exist in a seed.
 - That same principle applies to God's Word.
 - Actually, because this principle started in His Word, that makes it true in the natural world. It's true first in the spirit.



- Everything that's in God's Word exists now: your salvation, healing, deliverance, joy, peace, and prosperity is in the Seed, God's Word.
 - That's what the Seed is capable of producing in you.
 - There's nothing wrong with the seed, but it matters what kind of ground it falls on. In good ground, the seed grows!
- IV. The parable of the seed and the soil is all about your heart condition.
- Jesus compared the wayside ground to a hard heart.
 - The ground was hard and packed down, and the seed couldn't get in to root.
 - Seed that falls on the hard, packed wayside, cannot respond (see Matthew 13:13).
 - Hardhearted people hear the Word, but it doesn't get in them (see Matthew 13:19).
 - The seed won't produce if it can't get into your spirit (see Matthew 13:15).
 - Your heart is the soil that the Word gets sowed into (see Proverbs 4:20).
 - The definition of soil is "a mixture of materials that will promote and support life."
 - Your heart will either promote life or hinder it.
 - Your born-again spirit can understand the things of God much better and much quicker than your mind.
 - This seed of God's Word is only life-producing and health-providing once it gets into your heart.
- V. Be quick to respond to God's Word.
- Some people were waiting for Jesus to do a miracle, so they could accuse Him (Mark 31-6).
 - Jesus was angry and grieved at the hardness of their hearts.
 - The characteristics of a hard heart: no response, dull, unfeeling, without honor, no value, no respect and no understanding.
 - A soft heart is good ground. It's tender and responsive, and God's Word can work in it.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Pray with us:

Heavenly Father, I determine to have a soft heart, a heart that is quick to respond to You and Your Word. I will read Your Word daily and receive Your revelations on how to live the life You promised! In Jesus' Name. Amen.



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DAY 3 – QUICK TO BELIEVE

Be quick to believe. On the wayside, the seed cannot get into the ground to grow. If the Word is not working in your life, go back and look at the ground. A tender heart will respond, and believe quickly and willingly.

STUDY IT

- I. Be quick to believe.
 - In the parable of the sower, the seed was sown on multiple kinds of ground (Matthew 13:1-8).
 - If you're waiting for God's answer to the things you've prayed, you may be curious as to why God's Word isn't working in your life.
 - The sower sows the Word, and some fell on good ground.
 - The seed works in good ground. There's nothing wrong with the seed.
 - There may be a problem with the ground.
- II. On the wayside—hard, packed ground—the seed cannot get into the ground to grow.
 - This pictures the person who does not understand God's Word.
 - Jesus knows the seed must enter the heart (Matthew 13:15).
 - If the heart is hard, the Word cannot get in.
 - We're not talking about mental hearing of God's Word. We're talking about revelation understanding.
 - God's Word is life to those who find it (Proverbs 4:20).
 - The way you find is to seek. You seek things that are valuable.
 - If your valuables are left unprotected, they are stolen.
 - The devil wants to steal the Word from you, and he will if you don't value it and protect it (Matthew 13:19).
- III. If the seed isn't working, the Word is not working in your life. Go back and look at the ground.
 - Has your heart grown hard, dull, unfeeling and unresponsive?



- When that happens, you don't notice because your heart is not tender or sensitive anymore.
- Hardhearted people watched Jesus for a reason to accuse Him (Mark 3:2).
- People that are faultfinding are actually fault-seeking.
 - Stop being a fault-seeker, and you will not be a faultfinder.
- Jesus asked the faultfinders a question. They were unresponsive (Mark 3:4).
 - Jesus was angry, and grieved at the hardness of their hearts.
 - Jesus saw the condition of their hearts. They were hardhearted.
- Honor and value need to be highly important to you.
 - To treat someone as if they hadn't spoken to you, as if their words had no worth or value, is a lack of respect.
 - Slow response or no response is an indicator of a hard heart.
- The children of Israel did not mix faith with God's Word (see Hebrews 4:2).
 - When we do this, it grieves God because He cannot do in our hearts the good He has planned for us.
 - He can't get blessing into your hand if you won't first let it into your heart, where it must take root.
- Jesus gave the man with the withered hand something to respond to (Mark 3:3, 5).
 - At Jesus' instruction, he stretched out his hand, and it was restored.

