

## **HOLDING THE SEED IN HAND**

Who do you know in your circle of influence (*family, friends, co-workers etc.*) that desperately need to experience a life changing encounter with the Gospel? God has provided us with an instrument that is *“living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...”* it is so powerful that it *“...pierces even to the division of the soul and spirit, and joints and marrow...”* with the promised ability to *“...discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12) Are we convinced? Are we motivated by such a conviction that our life’s endeavor is to persuade the lost?

Imagine an individual buying seed and making all the preparations for a bountiful harvest only to be found sitting in his barn with seed in hand expecting the crop. Consider a fisherman who purchases a nice boat, poles, tackle and bait then sits in his driveway with the boat hooked up to his truck and waits for the fish to bite. A hunter buys his license, gun, ammo and anxiously anticipates the hunting season, and when it begins, he sits in his den dreaming of trophies on the wall. Foolishness?

What do we, as Christians, do with the seed of God's word? Hopefully, we study it daily and learn its proper application. We meet together to study at selected times each week and encourage one another in it. We make all kinds of plans about those who respond and even hold special meetings to make it available every day of the week a couple of times a year. But if that is all we do, aren't we much like those individuals mentioned above who made all the preparations, but never did any more? We can't sow the seed sitting alone in the comfort of our homes. Nor can we sit in the comfort of our pews waiting for the world to come in!

The fish don't jump in the boat, especially if it's sitting in the driveway and the deer don't just walk into a hunter's den to be a trophy on his wall. The seed doesn't jump out of the sack and plant itself in the field. If we want to see results of the word seeded in the lives of those around us, we need to get out of the barn and head to the fields. Jesus told His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matt. 9:37). Isn't it sad? Before He ascended into heaven, after His resurrection, Jesus instructed His disciples to GO! (Mark 16:15-16). They had seed in hand and so do we! The world isn't going to come to us; we must go out into the world. Jesus taught this then and tells us the same today. We must go and take part in the seeding and watering of the Gospel.

Maybe you don't feel comfortable teaching others. Then do like Cornelius and invite your family and friends over and arrange for someone to come and teach. Invite people to come and hear the Bible taught. We don't have any trouble going to a movie or out to eat with them, but what about learning God's word together? Our children grow up together and we spend time at school functions with our neighbors and never share the gospel with them. We can engage in all sorts of social events with friends, yet never mention our relationship with Jesus to them. We certainly aren't embarrassed are we? It's time we take the seed and get out of the barn!

*In Christian love – Andy*

*(adapted from the article “Plantin’ In The Barn” by Kevin Winn)*