



## 2024 New Year's Consecration Week 1: Day 1 - 7

### Day 1: *You Need Seed!*

Today's Reading: Luke 8:11; John 6:63

I'm amazed at how we adopt new meanings to old words over time. In a spiritual context, we often hear the term 'seed' and immediately think of money (*i.e. sowing seed*). However, I chose this very short but clear verse of scripture because Jesus himself clarifies something you will need to know for the rest of the year. The seed is the Word of God. To that end, let's reconsider what it means for God to plant a seed (Word) in our hearts. Consider today that the foundation for a healthy devotional life is empty without the Word. Prayer is necessary, meditation is important, worship is fulfilling, but without the seed of the Word, devotion will never *become* spiritual development.

Bishop Walter Thomas poignantly asserts, "A devotional life is the key to a powerful life".

In the second scripture, Jesus declares that the Words he speaks are *spirit and life*. Now let's address an elephant in the room. Sometimes, it is hard to engage consistent devotional space because we feel we don't hear the Lord speak back to us when we engage Him. While on one hand, we must admit that a part of the joy of devotional space is just spending time, I want to suggest something greater that will help you. When you do not hear God's voice speaking to your spirit directly, look for God's voice through the Word of God! Sometimes, you will engage the word for information (study), sometimes for inspiration (meditation), and other times just for invocation (to provoke prayer and presence). So, remove the limits on how your devotional space must flow and you will discover that God always has seed to sow! Engage God's word today, and every day. You need seed if you want the harvest of a fruitful life.

**Consecration/Concentration:** No meat. Starve distractions that hinder time in the Word today. Set aside specific times to get in the Word and shut the world off as best as possible when you do.

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### Day 2: *Not All Soil is the Same!*

Today's Reading: Luke 8:4-15

We learned yesterday that the seed is the Word of God. Today, we must explore the reality that ground the seed of the Word falls into is the heart of man. I don't mean the muscle that pumps blood to the body, but the seat of one's emotions – the soul. The soul is *soil*. To that end, Jesus' parable and explanation thereof suggests to us that not all soil is the same.

Years ago, I first heard my father use the illustration of a woman cooking for ten children. He said, "If a woman feeds all ten children the same food, nine of them grow and one does not, don't blame the food". Well, this text proves the same principle – the lack of growth on the Word is not the problem of the seed or sower. Could it be that not all soil receives God's word the same? The hearts of some are like the wayside, which never get to experience true incubation because the enemy snatches the Word away. Others are like the stoney ground, hearts that receive the Word with joy but cannot endure tribulation. Yet, others are like the thorns, which receive the Word but the cares of this life and obsession with riches choke the Word. Finally, others are good soil, which hear Word, obey, and produce.

What kind of soil are you in this season? So often we come to God about what we want from God, but I challenge you to lace your prayers with an openness to what God desires from you. Ask God to heal the places where the enemy seems to have access to snatch joy, peace, or promises. Ask God to heal the places where your heart may see struggle as a curse instead of a course. Ask God to heal the places where your heart seems so tethered to anxiety or ambition at the expense of clarity. I challenge you to evaluate your heart because the write seed in the wrong soil will produce nothing but frustration.

**Consecration/Concentration:** No sweets. Abstain from social media today.

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### **Day 3: *He Heard You!***

Today's Reading: 1 John 5:14-15

Today, we focus on prayer. The great 16<sup>th</sup> century Christian reformer Martin Luther once said, "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." In a world where many feel too busy to pray, Luther asserted that leading a busy life is the very reason why his confidence was assured in prayer.

You'd be surprised how many people do not feel confident when they pray. Ok, let's back up...you'd be surprised how many people allow lack of confidence to keep them from praying! Now, among those who do pray, the reasons may very well vary. Some pray from religious duty, while some others pray to relieve guilty conscience. Some feel that a humble posture includes an insecurity that doubts God and drowns the power of prayer in a pool of unbelief. However, prayer should involve humble confidence. We come boldly before the throne of grace to find help and obtain help in the time of need.

The text gives us a promise...a guarantee. It declares that we have confidence that if we ask anything according to His will that He hears us. Sometimes we need to be reminded that God can be reached! Here is your encouragement this today: He Heard You! And the benefit of being heard is that you have the petition you asked for.

Now, I must read the whole verse, which puts a condition on the promise. I must ask according to His will. I cannot simply throw God my wish list and expect to hold Him to it. Prayer doesn't work that way and the text suggests that perhaps He doesn't even hear it. He appears to "hear" prayers prayed according to His will. What is God's will? His WORD! The easiest way to get prayers answered is to pray the Word of God. God is obviously more inclined to hear what He said! You have an audience with God...use it!

**Consecration/Concentration:** No food before 12 noon (*unless needed for medical reasons*). Pray scriptures today, throughout the day.

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### **Day 4: *It's a Spiritual Thing***

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:14

Vous ne pouvez comprendre ce qui est dit que si vous comprenez le contexte dans lequel il est partagé . Comprenez-vous cela?

What I just said was..."You can only understand what is being said if you understand

the context through which it is being shared. Do you understand this?" You may not have comprehended this at first because it is written in French. Consequently, you must first understand the context (in this case, language) that my words are spoken in or you may just misunderstand the message itself.

