

James continues to draw us back to the importance of being grounded in God's Word. There are passages in our Bibles that may not "speak" to us at a particular time, but we should remember that God's Word is always working in us, whether we feel it or not. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to do the work in our hearts, trust that He has a purpose for us, and faithfully read His Word to find rest for our souls. Read: Isaiah 55:10-11

This week, we hit one of the most popular and most quoted verses in the book of James. It has come to mind almost daily over the past few months. Read James 1:19-21

Being quick to listen is such an important skill, but to whom or what are we listening? If we aren't careful, we are listening to everything that the world shouts and Truth is being drowned out. That's why it is so important to rely on God's Word for wisdom! We must rely on God's implanted Word to work in our hearts, guide our thinking, and keep us on His path.

Jesus talks about God's Word going out, relating it to a farmer planting seeds. Many of you planted gardens this past year because you were at home. Our family did that too! It was a fun family project, that, unfortunately was abandoned once I returned to work at STP. Jesus' parable is a good reminder of what I didn't do well! Read: Mark 4:3-9

To be a successful gardener, it takes a lot of work. The soil must be prepared, the seeds must be planted at the right depth, the plants need water and weeding – it really is no simple task! But for the farmer who is willing to do the work, the harvest is abundant!

Jesus takes this simple story of the farmer and his seed and relates it right back to God's Word. Read: Mark 4:13-20

This parable is so important because it is a clear picture of how God's Word changes us. The more time that we spend with God in His Word, the easier it will be to face trials and temptations. As we read God's Word, we learn more about who God wants us to be. He reveals our sin to us, so that we might ask forgiveness for it, turn from it, and pursue His best for us. Without God's Word speaking into our lives, we are unsettled and restless. There is freedom in God's Word because it has the power to save our weary souls. Read John 1:1-16

God's Word has been with us from the beginning and it became flesh and dwelt among us! Isn't that amazing? The Word has the power to save us because it is Jesus, Himself. We can rest in God's Word because Jesus says that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. When we are weary, we can run to Jesus through His Word and find rest for our souls.

Asking God to forgive us of our sins, placing our faith in Jesus, and actively seeking Him through His Holy Word is the path to peace. As this truth settles into our hearts and as we pursue Jesus, God's plans are being worked out in our lives for His glory. Allow God's implanted Word to work in you today!

Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28