



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

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EVERY WORD COUNTS WEEK 3

OPENING & PRAYER:

Words shape spiritual reality. Confession pairs a spoken mouth with a believing heart. Romans 10 says the word “in your mouth and in your heart,” and explains that confession with the mouth activates belief in the heart. The mouth programs the heart; spoken words wire the unseen spirit and the soul so the inner life pursues what the lips declare. Speaking faith is not magic repetition but intentional planting—what is spoken sows into the heart and then the spirit moves to bring that reality toward the believer.

“Lord, thank you for giving us authority through the use of our words in our lives. Please guide our study and conversations as we navigate how to use our words effectively and Biblically. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

SCRIPTURE:

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, **Hebrews 4:13**

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. **Matthew 13:3-5**

But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" **Matthew 13:6-9**

"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **Matthew 13:18-19**

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **Matthew 13:20-21**

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." **Matthew 13:22-23**

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. **Luke 8:11**

"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, 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. **Isaiah 55:10-11**

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **Matthew 13:19**

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a

while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **Matthew 13:20-21**

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. **1 Corinthians 3:6**

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

“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease. **Genesis 8:22**

GO DEEPER:

The parable of the sower frames how the word functions as seed and the heart functions as soil. The seed equals God’s word and Jesus as the living Word; the soil is the heart that either receives or resists. Four soil conditions determine harvest: the wayside where the enemy snatches away the seed, stony ground where shallow roots perish under trial, thorny soil where cares and riches choke growth, and good ground where seed takes root and produces abundant fruit. The seed itself never fails; the issue is soil condition.

Practical steps appear throughout: understand the word clearly so it is not immediately stolen, confess and repeat the word to deepen root, and remove clutter—cares, deceitful riches, and bitterness—that steal nutrients from the heart. Worship and praise function as spiritual plowing: singing and praising break hard ground to make the heart receptive so the word can take root. Sowing must be followed by watering—speaking and re-speaking the word—so God’s promise can prosper in daily life.

The overall claim insists on responsibility and hope: human agency controls the condition of the soil. Guard the heart, choose the seeds that are spoken into it, and expect harvest when the soil is tilled, watered, and kept uncluttered. The promise of seedtime and harvest endures while the earth remains; therefore intentional speech, steady confession, and heart-keeping lead toward transformation and fruitfulness.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. The mouth programs the heart. Confession functions as inner programming: words habitually spoken wire the soul and engage the spirit, shaping motives and pursuits. Repeated speech forms belief, and belief then governs choices and responses under pressure. Thus spiritual formation begins with disciplined speech that aligns language with the truths meant to inhabit the heart. **[04:30]**

2. The seed is the Word. God's spoken word acts as living seed; it carries inherent power to change what receives it. The problem is rarely the seed's effectiveness and always the receptivity of the soil. Expect the word to work when it is truly understood and welcomed into the heart. **[11:01]**

3. Four soils determine harvest. Different heart conditions produce different outcomes: theft, shallow roots, choking cares, or abundant fruit. Diagnosis of inner soil reveals why identical words bring varied results among people. Tending the heart—removing offense, deepening roots, and clearing clutter—allows the same seed to yield a different harvest. **[16:06]**

4. Worship tills the heart. Praise and worship serve as preparatory plowing that loosens compacted ground and opens the inner life to receive seed. Corporate and personal worship both cultivate receptivity, making the heart fertile for the word to take root. Regular worship before teaching increases the likelihood that spoken truth will embed and grow. **[30:40]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In the parable of the sower, what do the seed and the soil represent? **[11:01]**
2. What are the four types of soil Jesus describes, and what happens to the seed in each? **[16:06]**
3. What kind of “soil” best describes your heart right now—wayside, rocky, thorny, or good? What makes you say that?
4. How can you incorporate “watering the seed” of God’s Word through daily confession and meditation into your routine? **[34:14]**
5. What’s one promise from God’s Word you want to see bear fruit in your life? How will you intentionally sow, guard, and water that word in the coming week?

CLOSING PRAYER:

“Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. We look forward to finding ways to use our words as power over our lives and situations. We ask that You guide us through this shift in our lives and continue to lead us in every conversation with ourselves and others. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”