

Message Five

The Word of God Growing, Multiplying, and Prevailing, Being Experienced in the Word of Righteousness, and the Need for the Speaking of God-constituted Persons

Scripture Reading: Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20; 20:32; Heb. 5:13-14; Gen. 47:7; 49:28

- Acts 6:7 And the word of God grew, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly; and a large number of the priests obeyed the faith.
- Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.
- Acts 19:20 Thus, the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.
- Acts 20:32 And now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.
- Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;
- Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.
- Gen. 47:7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.
- Gen. 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them when he blessed them; he blessed them, each one according to his blessing.

I. When all the members of the Body of Christ speak for God, the word of God grows, multiplies, and prevails—Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20:

- Acts 6:7 And the word of God grew, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly; and a large number of the priests obeyed the faith.
- Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.
- Acts 19:20 Thus, the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.
- A. Following the death of Stephen, those who were scattered because of the persecution against the church “went throughout the land announcing the word”—8:4:
- Acts 8:4 Those therefore who were scattered went throughout the land announcing the word as the gospel.
1. What we need today is for all the saints to speak the word of God; if we all speak, the word of God will grow, multiply, and prevail—6:7; 12:24; 19:20.
See point I above for the verses.
 2. Eventually, our speaking the word of God will cause the Lord Jesus, the Word of God, to come and fight for His kingdom—Rev. 19:11, 13, 16.
Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
Rev. 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
Rev. 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- B. Satan wants to prevent the believers from speaking for God—Acts 5:28, 40.
- Acts 5:28 Saying, We strictly charged you not to teach based upon this name; and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.
- Acts 5:40 And they were persuaded by him. And having called the apostles to them, they beat them and charged them not to speak based upon the name of Jesus; and they released them.
- C. The word *grew* in Acts 6:7 refers to the growth in life:
- Acts 6:7 See Scripture Reading above.
1. The word of God is a matter of life that grows as a seed sown into man’s heart—Mark 4:14.
Mark 4:14 The sower sows the word.

2. God's word is the seed of life; because this seed is living, once it is planted, it grows, increases, and spreads—1 Pet. 1:23-25.

1 Pet. 1:23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.
1 Pet. 1:24 For "all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass has withered, and the flower has fallen off,
1 Pet. 1:25 But the word of the Lord abides forever." And this is the word which has been announced to you as the gospel.

3. The word of God is actually the Lord Himself because the word is the container of the Lord; thus, for the word of God to grow actually means that the Lord grows—Mark 4:26-29; Col. 2:19; Eph. 3:17; 4:13, 15-16.

Mark 4:26 And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth,
Mark 4:27 And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens—how, he does not know.
Mark 4:28 The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear.
Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.
Col. 2:19 ...holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.
Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

D. In Acts the word of God not only grew but also multiplied—12:24:

Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

1. The word does not grow and multiply in itself but grows with the believers and multiplies with the churches—6:7; 9:31:

Acts 6:7 And the word of God grew, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly; and a large number of the priests obeyed the faith.
Acts 9:13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many concerning this man, how many evil things he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.

- a. When the believers grow, the word within them grows—Col. 3:16.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

- b. When the churches multiply, the word multiplies within the churches.

2. The fact that the word of God grew and multiplied indicates that the believers and the churches were filled with the word and were one with the word; this is a strong sign of the Lord's victory over the evil one—v. 16.

E. In order for the word of God to grow, multiply, and prevail, we need to enjoy the word of God's grace; we should receive the word of grace in such a way that we become God's word, that is, God's speaking—Acts 14:3; 20:32.

Acts 14:3 Therefore they spent a considerable amount of time speaking with boldness in the Lord, who testified to the word of His grace by granting signs and wonders to be done through their hands.
Acts 20:32 And now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.

- F. If the word of God is to grow, multiply, and prevail, we need to pray that God would open a door for the word, that the word of God would run and be glorified, and that we all would speak the word of God with boldness—Col. 4:3; 2 Thes. 3:1; Acts 4:29, 31.

Col. 4:3 Praying at the same time for us also, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ (because of which also I am bound).

2 Thes. 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray concerning us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified, even as it is also with you.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings and grant Your slaves to speak Your word with all boldness.

Acts 4:31 And when they had so besought, the place in which they were gathered was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

II. We need to be experienced in the word of righteousness—Heb. 5:13-14:

Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

- A. The word of righteousness is solid food; to eat the word of righteousness is a strong way to receive, experience, and enjoy Christ—vv. 13-14.

- B. The word of righteousness speaks of the present Christ, who is now in the heavens as our Minister and our High Priest, ministering to us the heavenly life, grace, authority, and power and sustaining us to live a heavenly life on earth—4:14-15; 7:26; 8:2:

Heb. 4:14 Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession.

Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin.

Heb. 7:26 For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens.

Heb. 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

1. In order to be brought on to maturity, we need to be experienced in the word of righteousness—6:1; 5:13-14.

Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God.

Heb. 5:13-14 See point II above.

2. If we are exercised in the word of righteousness concerning the heavenly ministry of Christ, we will reach maturity and receive a reward; otherwise, we will suffer dispensational punishment—4:11; 6:8; 10:35; 12:25, 28-29.

Heb. 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter into that rest lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience.

Heb. 6:8 But if it brings forth thorns and thistles, it is disapproved and near a curse, whose end is to be burned.

Heb. 10:35 Do not cast away therefore your boldness, which has great reward.

Heb. 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks, for if those did not escape who refused Him who warned them upon the earth, much more we shall not escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

Heb. 12:28 Therefore receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly with piety and fear;

Heb. 12:29 For our God is also a consuming fire.

