



# MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM

SERMON NOTES | VOLUME 2

MAC HAMMOND

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 7.....	PAGE 1
PART 8.....	PAGE 4
PART 9.....	PAGE 7
PART 10.....	PAGE 10
PART 11.....	PAGE 13
PART 12.....	PAGE 16
PART 13.....	PAGE 19
PART 14.....	PAGE 22

## PART 7: HIS WILL

### RECAP

God has a specific plan for your life. He has a vision for how your gifts, talents, and personality will work together to bring more people into the kingdom of God. He knows what jobs will fit you best, the people you need in your life, and the path to walk to fulfill the dreams He has placed in your heart.

God won't show you everything He knows at once, but He will show you glimpses of your future as well as your next steps. How does He tell you this? He will reveal these mysteries to you as you pray in the Holy Spirit.

### DIVE DEEPER

The generic will of God for your life is found through reading the Bible. It tells us to choose love and wisdom on a daily basis. It lays out the plan of redemption and tells us that church is important.

What you won't find in the Bible is the specifics of God's will for your life. That's why Pastor Mac spent this past week's message talking about the mystery of God's will.

Understanding the will of God starts by understanding the Holy Spirit, for His ministry is the ministry of revelation. He is the one who makes God's Word come alive in our hearts, and He is the one who helps each of us pray out the plans and purposes of God through speaking in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is our avenue to letting the Holy Spirit into our lives. It is a source of edification. It is how we pray about God's will without the enemy understanding what we are praying. It reminds us that our power for living well comes from the Spirit of God, not our own doing.

Tongues need to be a daily event for us. We need to set aside time to pray in the Holy Spirit throughout each day, for as we pray in tongues, God will provide ideas and moments of inspiration in our minds that will direct us in our next steps as well as provide glimpses of the future He wants us to fulfill on this earth.

### READ MORE

Acts 19:2 KJV

*He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*

1 Corinthians 14:2 KJV

*For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.*

1 Corinthians 14:4 KJV

*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church*

Romans 8:26–28 KJV

*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

1 Corinthians 2:6-13 KJV

*Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: but we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

*For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual..*

1 Corinthians 2:13 Amp.

*And we are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the [Holy] Spirit, combining and interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language [to those who possess the Holy Spirit].*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What's the difference between the generic and specific will of God?
2. How does the Holy Spirit reveal things to us?
3. If you met someone who didn't understand the role of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life, what would you tell them? How would you explain His role to reveal God's Word and God's will to us?
4. What difference has the Holy Spirit made in your life?
5. How can tongues become a more consistent effort in your life?

## PART 8: LAWLESSNESS

### RECAP

God is a God of order. He does not create chaos. In fact, He ordained offices of authority within various realms of humanity that will help keep chaos and anarchy at bay. Why would anyone step outside of those laws and choose to create chaos? Why would anyone choose anarchy over peace? What can we do to prevent lawlessness in our family, our city, and our nation? These are the questions surrounding the mystery of iniquity.

### DIVE DEEPER

God's law is important. It establishes moral and ethical boundaries for our behavior. Without it, there would be chaos.

When we see the law's boundaries within which life can be lived well, lawlessness is frustrating. Watching other people blatantly break the law and choose anarchy over peace can leave us speechless. Is there anything that we can do when we see lawlessness and iniquity at work?

Yes. Paul talks about the mystery of iniquity (or lawlessness) in 2 Thessalonians 2. Lawlessness is in this world, and one day will be centerstage when the antichrist ("the man of lawlessness") takes over. That will not happen, however, until the Church of God is removed from this earth through the rapture. Until that day, we are here to hinder lawlessness.

How do we hinder lawlessness? First, we follow God's law. That remains true, even when the law of the land goes against God's law. We don't act out in lawlessness, but we use the channels given to peacefully stand for God's law above all. Second, we teach our families how to choose wisely. We train children to see the benefit of following God's direction. Third, we follow the royal law of love.

You see, we can't force anyone to follow God, but we can love them—and God's love fulfills the law. We can have an effect on lawlessness by loving people. We can provide an environment for them that makes it more likely for them to choose to follow God. This is our path to unity over division and our chance to shut down chaos: love people well with the love of God that He has placed in our hearts.

## READ MORE

### 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 KJV

*And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

### Romans 13:1-5 KJV

*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.*

### Romans 13:8-10 KJV

*Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

### Romans 5:5 KJV

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

### Matthew 7:22-23 KJV

*Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What does loving others look like to you?
2. What's one way you can practically love others today?
3. When anarchy is seen in the streets, what will our behavior on social media promote: lawlessness or love?
4. How does God's grace help us fulfill God's law?

