

### **The Needful Thing (Part 3)**

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### **Scripture References**

Luke 10:38-42	Joshua 1:8
Proverbs 14:12	Psalms 1:2, 3
Mark 4:14-19, 26-32	Jeremiah 17:5-8
1 Peter 1:23	Job 14:7-9
Luke 17:20, 21	Genesis 24:63
Colossians 1:13	Philippians 4:8
Proverbs 4:23	Genesis 6:5
Matthew 6:33	Genesis 11:6
John 1:1-3, 14	Psalms 92:12-15
Hebrews 4:2, 3, 11	2 Corinthians 10:5
1 Timothy 4:15	

### **Summary**

*The world has a curious way of telling us that we need everything it offers. The temptation to believe this can be strong, but all the material things we may think we need can fail. No matter what we may see or hear around us, the only thing we **really** need is the Word of God. The Word is like seed we sow into the ground of our hearts; in order for it to benefit us, our hearts must be fertile and receptive to receive it. The Word is also Jesus Christ, Himself—something Satan knows all too well. The enemy, who is in the world, does his best to convince us that the Word is something we can do without. However, to experience the successful life God envisions for us, the Word is essential.*

#### **A. The Word can change our lives. For this to happen, we must first plant it in our hearts.**

1. Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her (Luke 10:38-42).
  - a. What Jesus said is still true today. We may think we need many things we see in the world, but the only thing we need is God's Word.
  - b. Before we do anything else in life, we need to have the Word, first.
  - c. Many people do not believe they need the Word; they think they need something else. Therefore, they go their own way.
  - d. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12).

2. The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. 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. 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 lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful... 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. And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: 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 (Mark 4:14-19, 26-32).
  - a. The Word is sown when it is heard by others.
  - b. We must examine what is in our hearts that makes the Word unfruitful in our lives.
  - c. The Word never fails; however, for it to take root and grow in our hearts, we must read it, study it, and speak it regularly.
  - d. People who think the Word is insignificant are ignorant; it is extremely powerful.
3. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever (1 Peter 1:23).
  - a. Not only is the Word Jesus, Himself, it is also seed that can be sown. This seed is superior to anything else, and it always works.

**B. The kingdom of God is contained in the *Word* of God. The Word is seed, and the Word is Jesus.**

1. And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20, 21).
  - a. Jesus is the king over God's kingdom; He embodies everything the kingdom stands for. Therefore, the kingdom of God is already a present-tense reality in the hearts of God's children.
  - b. God's children are the people who have been born again, who have invited Jesus into their lives. When Jesus moved into us, so did the kingdom.
2. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son (Colossians 1:13).
  - a. The kingdom starts in us, in our hearts, and moves outward from there.
  - b. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).
  - c. Jesus *is* the kingdom of God. He is righteousness, peace, and joy; all of these are present in the kingdom.
  - d. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

- e. When the kingdom is inside us, we will overcome all trouble when it comes.
- 3. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:1-3, 14).
  - a. The Word is Jesus, Himself; it is God.
  - b. The Word must be believed, spoken, and meditated on; this is how we get it into the soil of our hearts. We must keep doing this until we can see the harvest through the eyes of our imagination.

**C. The Word of God can only benefit us if we receive it willingly and meditate on it.**

- 1. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world... Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief (Hebrews 4:2, 3, 11).
  - a. When we believe it, the Word gives us authority. We must walk in that authority, no matter what the world does.
  - b. Entering into rest is how we authenticate our faith.
  - c. The labor referred to is meditating on the Word and speaking it out loud.
  - d. To profit from the Word, we must roll it over in our minds, think about it, and declare it.
- 2. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all (1 Timothy 4:15).
  - a. If we study the Word, let it get inside us, and spend time with it, the results will eventually become outwardly evident.
  - b. When we reach this point, then when we are prompted to do something, we will succeed. This will be because the kingdom lives inside us.
- 3. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).
  - a. Even under the covenant of Mosaic Law, the people had to meditate on the Word of God to be successful. If we meditate on the Word, our results will be even greater under the covenant of grace.

**D. We must be careful what we meditate on. It can either cause us to fail, or empower us.**

- 1. 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 (Psalm 1:2, 3).
  - a. All this starts with a seed, and someone willing to plant it in their heart and see the end results through the eyes of their imagination.
  - b. We need to meditate on the right things; we will do this when we trust God. Conversely, when we do *not* trust Him, we worry and meditate on the wrong things. Worry is simply negative meditation.

2. Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit (Jeremiah 17:5-8).
  - a. To be cursed is to be empowered to fail; to be blessed is to be empowered to succeed.
  - b. What we meditate on is influenced by who, or what, we trust.
3. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant (Job 14:7-9).
  - a. When the Word is inside us, rough times will not stop us from bearing fruit.

**E. We can either use our imaginations for evil or for good. The enemy wants our thoughts.**

1. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming (Genesis 24:63).
  - a. Isaac began seeing through the eyes of his imagination. God gave us imaginations; when we use them the way He intended, we see good things come to pass in our lives.
2. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Philippians 4:8).
  - a. The devil is after our minds. He wants to determine our thinking, and he wants us to be hopeless and hurting.
  - b. What we think on is what we produce, for good or bad. God tells us exactly what to meditate on.
3. Our imaginations are governed by our thinking. Whatever we can imagine is a done deal.
  - a. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5).
  - b. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do (Genesis 11:6).

**F. Using our imaginations to visualize what God wants for us brings us peace and success.**

1. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him (Psalm 92:12-15).
  - a. When we plant the seed of the Word in our hearts, we, too, will flourish and succeed.

2. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
  - a. Imagination is the inward desire and ability to see things. However, the world teaches us to use it the wrong way—seeing ourselves operating negatively and against the Word.
  - b. The ability to imagine things is important. All human progress has been born out of imagination; without it, man is limited.
  - c. Our memories use our imaginations. Much of our thinking—whether planning or jumping to conclusions—uses it. Fear and faith also operate in the realm of the imagination.

For more on building our faith in God's Word—which is all we need in life—click on the link below for the MP3, *The Needful Thing (Part 3)*.

<https://bit.ly/TheNeedfulThingPart3MP3>

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