**2021**

**Seed sowers** (foundational truth of the kingdom)

Mark 4: 14 – 20 & 26 (Matthew 13: 19 & Luke 8: 11).

* ***The seed is the word of the kingdom*** (Matthew 4: 23, Mark 1: 14 & 38).

***The sower***

***The Word***

***The heart***

* Jesus went about preaching, teaching and healing (Luke 4: 18 anointed).
* Three elements to this parable (**1**) the sower (**2**) the word (**3**) where the seed falls. ***The seed is always good.*** Nothing wrong with the seed.
  + Way side – (hard and compact ***road***) immediately stolen. (Matthew 7: 13) - For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

The ground represents the conditions of the heart (spirit).

The seed is always good if it’s the incorruptible Word of God.

* + Stony ground – the seed (word) doesn’t take root. You withstand affliction and persecution when the word of God firmly planted in your heart. It ***must take root*** to grow strong.
  + Thornes – things of this world (system) ***choke*** the word (strangle or drown) – but we are not of this world.
  + Good ground – a receptive heart that receives ***and*** acts brings forth fruit. (Luke 8: 15 – they hear the word and keep it).

Matthew 24: 14

* And this ***gospel (word) of the kingdom*** shall be preached in all the world for a ***witness*** (evidence) unto all nations, and ***then*** shall the end come.
* Not man’s tradition or religious observance.

We are ***seed sowers*** for the purpose of winning souls to Jesus Christ.

***Mark 16: 16***

He that believes…..once the seed is sown, the responsibility of believing transfers to the hearer.

***Romans 10: 13***

Only God can recreate a human spirit. In that sense we are soul winners not soul savers.

Matthew 28: 18 – 20

* Go and teach / make disciples.

Mark 16: 15 – 20

* Preaching and teaching is sowing seed.

The example of Paul

1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 9 (NLT)

* Only God can make the seed grow.
* It’s not important who does the planting or watering. Only God can give the increase.

2 Corinthians 3: 5 – 6 (NLT)

* Our qualification to minister comes from God, not from human ability.

1 Corinthians 15: 10 (grace alone)

* Paul ***Laboured more abundantly*** in grace (work hard, toil, feel fatigue).
* The power that works within us (grace) – enables us to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

Acts 2: 41 & 46 - 47

* They received the word ***gladly*** (with joy or pleasure) and ***the Lord added*** to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 6: 7 & 12: 24

* As the word increased and multiplied.

Acts 19: 20

* The word ***prevailed*** (to be strong or a force).
* Isaiah 55: 11 (The word never returns void).

Kingdom Principle

Kingdom means “Kings Domain, realm or rule”.

Mark 4: 26 - 32

* So is the kingdom of God as if a man should cast seed into the ground.
* We don’t have to know how it works. We rest and sleep ***in faith*** knowing it does.
* The seed ***must*** be sown first – but ***when it is sown, it grows (multiplication).***
* The seed of God’s word will always bring a change to our lives. But it must be planted and given time to grow.

Matthew 6: 33 (AMPC)

* *“But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.”*

The Father’s business

* Luke 2: 49 – Didn’t you know that I must be about my Father’s business.
* Matthew 6: 7 – 10 (***your*** kingdom come, ***your*** will be done).

***Your will be done***

Desire or pleasure. What one has determined shall be done.

* + In this manner pray (Jesus spoke words).
  + This example was a model or pattern not a formula or ritual.
  + Much speaking is not prayer. Faith filled words are prayer.
  + Remember, if we pray according to his will, he hears us.

We don’t see the Father face to face, but we see Him through the Word.

* John 5: 16 & 30 (NLT)
  + The Father’s business is the Father’s will. This includes healing.
  + Jesus said, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father (John 14: 9).
* John 12: 49 – 50 (The Father has given us commandments, what we should say and what we should speak).
* James 4: 13 – 17 (NLT)
  + We don’t boast about tomorrow, but we trust God in our tomorrow.
  + Self-confidence and self-reliance are deceptive.
  + John 15: 5 – 8 (without Jesus we can do nothing)

Being equipped for kingdom sowing

* To be about the Father’s business, we must sow Spirit and Life. That means we sow seeds of freedom, not seeds of bondage. Religious law always produces weeds.

***Zoe life***.

The life *only* God can give.

John 10: 10.

* + John 6: 63 (The words I speak unto you are ***Spirit*** and they are ***Life***).