## PART 9: SOWING AND REAPING

### RECAP

This week, Pastor Mac talked about the mystery of sowing and reaping. This principle helps us identify where certain problems—and good things!—come from. People are quick to blame the enemy when they see adversity in their lives, but sometimes problems come from the seed they have sown. You see, when you sow weed seeds, you'll receive weeds in return. When you plant good seed, you'll receive a good harvest.

### DIVE DEEPER:

What you sow, you will reap. This is a simple principle that is vital to understand. The seed you plant throughout your life will create a corresponding harvest.

We see this truth every time someone plants a natural seed. An apple tree cannot produce oranges and a carrot seed can only produce carrots. How does this principle translate into our daily lives? First, we have to know the seed is the Word of God and the heart of a man or woman is the garden in which that seed is sown. Practically speaking, the seed is the concepts and perceptions that are based in God's Word. The idea that God is love is a seed. The idea that God wants you well is a seed.

The seed of God's Word gets planted through our speaking, our behavior, and through the investment of our finances. When we speak, we are speaking principles that will reap a harvest. When we act, we are planting seed that will have good or bad repercussions. The way we use our money will reap a harvest that corresponds with principles that you are financially supporting. Good seed that is planted in good ground will reap a corresponding harvest of good things.

When your harvest comes, your harvest will be for someone else. An apple tree doesn't eat its own apples, and a person won't eat the produce of their own harvest. We plant seed so others can partake of the fruit of God's kingdom. To hear more, listen in to Pastor Mac's full message on the principle of sowing and reaping!

## READ MORE

### Mark 4:3-20 KJV

*Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: and it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: but when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*

*And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

### Galatians 6:7 KJV

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

### 1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22-23 Amp.

*But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. If you see a bad harvest in your life, what's one thing you can do to change it?
2. What's one way you can plant a seed or a God-idea in someone else's life today?
3. How do you cultivate the garden of your own heart?
4. How can you increase the harvest of good things you'll receive in your own life?

## PART 10: SOWING AND REAPING (PART 2)

### RECAP

In part two of the message, “Sowing and Reaping,” Mac Hammond teaches how the mystery of sowing and reaping is a fundamental understanding for how the kingdom of God works. Jesus emphasized the importance of the mystery of sowing and reaping: “If you don’t understand this mystery, how will you understand any of the mysteries?” In other words, our lives, good or bad, are built on this principle. So if you don’t like what’s happening in your life, examine what kind of seed you’ve been sowing. You get what you give! Or as the proverb says, “You reap what you sow.”

### DIVE DEEPER

Too many believers get mystified when they exercise their faith and don’t see the result that they want to see. They blame God, not realizing that they have often planted bad seed and are reaping the harvest of it. God’s grace can redeem bad situations and turn them around for good, but that shouldn’t be the reason why we make bad choices. We can’t choose to live as we want and expect good things to come into our lives because God is gracious. God has a higher way for us: We need to eventually learn how to plant good seed so we can expect a good harvest.

Before we can sow into other people’s lives, we need to become fruitful in our own lives. We do this through watering the seed of God’s Word planted and allowing God’s Word to flourish in our lives. In time, the Spirit moving in our lives will produce the fruit of the spirit we see in Galatians chapter 5. The Spirit works on the inside of us to produce love and joy. The more we settle into His love for us, we find ourselves becoming more and more patient. We find faithfulness and gentleness and self-control becoming a part of our daily choices.

This Spirit-led internal change precedes the outward change that so many of us want to see. This change is what then draws people to know God better and partake of the fruit of the spirit in your life. That change is the written epistle that sows seed into other people’s lives.

### READ MORE

Mark 4:3-20 KJV

*Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: and it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: but when the sun was up, it was*

*scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*

*And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

#### Galatians 6:7 KJV

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#### Galatians 5:22-23 Amp.

*But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Have you seen the pattern of planting the seed of God's Word, watering it, and harvesting it in your own life or in the lives of others?
2. When have you seen a harvest of good things in your life? When have you seen a harvest of weed seeds in your life?
3. What can you do today to choose to let the Spirit's fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience reign in your life?

