

The Implanted Word

Sermon #0910

Study by W. D. Frazee—February 10, 1962

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" James 1:21.

It is the latter part of this verse I would like to have you notice. Engrafted is rendered in other translations as implanted. That is the thought. Receive with meekness the implanted word.

The Word is able to save us. We think of Jesus as the Savior, but He is the Word. Speaking of Him John says:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" John 1:1, 14.

So in the written Word we have Christ given to us in a form that is always available to us. Day by day we may receive Christ through these pages. He is able to save us if we do.

What will I receive if I want to be saved? The Word. Suppose I have received some measure of salvation but I long for more. What shall I do? Receive more of the Word. There is power in this Word for salvation.

It will soon be that time of the year when people are stirring the ground because they want a garden. Suppose I plow a patch. I am very faithful in keeping all the weeds out of it, but I never put any seed in. What will I have when fall comes? Nothing. No matter how industrious I work to keep the weeds out it is incidental. The only purpose in keeping the weeds out is so the seed can grow. If I don't put in the seed it doesn't mean anything. I am just going through some motions.

Many people miss a vital point in the Christian life. They seek to keep out of trouble. They forget that the great thing in the Christian life is not keeping out weeds. The great thing is receiving the implanted Word which is able to save your souls.

It is true that we need to watch the weeds lest they choke the Word. Christ spoke of that when He gave the parable of the sower. The man sowed his seed. Some fell by the wayside, and the birds ate them up. Some fell on stony ground, and it sprang quickly, but it died quickly too. Some fell among thorns and the thorns sprang up and choked it. So Jesus said the cares and pleasures of the world can choke out the Word of God. Thank God, some seed fell among good ground and brought forth fruit. There is power in the Word.

In the book of nature God has taught us this wonderful lesson by showing us what can happen with seed. Suppose I want some beautiful sweet peas. How can I get them? Can I go to some famous designer and have him fix up some creation of cloth or plastic? Not if I want the real thing. I take some tiny seeds about the size of shot and put them in the ground and cover them up. Can you get sweet peas that way? Yes you can. There is no other way.

How would dropping tiny seeds in the ground ever make beautiful flowers? Well, it does. God has put life in each one of those seeds. The Bible says the seed is the Word of God. If you want one sweet pea you plant one seed. You probably want more. You would probably like a whole bank of them. So in the Bible God has given us promise after promise, word after word. If we will prepare the soil of the heart and receive with meekness the implanted Word, then the beauty of the life of Jesus can appear in our hearts and lives as the flowers appear in the garden.

Seeds produce not only flowers but fruit. How we love fruit. But just as we may prepare the soil of the garden and get nothing unless we put in the seed, so unless there are trees there is no fruit.

God wants us to be trees of righteousness. He Himself is the tree of life. We must receive the seed, the Word. As we receive it we shall bear fruit like the original.

When I was a little boy I remember in our reader the sentence, "Apples grow on apple trees." Is it still true? Yes, it is. Do you suppose it will still be true next week? Next month? That's right. So if we want to have precious fruit, we must receive Him, for He is the living seed, the living Word.

Let us notice some examples of the power of that Word:

"And they were astonished at His doctrine: for His word was with power. And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art; the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out" Luke 4:32-36.

We are told about this man who had the unclean spirit. Down inside he really wanted help. But the Devil had such a hold on him that when he opened his mouth to ask for help the Devil said something opposite. But praise His name, Jesus looked beneath what the man was saying and saw what the man was thinking. Isn't that wonderful? So it is with us today. Jesus looks down into our hearts and knows what we long for. If you want help, Jesus knows it. Speak it out if you can. But if

you can't speak it, cry to God in your heart. Jesus will hear your cry. And His response is with His Word. And His Word is with power. Receive that implanted Word and it is able to save your soul.

Did it deliver this man? Yes, it delivered him. And thank God, it can deliver us. I am so glad there is power in Jesus to deliver.

"There are multitudes today as truly under the power of evil spirits as was the demoniac of Capernaum. . . . Many a man tampers with evil, thinking that he can break away at pleasure; but he is lured on and on, until he finds himself controlled by a will stronger than his own. He cannot escape its mysterious power. Secret sin or master passion may hold him a captive as helpless as was the demoniac of Capernaum.

"Yet his condition is not hopeless. God does not control our minds without our consent; but every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him. None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they may find deliverance in Christ" *Ministry of Healing*, page 93.

What does none mean? Not anybody. If you were writing that on the blackboard, what figure would you use? Zero. Did you ever find zero? Is there anybody who fits into that? No, because anybody is a one. But this says none is so vile but they may find deliverance in Christ. Oh, I like that.

Sooner or later nearly every Christian has a battle with himself and with the Devil, and he is made to feel that his case is hopeless. It is not a bad thing to feel that, because it is the truth without God. Peter felt confident as he walked out there on the water going to meet the Savior. But as he took his eyes off Jesus something happened and he began to sink. He felt helpless. But he cried to God, and the Word of Christ saved him. It will save us. It is not a bad thing to realize our helplessness, but along with it we are to do what that poor man in the synagogue did. We are to cry out to Christ. And none have fallen so low but they may find deliverance in Christ.

As a Christian, each one of you is called upon to help others. As you try to help men, every now and then you will find someone who feels that his case is hopeless. He is too far gone. He is too low in the scale. The Devil tells him that God can help almost everyone else, but not him. But this is a sweeping statement. It shows the limitless power of the Word of God.

"No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of utterance in words, will be unheeded. Those who consent to enter into covenant with God are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature" *Ibid*.

The demoniac found deliverance in the Word. The people recognized it. Let's see another example of the power of the Word:

"And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep. And His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" Matthew 8:23.

Indeed, what manner of man is this? He is more than man. He is God. His Word quiets the winds and waves.

The winds of temptation may sweep over our souls. But thank God, Jesus is in the boat with us. If we cry to Him as the disciples did, He can rebuke the winds and waves.

The power is in what? His Word. We cannot lay hold of the physical Christ this morning. Christ has gone to heaven. But by His Spirit and through His Word He is instantly available to everyone of us. Back then if he was in Jerusalem the people in Galilee didn't have Him. If He was in Bethlehem the people in Samaria didn't have Him. But now He can be available everywhere. I can have Him just as well as the people in Jerusalem or London or New York.

Let's notice the power of the Word to resist evil. After His baptism we see Jesus going out into the wilderness. The Devil came to tempt Him. In each case, the first three words of Jesus was what? It is written.

"But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" Matthew 4:4, 7-10.

Each time Jesus used the Word of God to meet temptation. Do you suppose He had a library out there in the desert with Him? No. He probably didn't even have a pocket Bible. But He had something even better. He had the Word right up here in His mind and heart.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee" Psalm 119:11.

That is the way Jesus kept from sinning. He hid the Word in His heart. He wants us to do the same. The more of the Word we have the more of the tempter we can overcome, the more tests we can meet successfully. Eventually the Word of God will be so implanted in His children that not one temptation will have power over them.

Jesus was so full of the Word that there was nothing that responded. So you and I can receive the Word, hide it in our hearts, and, like Jesus, meet every temptation with the Word. Isn't that a lot better than arguing with the enemy? Never try to enter into an argument with somebody who tries to show why it is all right to disobey God and break His law. I don't want to be convinced that it is all right to disobey God. Do you? Why would I listen then to an argument that would get me to break God's law or disappoint His expectations? Why parley with the enemy?

That was the mistake Eve made. She entered into an argument with the Devil there at the tree. She should have stayed on the ground of what God said and paid no attention to what the enemy said. There lies our power. How do we hide the Word in our hearts? Will we need to read it? Will we need to study it? Will we need to memorize it? All of these are part of hiding the Word in our hearts.

Jesus quoted to the Devil, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Do you suppose He had ever quoted that text before? Oh, yes. Perhaps hundreds of times. It came to His lips instantly. We probably could say it was on the tip of His tongue. It was right there ready to roll out. It is a wonderful thing to be that familiar with the Bible.

It would be interesting to know just how many texts of Scripture each person here has in his ammunition stack. In the old days men hunted with bows and arrows. What would you think of an Indian who would take only one arrow with him on a hunting trip? They had one bow, but a whole sack of arrows. The bow could be used again and again, but when the arrow was gone they needed another one.

It is a good thing to have a holy ambition to fill the mind with dozens and scores and hundreds of the promises and commands of God. Just fill the mind with them.

I would like to be practical this morning, and I hope you will be practical with yourself. Reverting to our earlier illustration, if you want a crop in the garden, you will have to put the seed in. If you want more than one radish you will put more than one seed in. If you want some turnips you will put more than three or four seeds in. You are going to put in plenty. So in memorizing the Word of God, I repeat, God wants us to have a holy ambition to fill our minds with His Word.