***Worship***

Reverence or adoration. To prostrate oneself in homage.

* + John 4: 22 – 24 (God is a Spirit – we worship him in spirit and truth).
  + John 1: 17 (Jesus came full of grace and truth).
  + Romans 1: 16 – The Gospel of Christ is the ***power of God***.
  + Hebrews 4: 12 – The Word is alive and powerful
  + 1 Peter 1: 23 – Born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible (imperishable, immortal), by the word of God which lives and abides forever.

***2 Cor 3: 15 – 17***

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

* + Joshua 1: 8 (Joshua had to be equipped with the word first, not natural weapons to succeed.
  + We sow the seed of God’s Word to reveal the solution to the sin problem – Grace Himself – JESUS (Romans 10: 13 – 15).

The delivery system (people) may be weak and frail, but the characteristics of God’s Word are unchanging and eternal (incorruptible seed).

Seed faith

***Matthew 17: 20***

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, nothing shall be impossible for you.

Luke 17: 5 – 10 (NLT)

* We must have faith in the seed sown.
* 1 Peter 1: 23 (incorruptible seed – the word of God).

*Everything in life starts with a seed—including the things we receive by faith. God says in Genesis 8: 22, “****While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease****.” The eternal law of seedtime and harvest, planting and reaping, giving and receiving will not change as long as the earth remain*s.

It’s not about the ***quantity*** of our faith, but the power of God. Words release power.

You can have all the faith in the world inside you, but that won’t change a thing

unless you learn to release your faith. ***It must be sown as a seed***.

Faith’s job is to obey you*.* ***It is a servant*** and must be put to work.

* Seed faith is sown through spoken words.

Using the faith that you already have will ***increase*** it.

* All material things need spiritual things for their existence. What’s flesh is flesh, what’s spirit is spirit (in Him we live and breathe and exist).
* A dead spirit only has natural human faith. God’s faith is a force of the recreated human spirit.
* The flesh has no ability to produce faith. The word produces faith in the spirit. Seeing is not believing (*enemy of faith*). ***Believing*** is seeing.

Doubt asks questions. Faith makes declarations.

Faith is believing that God cannot lie.

* Faith comes by hearing the word and is released by speaking words.
* When you sow your faith, it increases (that’s action).
* God gave us His faith ***as a servant*** to put to work.
* We can never give him more than he deserves. Instead He is always giving us more than we deserve (grace) and we are always owing him thanks.
* No matter what we do as Christians, we will always be debtors to grace. We will never be able to pay this debt, nor are we ever meant to.

Principles of seed faith

* ***Recognise that God is your source*** (Philippians 4: 19). God will use many different instruments and means to supply all our ***‘need’*** (necessity, lack, requirements, business or demand), but He alone is the source and He alone cannot fail.

-He is unchanging / He is love

-He is good /He is faithful

-He is merciful and just.

-It’s ***all*** His to begin with.

* + John 15: 5 – 8 (We must abide in him).
  + Luke 11: 5 – 13 (Ask and you shall receive).
  + James 1: 17 (God is good and unchanging).

* ***Give first, so that it can be given back to you*** (Luke 6: 35 - 38). We must first ***plant*** a seed of faith so that God can ***multiply*** it back to meet our need. Jesus is talking about giving in the deepest sense of the word – the giving of ourselves to God (love, time, forgiveness, patience, finances, prayers). ***God asks nothing of us that He doesn’t do himself. HE GAVE***.

Our giving reflects our ***trust in God*** and it links us to his unlimited resources for our every need.

* + John 3: 16 - 18 (The most valuable gift ever sown).
  + Romans 8: 29 (First born of many brothers).
  + Colossians 1: 18 (First born from the dead).
  + Hebrews 1: 6 (He brings in the first begotten into the world).
* ***Multiplication through sowing*** (Matthew 14: 15 – 20)

***John 6: 8 – 9***

One of the disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother said to him. There is a lad here which has five barley loaves and two small fish: ***but what are they among so many***?

* + Feeding of the five thousand.
  + Five loaves and two fish were seed (Mark 6: 38 – “***How many loaves have you***”? Do you have seed?).
  + The seed must be sown first and pass through the master’s hand to be blessed (***Bring them to me***).
  + Took, blessed, gave = multiplication. Sowing always precedes the multiplication. Without sowing, there is no ‘***seed faith’***. No faith, no grace.
  + Remember, faith the size of a ‘mustard seed’ can move a mountain.
  + The harvest from the seed sown was for the lad (12 baskets full).
* ***If you have a need, sow a seed.***

1 Kings 17: 8 – 24 (NLT)

***Luke 4: 25***

Jesus was rejected like the prophets Elijah and Elisha.

