

The Seed of the Kingdom

Series:
The Gospel
According to
Matthew

And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

Matthew 13:3

The Parable of the Sower

Sowing the seed is the preliminary work of the kingdom

- Open your Bible and read Matthew 13:3-23

Christ is the Sower

- **Matthew 13:37** And He answered and said, He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man

Christ spoke the parable of the Sower to tell us what the kingdom of God is like.

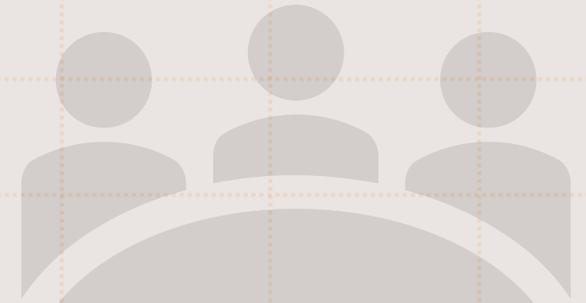
- **Mark 4:26** And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth,

Quick Overview of the Kingdom of God

- The kingdom of God is the ruling, the reigning, of God with all its blessing and enjoyment. It is the goal of the gospel of God and of Jesus Christ. To enter into this kingdom, people need to repent of their sins and believe in the gospel that their sins may be forgiven and that they may be regenerated by God to have the divine life, which matches the divine nature of this kingdom. *(footnote for Mark 1:15 in the Recovery Version of the Bible)*

The development of the kingdom is the growth of the divine life in us.

- **1 Corinthians 3:6-7** I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. **7** So then neither is he who plants anything nor he who waters, but God who causes the growth.
- [In Mark 4:26, the seed is] the seed of the divine life (1 John 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:23) sown into the Slave-Savior's believers, indicating that the kingdom of God, which is the issue and goal of the Slave-Savior's gospel, and the church in this age (Rom. 14:17) are a matter of life, the life of God, which sprouts, grows, bears fruit, matures, and produces a harvest; they are not a matter of lifeless organization produced through man's wisdom and ability. *(footnote for Mark 4:26 in the Recovery Version of the Bible)*



- What spiritual insight do you have from reading Matthew 13:3-23?
- How are the verses in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 related to the verses in Matthew and Mark?

Christ the King is Literally now in Us

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot **enter into the kingdom of God.**

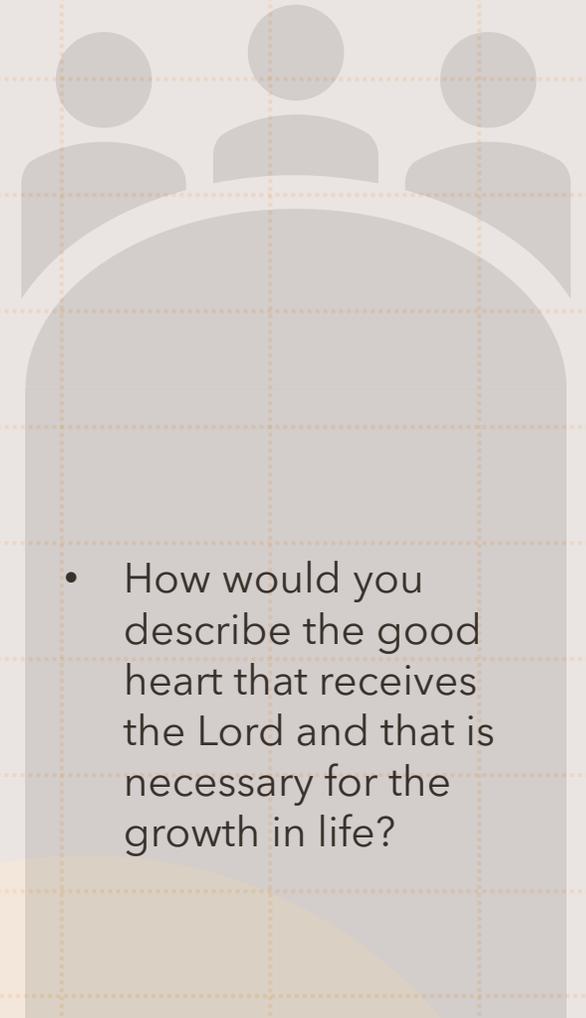
1 Peter 1:23 Having been **regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible**, through the living and abiding word of God.

1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because **His seed abides in him**; and he cannot sin, because he has been **begotten of God.**

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **it is Christ who lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Matthew 13:8 But others fell on **the good earth** and yielded fruit, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

- We need to have a soft heart to receive the Lord and have Him grow in us.
- The good earth in Matthew 13 is the good heart. This good heart is necessary so that God's divine life can grow in us.



- How would you describe the good heart that receives the Lord and that is necessary for the growth in life?

The Expansion of Christ the King

His expansion is not in Himself but in us.

Christ, who is God, cannot grow in Himself. He's already infinitely large and boundless. But when He enters into us, that is His increase. Furthermore, He grows within us by spreading into all the parts of our inner being.

The Kingdom is a matter of the growth in life.

Mark 4:26-29 And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth, **27** And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens – how, he does not know. **28** The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear. **29** But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.

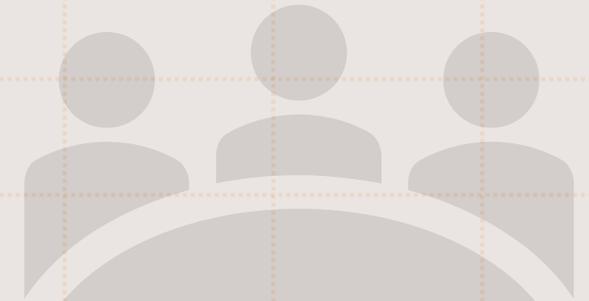
What chokes the growth of life in us: Anxiety

Matthew 13:7 And others fell on the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them.

Matthew 13:22 And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

The growth of life in us is not Christ Himself growing, but Christ imparting Himself into us continually.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- After regeneration, a believer needs to be baptized (Mark 16:16). Then God begins the lifelong process of gradually spreading Himself as life from the believer's spirit into his soul (Eph. 3:17). This process, called transformation (Rom. 12:2), requires human cooperation (Phil. 2:12). The believer cooperates by allowing the Lord to spread into his soul until all his desires, thoughts, and decisions become one with those of Christ. (*Mystery of Human Life, published by Living stream Ministry*)
- What can we do to cooperate with the Lord for our growth in life? Share with us your experiences.



- Extra: The increase of Christ is the Bride!
- **John 3:29-30** He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full. **30** He must increase, but I must decrease.
- If you have time, read the attached excerpt.