

Am I cooperating with the Word, or am I trying to force in the flesh what only God's life can produce?

## 5. The Word That Starts Small Can Produce Great Kingdom Influence

**Mark 4:30–32 (NKJV)** “Then He said, ‘To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs.’”

**Matthew 17:20 (NKJV)** So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith as a mustard seed**, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

**Zechariah 4:10 (NKJV)** For who has **despised the day of small things?**

**John 15:5 (NKJV)** “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who **abides** in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.

**John 15:7 (NKJV)** **If you abide** in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and **it shall be done** for you.

**John 15:8 (NKJV)** By this **My Father is glorified**, that you bear much fruit; so you will be **My disciples**.

### **What small seed from God have I been tempted to underestimate?**

Mark chapter 4 shows us a kingdom pattern:

- 1. The mystery of the kingdom is given to those who hear as disciples.**
- 2. The Word is sown as seed into the human heart.**
- 3. The heart receives, resists, or releases the Word under pressure, distraction, or desire.**
- 4. The Word received brings light, revelation, and visible kingdom witness.**
- 5. The hearer must give careful attention to what and how they hear.**
- 6. The measure given to the Word determines increase, understanding, or loss.**
- 7. The Word grows through hidden kingdom process: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain.**
- 8. The Word kept in good ground produces fruit, harvest, and expanding kingdom influence.**

## **The Mystery of the Kingdom Revealed-Part 3- Revealed, Received and Reproduced**

**Sunday, May 10, 2026**

**READ Mark 4:1-34**

**Mark 4:11-34 (NKJV)** Jesus is explaining **the potential of the kingdom of God through the relationship of God's Word and the condition of the heart.**

**Mark 4:9 (NKJV)** And He said to them, “**He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**”

**Mark 4:10 (NKJV)** But **when He was alone**, those around Him with the twelve **asked Him about the parable.**

**Mark 4:11 (NKJV)** And He said to them, “**To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God**; but to those who are **outside**, all things come in **parables**, **Mark 4:12 (NKJV)** so that ‘**Seeing** they may see and **not perceive**, And **hearing** they may hear and **not understand**; **Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.**’ ”

### **1. The Word Received is Light. It directs our life.**

**John 1:1 (NKJV)** In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God.**

**John 1:4 (NKJV)** In Him was **life**, and the life was the **light of men.**

**Mark 4:21 (NKJV)** Also He said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?”

**Psalms 119:105 (NKJV)** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

**Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

### **2. The Secret/Mystery of the Kingdom Is Meant to Be Revealed**

**Mark 4:22 (NKJV)** For there is **nothing hidden** which will not **be revealed**, nor has anything been **kept secret** but that it should **come to light.**

**1 Corinthians 2:7 (NKJV)** But **we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the **hidden wisdom which God** ordained before the ages **for our glory**,

**1 Corinthians 2:8 (NKJV)** which none of the rulers of this age knew; for **had they known**, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)** But as it is written: “**Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered** into the heart of man **The things which God has prepared** for those who love Him.”

**1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV)** But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

**Colossians 1:26 (NKJV)** the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but **now has been revealed to His saints.**

**Colossians 1:27 (NKJV)** To them **God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery** among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

**Ephesians 1:17 (NKJV)** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may **give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of Him,

**Ephesians 1:18 (NKJV)** the **eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that **you may know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

**Am I a casual listener, or am I a disciple who pursues understanding?**

### **3. The Measure You Give the Word Determines the Measure of Increase You Receive**

**Mark 4:24–25 (NKJV)** Then He said to them, ‘Take heed **what you hear**. With the **same measure you use**, it will be **measured to you**; and to **you who hear**, more will be given. For **whoever has**, to him more will be given; but **whoever does not have**, even what he has will be **taken away** from him.

**What you believe affects what you speak. What you speak and act upon affects what you experience and produce.**

**The Word has unlimited power, but the heart determines capacity.**

**Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV)** For indeed the **gospel was preached to us as well as to them**; but the word which **they heard** did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith** in those who heard it.

**The measure of attention you give the Word determines the measure of understanding, revelation, and fruitfulness that occurs in your life.**

**How much attention you give the Word.**

**How much value you place on the Word.**

**How much priority the Word has over other voices.**

**How quickly you obey what you hear.**

**How firmly you hold the Word under pressure.**

**How consistently you meditate on it.**

**A good sermon statement would be:**

**The measure you give the Word is the measure that determines what the Word is able to produce in you.**

**What you value, you make room for; and what you make room for has room to increase.**

**Proverbs 4:20 (NKJV)** My son, **give attention to my words**; Incline your ear to my sayings.

**Proverbs 4:21 (NKJV)** Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;

**Proverbs 4:22 (NKJV)** For **they are life** to those who find them, **And health** to all their flesh.

**Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)** **Keep your heart with all diligence**, For out of it spring the issues of life.

**Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)** “Therefore whoever **hears** these sayings of Mine, and **does** them, I will liken him to a **wise man** who built his house on the rock:

**Matthew 7:25 (NKJV)** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

**Matthew 7:26 (NKJV)** “But **everyone who hears** these sayings of Mine, and **does not do them**, will be like a **foolish man** who built his house on the sand:

**Matthew 7:27 (NKJV)** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

**John 8:32 (NKJV)** And you shall **know the truth**, and the truth shall make you free.”

**James 1:22 (NKJV)** But **be doers** of the word, and **not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves.

**“The Bible is not an option; it is a necessity. You cannot grow spiritually strong without it.” - Billy Graham**

**What has had the greater measure of my attention lately: the Word, the problem, the pressure, or the distraction?**

### **4. The Word Grows by Kingdom Process, Not Human Striving**

**Mark 4:26–29 (NKJV)** “And He said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.’”

**The same way a seed has life in it, the life and power are in the Word itself**

**Isaiah 55:10 (NKJV)** “For **as the rain comes down**, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

**Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)** **So shall My word be** that goes forth from My mouth; It shall **not return to Me void**, But it shall **accomplish** what I please, And it shall **prosper** in the thing for which I sent it.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** For the **word of God is living and powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

**“Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning. Effort is action. Earning is attitude.” - Dallas Willard**