***James 5: 17***

Famine was 3 years 6 months

* + The Lord had instructed a widow to feed the prophet. She was a Gentile who lived in a heathen city (Sidon). Queen Jezebel was a Sidonian who married King Ahab and caused much trouble for Israel.
  + There can be no place for fear (fear contaminates faith).
  + The *bread* was the seed.
  + The request seemed unreasonable but she trusted the word of the prophet.
* The seed produced after its own kind. There was always enough flower and oil left in the containers.
* Galatians 6: 7 – God is not mocked. What we sow is what we reap.
* This is the first record in the Bible of someone being raised from the dead.

2 Kings 4: 1 – 7 (NLT)

***2 Cor 9: 10***

God’s way of meeting our needs is through sowing seed. Increase always comes when this principle is applied in faith (Heb 11: 6).

He even provides the seed for us to sow.

* + What seed do you have? Recognise the seed you have (pot of oil).
  + Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, not your natural understanding.
  + Faith in the natural can seem unreasonable, but it requires unwavering trust in God’s word.
  + Obeying what ***He said*** is key to walking a victorious Christian life.
  + Sowing into the kingdom always produces supernatural increase.

Luke 5: 1 – 11 (Matthew 4: 18 – 22)

***Toiled***

Labour, fatigue, weariness effort or hard work.

***Genesis 3: 17***

In ***sorrow*** (toil & labour) shall you eat of it all the days of your life.

* ***Simon’s boat was seed***. It enabled Jesus to preach the gospel of the kingdom.
* ***Master*** – teacher or commander or superintendent.
* They had ***toiled*** all night while others were hearing the word.
* Let down your ***nets*** (plural). Simon didn’t obey fully. He let down ‘one net’.
* The result, a boat sinking load of fish.

The answer to shame and guilt is always grace.

* ***Astonished*** – amazed or dumbfounded.
* The sinner says ***depart*** – Jesus came to ***seek and save the lost.***

***Lord***

Supreme in authority

* An encounter with Jesus always brings grace. He is full of grace and truth.
* You shall ***catch*** men (take alive) – seed sower for the kingdom.

By teaching, you shall win their souls for the kingdom.

***When the seed of the word is sown in faith***

Nehemiah 8: 1 – 12 (NLT)

***Luke 24: 27 & 32***

Jesus explained thoroughly the word.

Their hearts ***burned*** within then while Jesus ***opened*** up the scriptures.

Understanding brings joy and joy brings strength.

* Men, women and children. They gave attention to the word.
* Don’t allow distractions to steal the word for the heart.
* The Levites helped the people to ***understand*** (discern).
* The word will always bring conviction to the heart, ***not*** condemnation (divides soul and spirit and discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart – Hebrews 4: 12).
* The joy of the Lord is your ***strength*** (fortified place or defence).
* To hear and understand brings revelation.
* ***Expect a miracle*** (Mark 11: 23 - 24). The moment we ask God for something, the moment we do our part and ***plant our seed of faith***, we should believe God that the answer is on its way. It’s important to expect our miracle so we can ***recognise it*** when it comes.

No farmer plants a seed without expecting a return on the seed sown. So it is in the kingdom.

* God controls the time and method He will use to give back.
* Keep trusting him no matter how long it takes.
* Always ***sow in faith*** no matter what type of seed it is.
  + That includes prayer, words, finances, time, gifts or callings.
  + The enemy to the miraculous is relying on natural understanding.
* Remember: God always sends the right answer at the right time, in the right way. His timing and methods are always exactly right for our lives.

Remember, we walk by faith and not by sight

(1 Corinthians 5: 7)

Sense knowledge faith

* Look at the facts only.
* Believes what it sees only.
* Trusts in feelings & emotion, rather than the Word of God.

Jesus Disciples operated in ‘Sense Knowledge Faith’. They didn’t have the revelation that we have through the writings of the New Testament.

They wanted to make him a king. His kingdom was not of this world.

(John 6: 15)

The disciples had no idea that Jesus came to die for their sins. They were expecting the Messiah to overthrow the Roman occupation.