If you understand this, you understand the text and my entire point. I'm trying to figure out what we who have the Holy Spirit residing in us often expect people who do not possess the Holy Spirit to understand the things of the Spirit. The verse today clearly states that those who aren't spiritual cannot receive truths from the God's Spirit. It is foolishness to them, and they cannot understand it. Have you ever gotten frustrated for trying to share your faith vision to someone and they completely shifted your mood by making you feel as doubtful as they were? The problem was your expectation of them! It's a spiritual thing!

In the verses earlier, Paul declares the eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has it entered the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love him - but he has revealed it to us by His Spirit! A life lived in the Spirit brings about the benefit of revelation knowledge; something that those who are not spiritual simply do not get. He wants to introduce you to an awareness that exists in a realm where you don't have control. Don't limit your existence by shrinking to fit the narrow context of a circle with no faith. If God is showing you something but you don't see clear, get in the Spirit, and let the Lord Minister to you!

**Consecration/Concentration:** Avoid caffeine and energy drinks.  
Give up the need for confirmation today from others.

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### **Day 5: *Don't Let it Get to You***

Today's Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:5b

Our focus today is about love. This text in the NLT says *Love is not irritable*. The King James Version uses substitutes the word irritable for "not provoked". To be irritable is having or showing a tendency to be easily annoyed or made angry. Well, the Apostle puts this on the list of avoidable traits for love, suggesting that love ought to be a buffer that doesn't allow things to easily get to you! The reality is, the best of us has the worst of times, and when those times occur, we must remember that love demands a greater standard.

Conquering irritability requires the discipline of flesh. For you to be irritable (provoked, annoyed), something or someone had to irritate you! Notice that the text does not speak to their cause, but it does address your effect. You cannot control what people do to you, but you can always control how you allow it to affect you. This requires that you intentionally discipline your flesh not to react to foolishness! It is not worth leveraging your love for someone else's folly. Too much is at stake. Conquering irritability also requires the development of focus. Avoiding people would be easy if you could *avoid* people! The problem is that God requires you to often interact in some way with the very [kind of] people who irritate you! Thus, you must develop focus - the ability to look past what you can't afford to concentrate your attention on, to see what really matters. Every great person has had to look past a whole lot to see what is purposeful, pleasant, and progressive in anything.

**Consecration/concentration:** Avoid emotional eating and *excessive* snacking  
Control angry outbursts and unregulated emotions. As much as possible, practice sacred silence today.

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### **Day 6: *A Dialogue with Destiny***

Today's Reading: Proverbs 12:2-3

You know the adage, "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me". Well, if you survived the age of ten, you discovered that this is simply not true. Words not only wound, but they also heal, build and support. The right words and the right time can produce the right destiny. However, I must admit that words

are seeds that work both ways. Just as good words can produce a good harvest, negative communication can produce and inverse and adverse reality.

To this end, the above proverb displays the difference between how successful people view the worth of communication versus how other people do. The prideful man shuns the influence of others, assuming they know everything there is to know. According to the text, these people push and shove their way through life, not realizing that they are malnourished because they cheat themselves of healthy and hearty dialog. On the other extreme, wise people recognize that Destiny is often revealed in healthy Dialog! Not only do they eat the fruit of conversations, but they govern their words to help build a house successfully. Here are two questions: You do you listen to? If we are honest, some people would have to admit they only listen to themselves. You are the sum of those who influence you the most. You can tell the worth of people's influence by their conversation. Great minded people talk about purpose while small-minded people only talk about people!

Lastly, what are you learning? Please do not limit this to information relative to one subject or specificity. Life is one big lesson. Develop conversations pertinent to Destiny. What you may not know is that your life is feeding off everything you say and hear.

**Consecration/Concentration:** Avoid caffeine and energy drinks. Connect with at least one person today and provide encouragement through some means.

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### **Day 7: Faith It**

Today's Reading: Hebrews 11:8

Wouldn't it be great if God just mapped out everything for you up front and revealed exactly how everything was going to go? That may seem nice, but it would not please God because pleasing God requires faith.

Our reality places us in good company with Abraham, who as Abram was sent to leave Haran in search for his inheritance. Through obedience, he traveled, not knowing where he was going. Literally, Abraham had to faith it. Beloved, you are not guaranteed every detail, but God has given you the benefit of himself. He is will you and that is all you need to begin.

To faith it, you must be obedient. It is that simple. Move when, how, and where God instructs. Too often, we assume that God's will requires our co-approval. I promise you this is not so! Obey the call on your life because it is pertinent to your transition. Lastly, you must also be open. Not being aware of where he was going implies that Abraham had to remain close enough to God's instruction to receive the next step. I admit that sometimes obedience requires embarrassment. Some people care too much about what matters to people to accomplish what matters to God. At some point, however, we must risk all to pursue what God has ordained.

So here is the verdict: you can fake it, or you can faith it! Which is it?

**Consecration/Concentration:** If possible, be a financial blessing to someone today. If you can't, find a way to be an answer to their prayer.

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