



\*A follower of Jesus hears the Word of God, accepts it, and produces a spiritual life by responding in faith to the Word.

*\*Mark 4:26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."*

### \*How do believers mature?

1. **V:26 Accepting God's seed (His Word)** is the only path to grow a spiritual life.
2. **V:27 The first parable is the key.** So, the idioms stay constant and we learn mysteries of the Kingdom through God's word.
3. **V:27-28 The work of God's grace** enhances our growth. It even works while we sleep.
4. **V:29 How we respond** to the Word of God is the key to our Kingdom productivity.

*\*Mark 4:30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."*

*33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explain everything.*

### \*The Bible is a divine integrated and cohesive message system.

**Matthew 13**  
Seven parables to the Church

**Revelation 2 & 3**  
Seven Churches

**Paul's Letters**  
Seven Churches

**Prophetic Profile**  
7 Identifications

The Sower and the Soil  
The Tares and the Wheat  
The Mustard Seed

Ephesus Church  
Smyrna Church  
Pergamos Church

Ephesians  
Philippians  
Corinthians

Lost its first love  
Feared persecution  
Married to the culture

The Woman and the Leaven  
The Treasure in the Field  
The Pearl of Great Price  
The Net

Thyatira Church  
Sardius Church  
Philadelphia Church  
Laodicea Church

Galatians  
Romans  
Thessalonians  
Colossians

The spirit of Jezebel  
Denominationalism  
Missional and true  
Apostate (the middle)

- **All seven Churches** are given promises for overcoming.
  - **Jesus said to all the churches if you have ears to hear.** Just as He does in **Mark Chapter 4.**
  - **The Rewards:** Paradise, Crown of Life, A new name, Ruling with Jesus, Never blotted out of the book of life, No one will take your crown, and the right to sit with Jesus on a throne.
1. **Size and status** are not the goal and are not always a benefit.
  2. **Jesus explained the parables.** Allowing the Word of God to explain the Bible is our best tool.

*\*Mark 4:35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39 He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"*

### \*Is a lack of faith an open door for fear?

1. **V:35-36 Obedience opened a door to a storm.** We are not surprised when disobedience leads us to a storm. **Like Jonah's disobedience and God brought the storm to stop his running.**
2. **V:37-38 The Messiah is at peace.** The wind didn't wake him, the water didn't wake him, their arguing didn't wake him. **It was them going to him that woke him.**
3. **V:39-40 Why are we so afraid? We haven't learned to go to Jesus. We diagnose the storms of life; we argue about what we should do. Someone needs to run to Jesus.**

*\*Mark 4:41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

\*The script was flipped they were now more terrified by who Jesus is than the storm they just lived through.

1. **Who is Jesus to you?**
2. **The spoken Words of God,** "to be quiet" were more powerful than mother nature.