There was no faith in Jesus from a spiritual point of view. People believed because they **saw** miracles, signs and wonders. That’s why Jesus had to go to the Father and send the Holy Spirit who would lead and guide us into all truth.

The sense rule mind talks “***Faith***” and acts “***Reason***”.

Proverbs 3: 1 - 10

Trust in the Lord with ***all your heart*** and lean not on your own ***understanding*** (knowledge or wisdom). In all your ways ***acknowledge*** him (to know him) and he will ***direct*** your paths (straight way). Jesus is the straight way.

* It didn’t say trust in your senses*.* The spirit believes the word of God regardless of seeing, hearing or feeling.
* It didn’t say trust in man. Only God can meet the needs of man.

2 Corinthians 4:17 – 18

Romans 8: 24 – 25

* Remember, faith is the ***substance*** (confidence) of things hoped for, the ***evidence*** of things not seen (Hebrews 11: 1).
* The things which are seen are temporary. That means they are subject to change. The things which are unseen are eternal and unchanging.

Characteristics of faith (natural and spiritual)

* Five physical senses (seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching) have a purpose in this natural realm, but they don’t connect us to the spiritual realm.
* The force of faith comes from the recreated human spirit therefore, its characteristics are different from natural faith.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SEEING FAITH BELIEVING FAITH | |
| Doubts the unseen | Believes the unseen |
| Demands evidence | Accepts truth |
| Believes what it sees | Sees what it believes |
| Receives at time of possession | Receives at the time of believing |
| Relies on the five physical senses | Relies on the Word of God only |
| Rejects truth and accepts facts | Rejects facts and accepts truth |
| Trusts in man (natural realm) | Trusts in God (spiritual realm) |
| Believes through natural eyes | Believes through Spiritual eyes |
| Speaks what is seen | Speaks what is believed |
| Will change the word to fit circumstances | Will change circumstances to fit the word |
| Declares what is | Declares what will be |
| Hopes in the promises of God | Claims the promises of God |
| Heart is wavering | Heart is fixed |
| Produces works (toil) | Produces rest (grace) |

The seed of faith must be sown through spoken words

***Isaiah 55: 10 – 11 (KJV & NLT)***

God’s Word never return void. It always produces fruit and never fails.

Luke 17: 5 – 6

Matthew 17: 19 – 20

Faith is a servant and it ***must*** obey – but the seed sown must be ‘***words of*** ***life***’ to produce spiritual fruit. Only ***His Words*** have eternal value and build the Kingdom of God.

Proverbs 18: 20 – 21 (KJV & NLT)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue (speech): and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

* The word ***power*** means ‘in the hand’.
* Words produces ***fruit*** (reward).

John 15: 5 – 8

* The abiding in Jesus comes first (to remain or dwell).
* The fruit comes from the abiding word in us that is sown through speech.

Deuteronomy 30: 19 - 20

***Deuteronomy 11: 26 – 29***

***Deuteronomy 27: 11 – 13***

The blessing was spoken upon Mt. Gerizim and the curse was spoken upon Mt. Ebal.

They were located in the promise land. Six tribes declared the blessing and six tribes declared the curse.

* ***The choice is always ours***. We choose through words.
* Choices can impact our children (fear or faith).

Matthew 12: 34 - 37 (This principle was taught by Jesus)

* Jesus was challenging religious leaders whose hearts were hardened to the truth. They relied on self-righteous performance, not God’s grace.
* By ***your*** words you shall be ***justified*** (render righteous) and by ***your*** words you shall be ***condemned*** (pronounce guilty).

Luke 10: 38 – 42

* Mary has the seed of the word.
* Martha spoke out of her abundance – but it wasn’t good treasure.
* Remember, the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts or desires of other things, ***entering in***, choke the word and it ***becomes unfruitful*** (Mark 4: 19).

2 Corinthians 1: 18 – 20

* The promises of God are always ***Yes*** and ***Amen.***
* Faith begins where the will of God is known.

2 Peter 2: 1 - 4

* God’s word ***is*** his promise.
* Through these promises, we can share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.
  + Redeemed from the three-fold curse of the law – spiritual death, sickness and disease, poverty and lack.

***2 Corinthians 1:22***

***Ephesians 4: 30***

Sealed means -Marked for security and preservation.

* + Translated out of darkness and into the kingdom of his dear Son.
  + Spirit of the world (***fear***) no longer controls us.
  + We’ve been ***sealed*** by the Holy.
* Ephesians 3: 20 (the power is resident on the inside of us).