- IV. If a hard heart is slow to respond, a tender heart (good ground) will respond quickly and willingly.
- A man brought his son to Jesus for help (Mark 9:17-19).
 - He said, "Jesus, I believe. Help me in my unbelief." (Mark 9:24). He was quick to believe.
 - If the heart is hard, a person cannot believe. That's a condition of the heart.
 - It's not a mental problem; it's a heart condition.
 - The miracle power in the Word of God delivered that boy.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Are you quick to respond to God's Word? Are you quick to believe? Do a heart check and determine to be "good ground."

Write Luke 8:15 from whatever translation of the Bible you use. Then post it in your home and read it aloud daily. Meditate on what it means to you and how your heart can change to be good ground.

"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15).



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DAY 4 – QUICK TO REPENT

The heart is where everything starts in God. Consider the condition of your heart. Hardness of the heart will produce a total lack of faith. A hard heart is not just slow to respond, but it's also slow to believe and repent. A soft heart is quick to believe, respond and repent.

STUDY IT

- I. The heart is where everything starts in God. Consider the condition of your heart.
 - When you pray about something and it continues to hang around in your life, you may wonder why God's Word is not working for you.
 - There's nothing wrong with the seed, God's Word. Check the soil, your heart, for the problem.
- II. Hardness of the heart will produce unbelief, a total lack of faith.
 - Symptoms of a hard heart include a slow response or no response to His Word: which is unbelief. That attitude makes the Lord angry.
 - Jesus was teaching His disciples about sin, using leaven as an example (Mark 8:13-21).
 - The disciples had hard hearts and didn't understand what He was trying to teach them.
 - A hard heart will not understand.
 - A soft heart is identified by being quick to respond, even though your mind may not understand.
- III. A hard heart is not just slow to respond, but it's also slow to believe.
 - After Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples heard Mary's witness of seeing Him alive, but they did not believe (Mark 16:9-11).
 - They also didn't believe the two who returned to Jerusalem from Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13).
 - Jesus had told the disciples ahead of time He would be raised from the dead (Mark 10:34).
 - Jesus rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart because they did not believe the ones who had seen Him alive (Mark 16:14).



IV. A hard heart is slow to repent.

- Moses went to Pharaoh and asked him to let God's people go.
 - Each time, Pharaoh hardened his heart. He and his nation endured plague after plague (Exodus 5-13).
 - He had enslaved God's people because he was afraid of them. They were prospering and multiplying, so he enslaved them to try to stop THE BLESSING.
 - He made a government-sanctioned plan to kill their babies (Exodus 1:9-20).
- That's what the devil is trying to do today: break the soul of God's people by killing the babies.
- Pharaoh reaped the harvest of killing God's children when the death angel came through the nation and took the firstborn from every household that didn't have the blood on the doorposts (Exodus 13:15).
- Pharaoh could have avoided all of that trouble if he had been quick to repent.

V. A soft heart is quick to believe, respond and repent.

- King Josiah found God's Word and realized the nation was on the brink of judgment (2 Kings 22:10-20).
 - He quickly repented and instructed the nation to repent for not following God's instructions.
 - The Lord told him that because of the tenderness of his heart, God heard him and delayed the judgment.
- Today is your day to repent for known sin. Be quick to repent, quick to get it right, and quick to receive forgiveness.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

This lesson teaches that we need to be quick to repent. It's very important!

Write three things you need to repent of. Don't forget unforgiveness.

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."



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DAY 5 – QUICK TO FORGIVE

Make the Word of God important in your life. Jesus made it clear how the Word of God works. The seed, the Word of God, was sown on four kinds of ground. Be quick to forgive, make sure your heart is good ground, and you will be blessed.

STUDY IT

- I. Make the Word of God important in your life.
 - Demonstrate your belief that: 1. God is the answer. 2. He has written in His Word the direction for your life.
 - Let your children and grandchildren see the priority you put on God's Word.
 - Even if it looks like they have gone another direction, believe they will return to the Lord, in Jesus' Name.
- II. Jesus made it clear how the Word of God works (Matthew 13:3-23).
 - It's like a seed planted on four different kinds of ground.
 - In this parable, the seed only produced a harvest in one kind of ground.
 - It's not that the seed is defective. The focus needs to be on the kind of ground it is sown in.
 - When the seed (God's Word) is sown into good ground (a soft, receptive heart), it *will* produce a harvest of an abundant life.
- III. The first kind of ground is the wayside. That's ground packed down hard, perhaps a path people and animals walk on.
 - Anyone who hears the Word of God and doesn't understand it, is like seed sown on the wayside—hard ground—and the seed cannot get in.
 - When the Word gets sown in a hard heart where it doesn't get in, satan comes immediately and steals the Word.
 - Jesus, talking about a hard heart, said that's someone who hears the Word, doesn't understand it, doesn't value it, and it doesn't get in them.
 - It's a dangerous heart condition.
 - Your spiritual heart can have conditions that produce symptoms—symptoms of a hard heart.
 - A hard heart is slow to respond, slow to believe and slow to repent.