- C. The word of righteousness embodies the thought of God's justice and righteousness in His dispensational and governmental dealings with His people—5:13:

Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

1. Righteousness is being right with persons, matters, and things according to God's righteous requirements—Matt. 5:20.

Matt. 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

2. Righteousness is a matter of God's kingdom, for it is related to God's government, administration, and rule—6:33; Psa. 89:14; Isa. 32:1.

Matt. 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Psa. 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; / Lovingkindness and truth go before Your face.

Isa. 32:1 Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness, / And the rulers will rule according to justice.

3. Righteousness is a matter of being right with God in our being—1 Cor. 15:34:

1 Cor. 15:34 Awake from the drunken stupor righteously and do not sin, for some of you are ignorant of God. I speak to your shame.

- a. To be right with God in our being is to have an inner being that is transparent and crystal clear—an inner being in the mind and will of God—Col. 1:9; 3:1-2.

Col. 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Col. 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Col. 3:2 Set your mind on the things which are above, not on the things which are on the earth.

- b. To be righteous in this way is to become the righteousness of God in Christ—2 Cor. 5:21.

2 Cor. 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- D. We need to be experienced in the word of righteousness so that we may have the words we need to speak for God, even being a herald of righteousness, as Noah was—Heb. 5:11-14; 2 Pet. 2:5.

Heb. 5:11 Concerning whom we have much to say that is also difficult to interpret since you have become dull of hearing.

Heb. 5:12 For when because of the time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you what the rudiments of the beginning of the oracles of God are and have become those who have need of milk and not of solid food.

Heb. 5:13 For everyone who partakes of milk is inexperienced in the word of righteousness, for he is an infant;

Heb. 5:14 But solid food is for the full-grown, who because of practice have their faculties exercised for discriminating between both good and evil.

2 Pet. 2:5 And did not spare the ancient world but guarded Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

III. In the church life today, there is the need for the speaking of God-constituted persons—those who have the maturity in life to prophesy with blessing, as Jacob did—Gen. 49:1-28; 2 Cor. 13:3; 1 Cor. 7:25, 40:

Gen. 49:1-28 Omitted.

2 Cor. 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.

1 Cor. 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.

1 Cor. 7:40 But she is more blessed if she so remains, according to my opinion; but I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

- A. The strongest sign of Jacob's maturity was his blessing others—Gen. 47:7, 10:

Gen. 47:7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Gen. 47:10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went forth from Pharaoh's presence.

1. The fullness of life is blessing, which is the overflow of God as life into others—48:14-16; Heb. 7:7; John 7:38; 1 John 5:16.

Gen. 48:14 But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it upon Ephraim's head—although he was the younger—and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands with insight, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

Gen. 48:15 And he blessed Joseph and said, / The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, / The God who has shepherded me all my life to this day,

Gen. 48:16 The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; / And may my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; / And may they be a teeming multitude in the midst of the earth.

Heb. 7:7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

2. Jacob's prophesying with blessing in Genesis 49 is a manifestation of maturity, for our speaking always reveals where we are and how mature we are; the change in Jacob's speaking reveals his growth unto maturity—1 Cor. 3:1-4; Gen. 25:31; 27:19; 47:7.

1 Cor. 3:1 And I, brothers, was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshy, as to infants in Christ.

1 Cor. 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, for you were not yet able to receive it. But neither yet now are you able,

1 Cor. 3:3 For you are still fleshy. For if there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshy and do you not walk according to the manner of man?

1 Cor. 3:4 For when someone says, I am of Paul, and another, I of Apollos, are you not men of flesh?

Gen. 25:31 And Jacob said, First sell me your birthright.

Gen. 27:19 And Jacob said to his father, I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Now rise up; sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may bless me.

Gen. 47:7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

3. Eventually, Jacob became a God-constituted person; because he had been infused, saturated, and thoroughly permeated with God, his word was God's word, and his speaking was God's speaking—49:1-28.

Gen. 49:1-28 Omitted.

- B. If we have been constituted with God, we will be able to prophesy with blessing, overflowing God as life into others—Heb. 6:1; Eph. 4:13.

Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God.

Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

- C. When a God-constituted person ministers the word of God in spirit, apparently it is he who is speaking, but actually it is Christ, the Son of God, speaking; this minister of the word is nothing, but out of his lips comes something from the One who is everything—2 Cor. 11:10; 13:3; 1 Cor. 7:17-25, 40; Eph. 3:8.

2 Cor. 11:10 The truthfulness of Christ is in me, that this boasting shall not be stopped as it regards me in the regions of Achaia.

2 Cor. 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.

1 Cor. 7:17 However as the Lord has apportioned to each one, as God has called each one, so let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches.

1 Cor. 7:18 Was anyone called having been circumcised? He need not efface it. Has anyone been called in uncircumcision? He need not be circumcised.

1 Cor. 7:19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of God's commandments is what counts.

1 Cor. 7:20 Each one, in the calling in which he was called, in this let him remain.
1 Cor. 7:21 Were you called as a slave? Let it not concern you; but even if you are able to become free, use your status as a slave rather.
1 Cor. 7:22 For the slave who has been called in the Lord is the Lord's freedman; likewise the free man who has been called is Christ's slave.
1 Cor. 7:23 You were bought with a price; do not be slaves of men.
1 Cor. 7:24 Each one, brothers, in what status he was called, in this let him remain with God.
1 Cor. 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.
1 Cor. 7:40 But she is more blessed if she so remains, according to my opinion; but I think that I also have the Spirit of God.
Eph. 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.

D. What the churches need today is the speaking of such God-constituted persons—2 Cor. 13:3.

2 Cor. 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.