

Defying Gravity:

A Word for 2018 & Beyond

41 - Living the Simple Gospel: Philippians
Sunday, 21 January 2018

Texts: Phil 1:3-14; 4:21-23; James 5:7-8; Mark 4:26-29; Isaiah 40:28-31

Theme: It's God's will for you to grow, for his good news to expand and for his people to increase.

Intro: It's God's will for you to grow, for his good news to expand and for his people to increase. This means all hands on deck; everyone must serve for the sake of the Lord's mission. Over the next few weeks we are focusing on what the Lord wants to do in 2018. Specifically, the Lord gave me a word: GROWTH. He wants to cause us to grow and I'm using the word growth as an acronym. Today, we will focus on one letter—W. Let's begin by looking at Philippians 1:3-14; 4:21-23.

GROWTH

G - God first

R - Rest, prioritise Rest

O - Obedience. You grow when you obey.

W - Wait. Waiting on the Lord enables you to defy gravity.

T - to be continued

H - to be continued

1) Gravity is an important part of growth. When you grow you are defying gravity.

- Meditations on gravity and growth.
 - Astronauts coming out of space and their muscles.
- The world is like a super magnet, trying to suck you in. Everywhere this force is trying to pull you in and down. However, Jesus overcame it, and you can too (John 14:30).
- The world is like a super-magnet. When you grow, you go against gravity. You go up, rather than down. Gravity helps your muscles to grow. The struggle helps you mature. You are no longer drawn to the world and the ways of the world.
- Jesus walked on water.

2) When you wait on the Lord you overcome gravity (Isaiah 40:28-31)

- But waiting in God's Kingdom is not like waiting at a doctors office. Waiting is not passive, but active. Waiting is all about engaging God, dwelling in his presence. This is what the Psalms teach us.
- Later we will develop the details of what it means to wait on the Lord.

3) There are two types of harvests in God's kingdom. Usually, we only see one and forget the other (James 5:7-8).

- Jesus is waiting for the harvest, and we wait with him.
- Matthew 9:35-38
- There are two types of harvest in God's Kingdom. Usually, we only see the one, but we forget the other. Remember, we learned recently (Tuli's message) that the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.
 - 1) The first harvest is a soul being saved. The seed is the Word. It works in people's hearts, until the point where someone is ready to get saved. Then, also by the sickle of God's Word, we harvest them. Usually, people only think of this harvest when we talk about 'the labourers are few.' In other words, we need to be labourers who preach the Gospel and lead people to Jesus. This involves proclaiming the Gospel, healing diseases and sicknesses, and casting out demons.
 - 2) The second and greater harvest is about discipleship. The seed again is God's Word, but people are don't become grains of wheat until they are mature, that is Christ-like. The

greater harvest is all about bringing people to Christ-like maturity. This is really where the labourers are few. Why? Because you need to be mature, to help others grow mature. Maturity in God's Kingdom is all based on how much you are like Christ.

- This second harvest is all about you becoming a Shepherd who cares for others. You reproducing disciples who can also reproduce disciples. The labourers for this harvest are in fewer than the labourers for the first. It takes time and patience to raise up a disciple.
- You need to teach them to defy gravity.

4) When a head of grain grows to maturity, it has many seeds in it. Maturity is measured in God's Kingdom by your ability to reproduce disciples of Jesus, by shepherding people (Matthew 9:35-38).

- The Parable of the Seed - Mark 4:26-29

- 1) Blade - The budding of life. The seedling. The green begins to sprout. The beginning stages of salvation. Great potential.
- 2) Head - Becoming strong. The word of God is renewing your mind. Jesus is your head and Lord, not just in word but in life-style. You hear and obey. You listen. Jesus does not just have your heart, but your mind as well. What you look at, listen to and speak, has to do with Jesus and his Kingdom.
- 3) Mature Grain in the Head - Fully Mature. Now you are filled with seed to sow in others. Your life is not about just your own growth, but the growth of others. You become a spiritual father and mother to many. You reproduce Christ in others. God's people grow as you become mature.

5) Waiting in Scripture has to do with hope and confident expectation. It is active and engages God in the secret place and with God's people (Psalm 25:3, 5, 21; 27:14; 37:7, 9, 34; 62:1, 5; 106:13; 119:43, 74, 81, 95, 114, 147).

W - Worship & Watch

A - Actively Seek the Father

I - Intertwine yourself with Jesus

T - Trust in the Holy Spirit's ways

Conclusion: I want you to defy gravity and help others to defy gravity. I want you to fight against the gravity of this world so that you can grow.