



HOW RICH ARE YOU IN HIM?

I recently heard a story of a typical, struggling farming family. They just about got by with what they had in terms of subsistence farming. Struggling to keep the wolf from the door.

When, one day a prospector popped in to visit them. This oil prospector had done some research in that area and thought there would be oil on their land. Low and behold, there was.

Needless to say, their whole lives changed. They were sitting on an oil-field and yet they lived in poverty.

Isn't this story true for many of our lives? We sit with so much wealth vested in us by God. Yet we live like spiritual paupers.

So this morning I would like to challenge us to understand and tap into the great reserve we have in HIM!

So if you'll allow yourself to be vulnerable and open to God, He has given us His word to help us.

I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you to the end of the age. [Heb 13:5]

That's the key... when we are open to the Word of God. He will help us. Will you be open to Him this morning?

GODS ROLE:

Phil 2:13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. [NLT]

Jn 5:17 But Jesus replied, "My Father never stops working, so why should I?"

19 Jesus replied, "I assure you, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. **20** For the Father loves the Son and tells him everything he is doing, and the Son will do far greater things than healing this man. You will be astonished at what he does.

The Father has always and is always working. Present continuous tense. He hasn't stopped working. He is working in us. His work is to grow us.

Who is He bringing into your life? Whoever it is, whatever it is, it is intended for the work of the Father in us.

So, position yourself. Are you allowing yourself to be in a position to grow?

Or is everything in your life a problem? Can't we see that it is God? Not may be God? It is Him...

God is always pursuing us...

Gen 3:9 *The LORD God called to Adam, "Where are you?"*

Jer 31:3 *Long ago the LORD said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."*

How do I know this? I can read it. But it will only become part of ME when I really read it... really spend time meditating on it. Allowing that word to germinate, grow that seed in me. It will become part of me.

Only, if I spend time with it. Spend time with God.

That brings me to my next point.

OUR ROLE:

Are we not too much in a hurry? Sometimes we don't even have the time of day, to allow God to speak to us. We rush in and out of the service. We run for the door when the sermon ends. We don't take time to reflect on what God has said.

Then we also don't spend time with him privately.

2 Tim 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED...

Study the word of God. There is no other way to grow than by getting into the word of God. Spending time with God. Growing is more than acquiring head-knowledge. However, if we understand the scriptures, it gives us a basis of what we should be doing. How we should be doing it. The Holy Spirit will bring to our remembrance... we can't remember what we haven't learnt.

Getting into the word is important. Spending time with God in prayer and meditation is important. If we were to do a quick survey and ask how many of us have a regular QT, what would we find out? If we were to ask how many of us pray regularly. What would find out? Let alone praying and expecting an answer.

Now this isn't meant to judge anybody, but these are the real questions to answer when we're talking about growth.

Jude 1: 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. **22**And on some have compassion, making a distinction; **23** but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

There is a responsibility on the individual to grow. We must make an effort.

Mark 4:

The seed was sown. It was seed from the same Sower. So we assume that it was good seed. The Sower's intention was for the seed to bring forth fruit.

However, not all the seed produced. Only the seed that fell on good soil produced.

Four types of soil...

The seed that just falls along the path. No roots will grow. The birds of the air will come along and eat it up. There's no home, no nurturing, no responsibility, no accountability. Then they're here, and then they're there.

When you're always wafting in and out of church, you rob yourself of the opportunity to get plugged in and grow with others and God.

Rocky ground... it sprang up quickly. As soon as the heat got to it. It shrivelled and died. Too quick to shoot on the surface, instead of growing deep roots. Dig up the soil. Plough up the fallow ground of your heart, so that you can develop deep roots.

It's a sad thing that many are Christ followers but have no deep roots.

Thorny ground... it was consumed with thorns. It was choked and died. This is a picture of being worldly. Carnality will kill the life God in you. Many ask, how far can I go without falling off the edge. Instead of asking how far away from the edge can I get? We have moved from being overly dogmatic and narrow to being too worldly, taking too many liberties. God never condemns us, however, if we don't press into Him, we will stay shallow and never grow as He intended us to.

So, it's not the seed that results in no or little growth it's the soil.

Then there's the seed that fell on the good soil and it produced fruit and more seed.

In Conclusion:

Remember that God is always pursuing us. He is so in love with us that He will look for us wherever we may be. However, if we don't respond, we lose out on the growth and development that could be ours.

Secondly, we have a responsibility for our own growth and development. Take up the challenge and get started.

Don't become causality because of a casual attitude towards God's grace in our lives.