

Strengthening Our Faith

Part 4

Acts 16:5; Mark 4

- I. Parable of the **sower** (Mark 4:3-11, 13-20)
- II. Parable of a **lamp** on a lampstand (21-25)
- III. Parable of the **growing** seed (26-29)
 - A. The Kingdom of God is like this: **FAITH** (26; Hebrews 11:6)
 1. It's like sowing **seeds** and believing they will sprout.
(Luke 8:11; Romans 10:17)
 2. It's like the faith of a **farmer** who expects a harvest.
(Isaiah 55:11-12; 2 Timothy 2:6)
 3. Faith is like the **key** to the Kingdom of God.
Faith (in Christ) Affirms I Trust Him
 - B. The Kingdom is like the sower who doesn't **know how** the seed grows. (26-27)
 1. He holds on to his **faith**. (2 Timothy 1:13)
 2. He **trusts** when he doesn't understand!
Truly Resting Until Something Transpires
 - C. In God's Kingdom, seeds of the Word of God grow by the work of God without any **effort** of the sower. (27-28)
 1. Your **faith sprouts** at salvation. (James 1:21)
 2. And **grows** from a **blade** to the **head** to full **grain** on the head (30/60/100 fold). (1 Peter 2:2)
 - D. In God's Kingdom, you are the **soil** that produces!
You are the "good soil"
 1. When you **receive** the implanted Word of God.
 2. When you let it **germinate** (grow, develop, sprout) deep within your heart.
(Psalm 119:11; colossians 3:16; James 1:22)
 - E. God desires the seeds of the Word to grow into an **increasing** harvest of faith.
 1. The harvest of faith in Christ produces **wheat** - not **weeds**.
 2. When the harvest comes the sower sends the **sickle**. (29; Hebrews 9:27)

Jesus said "This is what the Kingdom of God is like."

Saving FAITH is:

F - Forgiveness
A - Accepted
I - In
T - The
H - Heart