Examples of seed faith

Mark 5: 25 – 34 (The woman expected to receive).

* I will be made whole

Mark 10: 46 – 52 (Bartimaeus expected to receive).

* Jesus son of David, have mercy on me

Matthew 8: 5 – 8 (The centurion expected to receive).

* Just speak the word and my servant shall be healed.

Jesus never fails and God never fails

* If it doesn’t work, we failed
* God does not change; our prayers don’t change God.
* Faith changes things / circumstances, not God.

Qualifications of a seed sower

You can’t put old wine into new wine skins, just like Law and grace cannot be mixed.

God uses earthly delivery systems to sow spiritual seed.

* Remember, the seed of the kingdom is eternal and incorruptible, but the delivery system is imperfect. That’s how God designed it.
* God is not looking for outward perfection, but inward transformation.
* We are born again righteous, not holy. We grow in holiness through renewing of the mind and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us.
* Only the grace of God qualifies us to serve Him in the earth.

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 21 (NLT)

We are Ambassadors in a foreign jurisdiction.

Remember, we are bringing the Kingdom of God to earth.

***Reconciliation***

An exchange or restoration to divine favour.

* Don’t look back on the old. It will compromise the new.
* We qualify as ambassadors. However, we ***must speak*** what he says.
* We have diplomatic immunity from prosecution by the ‘*accuser of the brethren’*. We are not subject to Satan’s demonic ‘work system’. I’m not talking about the laws of the land. I’m taking about the curse that still influences the earth today.
* Acts 26: 14 – 18 (there eyes must be opened to truth).
* 1 Corinthians 2: 12 – 14.
* 2 Corinthians 4: 4 – 7(KJV & NLT) – treasure in fragile clay jars.

Colossians 1: 11 - 12

* The translation is immediate and complete. The ‘*transfer*’ document is sealed and cannot be altered.

That alone qualifies us for seed sowing.

* We have been made right through the blood of Jesus, not through our goods works or effort.
* We have been purchased at a price – 1 Corinthians 6: 19 – 20.

Examples of seed sowers

The disciples even before they were born again.

* Matthew 10: 1 & 5 – 8.
* Luke 10: 1 – 3 & 9.
  + The seed sowers are few and must be sent forth. Lambs among wolves.
  + (verse 17). Demons must bow their knee to the name of Jesus.

Paul (an Apostle to the Gentiles)

***Vessel*** means:

Implement, equipment or apparatus.

* Acts 9: 10 – 15 (Paul was a ***chosen vessel*** - a delivery system).
* Acts 9: 20 – straight away he ***preached Christ***. Paul’s transformation was immediate. What was inside him could not be contained.
* 2 Corinthians 7: 1 – 2 (***perfecting holiness*** means to fulfil further, to undergo or accomplish, to execute or complete). It’s a work in progress.
  + Paul was a new creation in Christ and he knew it. That is why he was used so mightily of God.
* 1 Corinthians 15: 9 - 10
* Ephesians 3: 7 – 8.
* Philippians 3: 13 – 14.

Woman at the well (John 4: 1- 42)

***Mark 4: 14 – 20***

The seed is the word of the kingdom. There is always a ***sowing first*** in faith. The hearer makes the decision to act on the seed sown.

There was no love between the Samaritans and the Jews.

* This was no random meeting. It depicts Jesus mercy and love for us.
* As always, he was led by the spirit. He went by the way of Samaria, but he would later tell his disciples not to.

***Romans 8:14***

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

* + Matthew 10: 5 – don’t go the way of the Gentiles or Samaritans.
  + We too must be led by the spirit. We work ***with*** God not ***for*** God.

Treasure in fragile clay jars - a Samaritan woman.

* Living water (John 7: 37 – 39).
* Jesus said “***I*** *that speak to you* ***am*** *(I Am Messiah – the anointed one)*.
* Jesus was using this opportunity to bridge a divide. God loves all people.
* She spoke to the ***men*** (translated human being - whether male or female).
  + She was well known in the town.

***Psalm 1: 1 – 2***

Blessed is the man that walks not in the ***counsel*** of the ungodly (plans or advice). His delight is in the word of God and he meditates therein day and night.

