

TALK NUMBER TWO: THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD

What have we learned these few days about the tree and how it reflects our lives as Christians?

- That we are rooted in Christ and our relationship with God;
- That He is our light and our growth is focused on him;
- That it is because of him we live and bear fruit to his glory.

Where does this tree grow from seed to fruitfulness? It grows in the protective forest of the church.

- It is enabled to grow as part of the church, the fellowship of God's people, where there is safety, support, respect and honesty with each other, where we are challenged to grow into fruitfulness.
- Here we learn to serve and be served, to love and be loved, to accept and be accepted. **We are thus learning to be godly, to live heavenly.**

So now let's focus on the seed.

The tree matures, and then bears fruit; its final act is to disperse the seeds. It is only the fully mature plant that produces seed for distribution. This is its ultimate purpose, to reproduce itself before it dies.

In Luke 8:11 we read that the seed is the word of God.

What does that mean? It means that God has left us his Word as the means by which we learn of him; the seed of faith is planted and we grow up in him. We then in turn are expected to become fruitful and produce seed.

- "Go and makes disciples", plant the seed. (Matt. 28:19-20)
- "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mk. 16:15) Disperse the life-giving seed.
- I Cor. 3:1-9 – We plant the seed, God makes it grow.

Are we maturing in Christ? Have we reached **fruitful** maturity?

- Heb. 5:14 – Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. I Pet. 2:1-3 – Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk so that you may grow up in your salvation.

- Eph. 4:11-13 – Are we preparing for works of service, to build up the body so that we become mature, “attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of God?”
- James 1:2-4 – “The testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” To mature, the tree withstands drought, storm, and pestilence. Only as it perseveres can it finally bear fruit for dispersing.

God expects us to grow and mature in faith, knowledge and godly wisdom. Only then can we fully realise the fruitfulness God has in store for those who crave spiritual maturity, who prepare for works of service, and who persevere. **Only then will we want not only to bear fruit but it will be in our nature to disperse the seed of the gospel.**

We have a marvellous story to tell, of grace and love poured out upon those who embrace the good news that one came among us with the promise of a return to Eden, to companionship with God in the presence of the Tree of Life. Let’s delight in dispersing the seed and let God give the increase.