## PART 11: HOW TO SOW

### RECAP

Since sowing the seed of God's Word into people's lives is the source of our harvest in life, we need to know how this actually happens. Pastor Mac explained that seed is found in the fruit, so if we don't have fruit in our lives, we can't plant seed in the hearts of other people. Cultivating a good harvest starts by cultivating the soil of our own hearts to provide a healthy place for God's Word to grow. When the seed of God's Word grows up free from weeds and rocks in our own lives, then the fruit will begin to be seen and other people can be blessed by the fruit of the Spirit in us.

### DIVE DEEPER

If a farmer plants seed on rocky ground, the seed would never get much depth and therefore would not produce much fruit. If a farmer plants seed among weeds, the seed will be choked out over time, unless the weeds are removed. Now, if seed falls on soil that is healthy, properly weeded and watered, fruit will be harvested.

This picture of sowing and reaping is key in understanding how sowing and reaping works in our own lives, for as the Phillips translation states, "A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows." Since seed is found inside fruit, we need to cultivate the soil of our hearts to be a good area for growth. If we ignore weed seeds—ideas that are counter to God's Word—and let them flourish, the seed of God's Word will be choked out. If we properly cultivate the ideas that come from God, we give the Word of God an opportunity to flourish in our lives and bear fruit. In fact, this cultivation of the garden of our heart is where faith in God and His Word is cultivated as well.

What does that fruit look like? The fruits of the Spirit. When the seed of God's Word flourishes, we'll find love, joy, and peace becoming a reality. We'll find faithfulness and self-control and the other fruits of the Spirit becoming consistent in our soul. When our soul prospers in this manner, the outward realities of life will follow, for as 3 John 1:2 says, we prosper as our soul prospers.

As fruit flourishes in us, other people get to partake of our fruit. We'll spread joy and patience. We'll spread faithfulness and love. We'll plant seed in other people's lives. For even more on how this fruit is passed on to others, listen to Pastor Mac's full message above.

## READ MORE:

### Mark 4:3-20 KJV

*Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: and it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: but when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

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### Galatians 6:7 KJV

*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

### Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

### Galatians 5:22-23 Amp.

*But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes]*

*is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].*

### 2 Corinthians 13:5 Amp.

*Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?*

### 3 John 1:2 KJV

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers.*

### James 3:17-18 Amp.

*But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity). And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Have you seen the fruit of the Spirit in other people's lives? How did it impact you?
2. How do weed seeds choke out God's Word?
3. What can you do to get rid of weed seeds in your own life?
4. When the fruit of the Spirit is evident in you, how does it affect the rest of your life?

## PART 12: CULTIVATING YOUR HEART

### RECAP

God wants you to have a life that is filled with peace and comfort. That doesn't mean it will be easy or without adversity. God will bring you peace in the middle of the storm and despite the difficulty that life brings. One way you can ensure you have God's peace in your life is through cultivating the garden of your heart. Pray for hard areas to be softened, and then meditate on the Word of God. Picture the Word of God becoming a reality in your life. Picture the Scriptures becoming alive in you. Break up the fallow ground in your heart, and you'll prepare your heart for a good harvest.

### DIVE DEEPER

The Bible is filled with a lot of wonderful promises, and God intends for His promises to be source of comfort in our lives. However, many people focus on the promises of God to such a degree that they forget that they need to first cultivate their own hearts in order to receive from heaven the gift of God's promises.

When you know the Word, you can be at peace. You can know that God is for you, not against you. You can rest assured that He is on your side. You can be a source of peace in other people's lives because you are at peace.

This won't happen overnight. In order for the seed of God's Word to bloom, it needs to be planted on soft ground. Many people have hard ground, which makes it easy for Satan to come and steal the Word that people have heard. The soil is packed so hard that no God idea can be planted. In order to soften the soil of your life, it starts with prayer. Ask God to soften your heart.

The second thing you can do is make sure that the rocks are out of your soil. Break up the stony ground of your life by using your imagination. Envision future experiences aligning with the Word of God. This process of imagining God's Word becoming a reality breaks up the stony ground. It puts down deep roots that allow the seed of God's Word to be planted.

### READ MORE

Mark 4:3-20 KJV

*Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: and it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately*

*it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: but when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

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2 Corinthians 13:5 Amp.

*Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing*

*experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?*

James 3:18 KJV

*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

James 3:17-18 Amp.

*But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity). And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].*

Hosea 10:12 KJV

*Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.*

Psalms 1:1-3 KJV

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. Do you see areas in your life where the soil of your heart is soft? Hard? Rocky?
2. What's one thing you can do today that will break up the hard or stony ground in your life?
3. What Scriptures have you memorized? Pick one that you can memorize this week. If you don't know where to start, start with Proverbs 3:5-6 or Psalm 119:11 or Isaiah 26:3.