* + Why did she collect water at midday in the heat? She was woman of reputation. She represented the lowest of the low and lived in shame as a social outcast.
  + She is never named, but her encounter with Jesus is the longest between the Messiah and any individual in the Gospel of John.
  + So why were they willing to listen to her.
  + Her faith was bold and she couldn’t contain it.
* Come, see a man that told me all things that ever I did: ***is this not the Christ***?
  + To the Samaritans, this would have been a very bold claim.

Jesus was strengthened spiritually out of obedience to the Father.

***Matthew 4: 4***

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Jesus then instructed his disciples on the principles of sowing and reaping.

* Jesus was preparing them for what they were about to see.
* (v34 NLT) My nourishment comes from doing the will of God who sent me, and from finishing his work.
  + The fields are white (ripe) for harvest.
  + Joy awaits both the sower and the reaper.
* The woman had an encounter with Jesus (Messiah). They believed on him for the saying of the woman which testified.
  + That is the very response that Jesus wanted. ***Go tell***.

The ***word of the Kingdom*** was spreading and the devil couldn’t stop it.

* + Her testimony was powerful.
  + Something in her had changed – ***she believed***.
  + It wasn’t earned or deserved (Ephesians 2: 8 – 9).

***Proverbs 18:4 (Amplified)***

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.

* + Her life failings did not disqualify her (or us).
  + The Samaritans ***begged him*** to stay with them. That’s the very response Jesus wanted.
* The harvest on the seed sown (v42). What was in the woman could not be contained – This imperfect delivery system impacted many in this city.
* This encounter would have shocked the religious mindset of the disciples.
* Jesus never approached people randomly or casually to bear witness of him. A foreign, single woman who had had five husbands, and was now living with a man who was not her husband, was the one Jesus chose to bring a village in Samaria to him. Indeed, a seed sower for the kingdom.
* They key is to ***go and tell*** as we are led by the Spirit.
* God will work with and confirm his word with signs following (Mark 16 20). It is indeed a winning formula.

Be led by the Holy Spirit

To be effective seed sowers for the Kingdom of God we ***must*** be Spirit led.

That shouldn’t be difficult if the Spirit of God is dwelling in us.

Psalm 46: 10 – Be still and know that I am God.

John 16: 13 - 15

Romans 8: 14 - 17

Jesus was Spirit led

John 5: 19 & 30

John 6: 38

John 12: 49 - 50

* He responded to what he ***saw*** and ***heard*** from the Father.

You must guard your own heart. God won’t do it for you. The word is a sword and faith a shield.

* The opinions or doctrines of men counted for nothing.
* Don’t seek the council of the ungodly (Psalm 1: 1 – 2).
  + The ungodly have no wisdom to offer you. I don’t care how it’s packaged, ‘***the expert said’***. Guard your heart with all diligence.
  + 1 Corinthians 1: 26 – 31.
  + No flesh shall glory in his presence. Boast in the Lord only.

Galatians 5: 18

* If we are led by the spirit, we are not under the law (Moses).

Examples in the Book of Acts

Acts 8: 26 – 40

* Note the qualities of Philip- Acts 6: 1 - 5 (honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom).

***Acts 8: 40***

Gaza to Azotus was approx. 40 km north.

* Acts 8: 5 & 26: 8 – Philip the evangelist was a faithful seed sower.
* Philip was led by the Spirit to preach Jesus.
* Only eternity will record the impact the Ethiopian had on his nation.

Acts 16: 5

* Paul was forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.
* Sometimes we are constrained from preaching to others or even drawing near. We must trust the wisdom of God and the peace in our heart.

Sometimes a leading from the Holy Spirit can ‘***seem good to us***’

Acts 15: 25 - 28.

* Bythinia – Peter would preach there 15 years later (1 Peter 1: 1).
* Delay is not denial. Our strategy may not be God’s strategy.
  + Don’t overthink ‘***how’*** God will. ‘***Knowing that he will’*** is enough.
* Paul was led to Philippi in Macedonia where Lydia and her household were saved, a woman possessed with a ‘spirit of divination’ was delivered, and the keeper of the prison was wonderfully saved and his household.

Acts 19: 21 (NLT)

* Paul ***purposed*** in the spirit (was compelled, determined or settled).
* Acts 20: 22 - 23 (Paul was driven by an inner compulsion to tell others the good news of the wonderful grace of God, knowing that Jail and suffering lie ahead).
* Acts 23: 11 (The lord confirmed his plan for Paul to be a witness in Rome.
* If we are led by the Spirit we are the sons of God. Not only will the seed be sown, but hearts will be receptive to the word of the kingdom.