



## a hidden power

A friend tells you that they know about a hidden power that has the power to change your life! To change the WORLD!!! They just HAVE to tell you about.

⇒ How do you feel? Skeptical? Worried? Excited?

⇒ WHY?

## Weekend Worship

On Sunday, we focused on the stories Jesus told about "The Growing Seed" and "The Yeast." Jesus taught that his Word is constantly working – even when we don't see it or know how. And, the Word spreads and permeates. God's gracious rule in hearts is constant and growing, hidden and powerful.

In this study, we'll focus on two sections of God's Word that detail the power and growth of the Word.

## Isaiah 55:1-11 (NIV)

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.”

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it  
without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

1. **Isaiah 55:1-5.** The LORD is using picturesque language.

- a. What is the invitation (55:1-3)?
- b. What is the result (55:4-5)?
- c. Today, this is fulfilled when:

2. **Isaiah 55:6-7.**

- a. Seek: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Forsake: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. For me / my family / our church family, this looks like: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Isaiah 55:8-9.**

- a. Tell a story (Bible history, Church history, personal history) of how you’ve seen this.
- b. Write a question for God from a time God allowed something different from what you wanted or thought best. (“God, why did you...”)

4. **Isaiah 55:10-11.**

- ⇒ God accomplishes through his Word what he wants and when he wants. What are some specific examples of this that you’ve observed in your own life or someone you know.

## 2 Peter 1:3-11

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup> and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1. **2 Peter 1:3.** God's POWER has GIVEN you EVERYTHING you need for a GODLY LIFE. Fill in the following blanks. (*hint: there is not only 1 right answer for each – many possible answers exist.*)
  - a. Because this is by God's POWER, I know \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. When Peter writes that God's power has GIVEN us, I am reminded this is by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Because I know God has given me EVERYTHING I need, I will not \_\_\_\_\_ and I will \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. At this stage of my life, when I think of "a GODLY LIFE" I focus on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **2 Peter 1:5-9.** The Word permeates our hearts and lives. God tells us to keep on growing in our spiritual lives. Peter tells us to keep on adding to our faith and goodness and knowledge and self-control and perseverance and godliness and mutual affection and love.
  - ⇒ Give an example of how God has blessed you with a growth in one or more of the spiritual areas mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5-7.
  - ⇒ How has this growth been a blessing to you and others (2 Peter 1:8-9)? Do you have a story to share?
3. **2 Peter 1:10-11.** Peter here imitates what Jesus did with much of his teaching: mentioning the impact right NOW and also pointing our eyes to the Last Day and eternity. What connection(s) do you see between the right NOW and eternity in these verses this whole section?

⇒ Based on what God's taught you in Mark 4:26-29, Isaiah 55:1-11, and 2 Peter 1:3-11, what should YOU:

DO? (and NOT DO?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

PRAY?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, your Word is hidden, yet so powerful and life changing. Thank you for such a precious gift. Keep me faithful and growing in my use of your Word – reading, meditating, trusting, and living it. Increase my faith and goodness and knowledge and self-control and perseverance and godliness and mutual affection and love. In your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.