## PART 13: IMAGINATION

### RECAP

The seed of God's Word is a powerful and valuable creator in our lives, but it cannot be planted and left alone. If so, it will be choked out by weed seeds or hardened through the heat of adversity. That's why we must learn how to put down deep roots. We can do that through our imagination. When we use our imagination to create an image of our life lived in line with God's Word, we are creating a root system that will feed the seed of God's Word and set us up to receive a harvest of good things in our lives. thoughts and scriptures from Pastor Mac's message, visit our highlight page linked below.

### DIVE DEEPER

When a seed is planted in the ground, its chance of survival depends on how deep its roots become. Shallow roots and rocky soil will not provide the ability to grow through difficult weather. In the same way, God's Word needs roots in order to grow through every kind of weather and produce a harvest of good fruit.

Creating a strong root system doesn't happen overnight, but it does happen through a continual moving of your mind to the Word of God. You will strengthen your faith and the root system of your life when you picture your life lived God's way. This is what will bring you through the heat of adversity.

You see, the enemy wants to change your destiny, and in order to change your destiny, he has to change your belief system. Changing your belief system is easy when your root system is weak. When you haven't spent time picturing the Word of God as reality, you'll more easily see the worst becoming reality. If you, however, spend time meditating on God's Word and replaying it over and over in your mind, you'll see the psalmist's words coming true from Psalm 1. You'll be like a "tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

So today, go ahead and find a Scripture about God and meditate on it. Memorize it. Sing it. Replay it over and over in your head until that truth has dropped from your head into your heart. Let the roots of God's Word become established in your life.

## READ MORE:

James 3:18 KJV

*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

James 3:18 Amp.

*And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].*

Mark 4:16-17 KJV

*And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

James 1:2-4 KJV

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

Psalms 1:2-3 KJV

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Romans 12:2 KJV

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Jeremiah 29:11 KJV

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

Proverbs 23:18 KJV

*For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.*

Philippians 3:13 KJV

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forget-*

*ting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.*

1 Peter 1:13 KJV

*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. How does God's Word help in difficult situations?
2. What Scriptures do you know? What can you do to learn more Word?
3. What happens when you imagine the worst? What happens when you imagine the best?
4. What can you do to made meditating on God's Word part of your regular routine?

## PART 14: PUTTING DOWN DEEP ROOTS

### RECAP

Our imagination is significant, for our imagination creates momentum that will push us toward whatever we focus on. When we focus on daily circumstance and the negativity in this world, we will have a difficult time believing and expecting the Word of God can become a reality for us. However, if we base our imaginations on the Word of God and picture our life lived according to the Word of God, we'll find our life will be rooted well, able to provide strong, spiritual growth for our life.

### DIVE DEEPER

Since thoughts are such a regular part of life, many people don't think about what they are thinking about. They let cares and worries take over their mind, and don't think about it again. However, it's important that we learn to manage our thoughts well.

You see, what you think about it is what you will become. If you want to be filled with fear and worry, then don't worry about changing your thought patterns. The circumstances of life will often push you in the direction of fear and concern. On the other hand, if you want to bear fruit in God's kingdom, your imagination can create a strong root system in your life that will prepare you to become a tree by the rivers of water bearing much fruit.

This means that you don't have to use past experience to determine future probability. You can use the Bible as the basis for your expectation of the future. In fact, God says that He will give you an expected end. If you want to increase your expectation to align with the Word of God, then build positive expectation through your imagination. The more you focus your mind on picturing the Word of God as true, the more you'll generate momentum in that direction.

Your imagination has procreative power. It will produce what it thinks about. Imagine the power that it will generate when your imagination is focused on the Word of God and what it will produce in your life!

## READ MORE:

### Mark 4:16-17 KJV

*And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

### Psalm 1:2-3 KJV

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

### Proverbs 23:18 KJV

*For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.*

### Romans 12:2 KJV

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

### Jeremiah 29:11 KJV

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

### Philippians 3:13 KJV

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.*

### Philippians 1:20 KJV

*According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

### 1 Peter 1:13 KJV

*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What do you find your imagination focusing on throughout each day?
2. What's one way you can deliberately move your imagination more toward God's Word?
3. What do you expect God to do in your life? What do you expect God to do for your family?
4. How can you change your expectations to align with God's Word?