

The Year of New Birth II

CONCEPTION

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January 20, 2013

Sermon in a sentence: A desire to reproduce is great, but nothing happens unless we move on to conception.

Scriptures: Luke 8:4-15; Acts 20:17-27; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; John 8:12 KJV; Ps. 126:5-6 KJV; 1 Cor. 3:6 KJV; Eccl. 11:4-6

A young man was riding a city bus one day, high on drugs, almost comatose. A young lady began speaking to him and the words that pierced his consciousness were “Jesus loves you”. She invited him to church and the Lord completely delivered him.

A businesswoman was watching and laughing one Sunday morning as a TV evangelist spoke of God’s power to deliver people from addictions and habits that were destroying them. As she wondered how people could be so gullible to believe nonsense like that. She was a pack-a-day smoker and reached for a cigarette. The first puff made her so sick she almost threw up. To calm her nerves, she poured herself a drink of her favorite liquor. It was now so distasteful to her that she spat it out in the sink and proceeded to pour all the rest of the alcohol in her house down the drain. She has been serving the Lord ever since.

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There are those who have a great desire to reproduce spiritually and understand that desire is only the beginning. Before birth can take place, there must first be conception. Desire has to spur us into action or it is pointless.

The incidents mentioned above took place because someone had the desire to conceive and bring forth fruit. Folks many would have thought were unlikely candidates responded to the Word and are now part of God's eternal kingdom.

Let's see how this is presented to us in the word of God.

Luke 8:4-15 NASB When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: 5 **"The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 "Other *seed* fell on rocky *soil*, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 "Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. 8 "Other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."** As He said these things, He would call out, **" He who has ears to hear, let him hear."** 9 His disciples *began* questioning Him as to what this parable meant. 10 And He said, **" To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is* in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND. 11 "Now the parable is this: **the seed is the word of God.** 12 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. 13 "Those on the rocky *soil are* those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 "The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.**

For conception to take place, seed must be sown. The seed is the word of God. To put it in its simplest form, if we want to see conception take place, we must sow the seed!

Here is the testimony of the apostle Paul:

Acts 20:17-27 NASB From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 "And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. 24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. 25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

The seed, plus soil, light and water, causes germination to take place.

** The seed is the word of God.*

** The soil is human ears.*

** The light is the gospel, personified in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Cor. 4:3-6 NASB And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

John 8:12 KJV Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

** The water represents our prayers, the tilling and the encouragement of others who also work the soil where the seed has been sown.*

Ps. 126:5-6 KJV They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

1 Cor. 3:6 KJV I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

Begin to rehearse your seed-sowing. Find the words that work for you, words that explain the gospel in a manner even a child can understand. (Truly, much of the good soil we will find is in the hearts of children.)

Rehearse your own personal testimony. *How, when, where* did God make Himself real to you? When did you first hear, understand and respond positively to the gospel? How has giving your life to Jesus changed you? What has He done in your life?

Let the joy of the Lord be radiant on your face and in your smile. Demonstrate the peace of God that is beyond human understanding. Even when you are not speaking, allow your righteous life to be a silent witness to the transformative power of God.

Start sowing seed – “in season and out of season” – everywhere you go, whenever possible.

Ecc. 11:4-6 NASB He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap. 5 Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones *are formed* in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things. 6

Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

Let us begin to sow seed so that conception can occur in the hearts of our hearers, through the power of the Spirit of God.