- IV. Jesus asked highly educated religious leaders what was acceptable to do on the Sabbath: give life or kill, save or destroy, do good or do evil.
- They should have known the answer but they did not respond. Jesus was angry and grieved at the hardness of their hearts.
 - In the same way, God was angry and grieved at the hardness of the hearts of the children of Israel when they refused to take Him at His Word and go into the Promised Land. They had evil unbelief in their hearts.
 - Unbelief is a result of a hard heart.
 - Symptoms of a hard heart, ground that the Word cannot work in: slow to respond, slow to believe, slow to repent.
 - Indicators of a soft heart, good ground, a heart that the Word can get sown in and produce: quick to respond, quick to believe, quick to obey, quick to repent.
- V. The stony ground has a shallow layer of earth, but underneath it is hard stone.
- The seed didn't go deep and didn't take root.
 - They receive God's Word with joy. But it's not just the initial response that matters. It takes time for the seed to go deep and take root.
 - This seed springs up but it is scorched by the sun because it has no root.
 - That's like someone who hears the Word gladly, but because they have no root, they get offended.
 - The Word will not bear fruit in an offended heart.
 - Pressure, persecution and tribulation arise for the Word's sake. Those things come to rob the Word, and its effectiveness from you.
- VI. The thorny ground receives the seed, but becomes unfruitful.
- The seed gets in, roots down, and starts to produce something.
 - Problem: The Word gets in, but something else gets in also and contaminates the soil.
 - The definition of *soil*: "a mixture of materials that all promote life and support growth."
 - You can have soil infused with good things, but you can also have soil that has other things in it.
 - The Word can be sown in good ground (your heart), but the soil can become contaminated.
 - There are things like the cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches and lust for other things that can get in and choke out the pure Word.
 - Other things like worry, anxiety and cares make the Word of God ineffective.
 - Saying, "What am I going to do?" is looking to yourself to be your source.
 - The Word of God's grace cannot work when you're trying to *earn* the answer or fix it yourself.



- God's righteousness cannot produce fruit in the same ground as self-righteousness. It's a thorn that will spring up and choke the Word. Check the soil.
 - Symptoms of a hard heart, ground that the Word cannot work in: slow to respond, slow to believe, slow to repent.
- VII. King David was confronted by the prophet about his sin.
- David was quick to repent, and the prophet told him, "The Lord's not going to hold it against you" (2 Samuel 12:13).
 - A soft heart is not only quick to repent, but it's also quick to forgive.
 - Peter asked Jesus how often he had to forgive (Matthew 18:21).
 - You should be quick to forgive because you have been forgiven a huge debt that you could never repay.
 - If you don't forgive, you cut off all forgiveness and everything that comes with it.
 - Forgiveness is relationship-restoring power. It is the power to restore right fellowship between you and God.
- VIII. The prodigal son received forgiveness.
- The prodigal son basically said, "I can't wait until you, my father, are dead. Give me my inheritance now" (see Luke 15:12).
 - Because the son repented, the father was quick to forgive (see Luke 15:20-22).
 - *Quickly* bring out the best robe.
 - The best robe is the Father's robe—the robe of righteousness. Put on that robe, and it will take care of all the stink and stain of sin.
 - Be quick to forgive. Let the offense go, because the Word will not work in an unforgiving heart.
 - Indicators of a soft heart, good ground, a heart that the Word can get sown in and produce: quick to respond, quick to believe, quick to obey, quick to repent.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

What we have learned is that God's Word is productive if sown in good ground. Please let us know the victory you have seen in prayer. Send us your reports by [clicking here](#), or [contact us on Facebook™](#).

We want you to partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries. To sign up, just call 1-800-600-7395, or visit kcm.org/Partner.

Remember: God loves you, we love you, and JESUS IS LORD!