

Sunday, June 30, 2013

The sown word and the quality of the soil (7)

The type of the seed

First: The word of God is not hollow; it is not mere information or ideologies, it is rather a word full of life as the Lord emphasized *“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”* (John 6:63). Therefore, the word of God cannot be defeated by the death of the world, but rather it leads man to the path of eternal life. Thus, the Lord Jesus calls it in the explanation of the parable, *“The word of the kingdom”* (Matthew 13:19).

Second: The word of God gives life to hearts from within, like a seed that contains the power of life within it, when it falls on the ground, it gives life as God said in the book of Isaiah, *“As the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it”* (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Third: The word of God is capable of changing life to the better. It enlightens the heart and the mind, it examines the depth of man, and it clearly discerns the thoughts of light from the thoughts of darkness as our teacher St. Paul says, *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12).

Fourth: The word of God is food and steadfastness for the heart. It supports the weak, guides the lost, strengthens the will of the broken hearted. And because it fills the heart with the love of Christ, it gives man strength to overcome the temptations of sin.

Fifth: It builds us and strengthens one’s soul in Christ and consequently it prepares it to inherit the kingdom, as St. Paul said in his farewell to the servants of Ephesus and its surroundings, *“I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”* (Act 20:32).

Sixth: A ground that is planted with the word becomes greatly fortified so the devil can’t easily break into it, contrary to the barren land which he covets and easily over takes and becomes his breeding ground and fills it with his rouse plants.

Seventh: The word of God is a high quality plant, it gives value to the land and it is truly the best we can plant in this life.

It is up to us to provide an environment for these seeds to grow within us because *“The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace.”* (James 3:18). We must always remember that *“He who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”* (Galatians 6:8) We ought to strive in planting these living seeds in every heart trusting that the seeds of the word of God are the key to faith, and faith is the first step on the path of salvation.

In summary, there are three essential elements to keep our ground fruitful:

- 1- Dedicate enough land for planting, i.e. a fixed time for reading the scriptures. The more land you dedicate the more we it produces.
- 2- Prune the plants from thorns, i.e. the worries, pride, or lusts.
- 3- Till the land and turn it over to break any rocks in it.

We also ought not to forget to read the word with a prayerful heart, and pray using the words of the bible that we read.

Fr. Yohanna Naseef

fryohanna@hotmail.com

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL