

Delightful Discoveries in Prayer

Prayer Lessons in Creation

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Name: _____

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Lesson 08: Let the Earth Bring Forth

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Genesis 1:11.

"God said, . . . and it was so." This is creation. This is the basis of claiming Bible promises. The gift is in the promise. The word contains what it names. A thing that previously had no existence, exists when God speaks. But this is not all. The Bible says, "He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:9.

When God spoke the grass into existence, the word lives forever, according to Peters statement (1 Peter 1:24 and 25). And by that word, the grass continues to grow. So when the Lord said, "Let the earth bring forth grass," that command is as good today to keep the grass growing as in the third day of creation. The Bible says God is "upholding all things by the word of his power." Hebrews 1:3.

Jesus also teaches us, from the grass, a lesson of His constant care for our temporal needs. "If ... God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Luke 12:28.

Grass Power:

A tiny, growing blade of corn can push up a clod of dirt, perhaps a thousand times its own weight. That is the power of God. You disconnect that blade from the ground, and it has no power at all. It could not so much as sustain its own weight. But when God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass," there was power in that word so that a tiny blade of grass, or of corn, can push up such a heavy clod.

The Apostle Peter wrote, "For all flesh is as grass." 1 Peter 1:24. If we let God's word, His promises, saturate our life, as that tiny blade of corn does, we can overcome insurmountable obstacles, too.

"And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:25. The gospel is actually the power of God as witnessed in creation, and manifested in salvation. "The gospel . . . is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Romans 1:16.

We see the meaning of the words, "the grass withereth," 1 Peter 1:24. Speaking of that tiny blade lifting a tremendous clod of dirt, and how if we cut that same blade of corn, it will immediately wither; so a human soul, once strong and victorious in Christ, can be a failure when separated from God. This fits the words of Christ when He said, "without me ye can do nothing," John 15:5.

God also called into existence "the fruit tree yielding fruit." Genesis 1:11. Jesus made clear that it brings glory to God for us, His children, to "bear much fruit." He said, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit." John 15:8. It brings credit to our Creator when we let His Word have its way in our lives. Jesus said through the Apostle Peter, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18.

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"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; ... to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Isaiah 61:1 to 3.

This creative word can cause us to grow. It can deliver captives, too. It can give us joy instead of sorrow, and a happy life in place of sadness. This is because God Himself has planted us. It is all of His righteousness; none of ours. We can, however, accept it, or reject it. He will not force himself on any of His creatures.

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." Isaiah 61:10 and 11.

That same God who brings forth buds, blooms, and fruit, will cause our soul to bring forth the fruit of righteousness.

Promise for Backsliders:

"O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously." Hosea 14:1, 2.

Then follows this precious promise: "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine." Verses 4 to 7.

God created healing for our backsliding in the promise itself. Healing of soul might be received right there on our knees as we ask (Matthew 7:7), believe (Mark 11:24), and receive. (Matthew 21:22).

"In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.... Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me. He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." Isaiah 27:2 to 6.

What the Seed Contains:

"God looks into the tiny seed that He Himself has formed, and sees wrapped within it the beautiful flower, the shrub, or the lofty, wide-spreading tree. So does He see the possibilities in every human being." Ministry of Healing, page 397.

Review Questions

Note: If you like, you may fill in the blank lines with the proper word.

1. "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, . . . and it was ____ ." Gen. 1:11.
2. God upholds " _____ " by the word of his power." Heb. 1:3.
3. "All flesh is _____ ." Isa. 40:6.

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4. But the word of God can " _____ you up." Acts 20:32.
5. "And this is the word which by the _____ is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:25.
6. "As newborn babes," we should "desire the sincere milk of the word, that" we "may _____ thereby." 1 Peter 2:2.
7. We are commanded to "grow in _____ , and in the _____ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18.
8. God wants to heal our backslidings so we can "grow as the _____," and "revive as the _____ , and grow as the _____." Hosea 14:4-7.
9. We can cry out, "What have I to do any more with idols? . . . I am like a green _____ tree." Hosea 14:8.

Answers found on answer sheet.