If you learned a text a day for a month, how many texts would you know? Thirty. Suppose you learned a text a day for a year, how many would you have? Three hundred sixty-five. It would only take three years like that to have a thousand.

When I was a boy a preacher came to our town to hold a series of meetings. People were interested to come and hear him because he could turn to any part of the Bible and without looking he would quote his text. He had it all in his mind. I was interested in learning his story. The man had been a streetcar motorman before he was a preacher. He didn't belong to any church, but he heard that memorizing the Bible was a good way to strengthen the memory, so he decided he would start in to memorize it. He would take a text and memorize it, and as he was driving his streetcar he would go over it in his mind. He kept on until he had learned hundreds

and hundreds of Bible texts. Finally the Word began to take effect and made a Christian out of him. He became a Sabbath keeper and accepted this message.

His name was Elder A. S. Booth. Some of you may have heard of him. At one time he was president of the Florida conference. I was impressed with his story. All those Bible texts he learned before he was even a Christian just to strengthen his memory. It did that very thing. It will do it for you.

Somebody says, Brother Frazee, you don't know me. I can't memorize.

Is there anyone here who can't memorize? Would you be willing to cooperate with me and let me show you that you are mistaken? I will ask you what your name is. There isn't a one of you who would scratch your head and say, What is it? I am afraid I can't remember. Do you know the first time you heard your name you didn't remember it at all? It didn't mean anything to you. How many times did you hear it before you remembered it? It would be interesting if we had a statistical report on it.

But the great thing in memorizing anything is to go over it a sufficient number of times. There are other things that are helpful, but that is the essential thing. And no matter how dull a person is, or how hard it is for him to memorize, if he will use that method and keep at it he will memorize. He can't help it.

Suppose I pick something out of my pocket and hold it up. How many of you know what it is? You all know it is a pencil. Do you have to scratch your head and say, Oh, I heard that once, but I have such a poor memory I don't know what it is.

If we will be honest and get down to business, some of us will be ashamed of the fact that we have read the Word of God so seldom there is little we remember. It is like a person we met a month ago. We see them again thirty days later and probably say, I am sorry, but I have forgotten your name. The ones we remember are the ones we meet again and again and call their names. So it is with the Word of God. Do you want to hide this Word in your heart? Do you want to have instantly available scores and hundreds of promises to meet the Devil, and to help souls that are down in sin? You can have it. Everyone of you here this morning can have it. Just go over a given verse enough times.

Somebody says, You don't know how many times it would take.

Well, what of it? What is your time for? We have in our Sabbath School lessons some wonderful texts. I met a man the other day who told me that for the last few quarters he had been trying his best to memorize every text in each lesson.

Isn't that a wonderful experience? How does he do it? He is a busy man. He is the manager of a big nursing home. He has a family to look after, and a farm. But there he is memorizing not merely the memory verse in the Sabbath School lesson, but all the verses.

Another helpful thing is the morning watch. Some of you have the devotional book for the year. Every day there is a verse. You can take that text in the morning and copy it out on a card. Slip it in your pocket or purse. When you have to wait

some time during the day and you have a few minutes, take out the card and go over it. If you are washing dishes put it up above the sink, and while your hands are busy in the dish water your eye can glance at the text.

Keep it running through your mind. Keep rolling it over in your mind. You can't help but memorize it if you do that. It works.

Can we have more if we want more? Can we have a second helping? Yes, praise the Lord. And the more you memorize the easier it is to memorize more. Isn't that nice?

It works like one of these wooden barrels. You see one that has been sitting out in the sun and pour water into it, and what will happen? It will all run out. What is the remedy? Keep pouring it in. But it all runs out. That's all right. Keep pouring it in. Finally what happens to those fibers? They begin to swell up and hold all the water you pour in. Right?

So if your mind is like a sieve and everything you pour in keeps running out, take courage. Keep pouring it in. As I heard a minister say, "At least it will keep it clean."

And it will. But it will do more than that. It will begin to take hold, and the fibers of your mind will begin to retain. I know it will. And God will help us to do it.

"Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." Oh friends, I want to be saved. Don't you? Not merely saved from hell. Not merely saved from the death this world is dying. I want to be saved from sin. I want to be saved from grieving my Lord who gave His life for me upon the cross. And there is nothing can save me except His power, and His power is in His Word. By His grace, as I receive His Word I receive Him, and receive that living power.

As you receive it, more and more the thoughts of this Word will be your thoughts. The life of this Word will be your life. The glory of this Word will be your joy and strength.

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