

DEATH OF A SEED

In the parable of the seed Jesus explains that the seed is the Word of God; the soil is our hearts where the seed was planted. They were defined as the hard soil, the rocky soil, the thorny soil and the fertile soil or the good soil. However I bring to you the analogy of the seed being the life of an individual. Let's think that you as a seed having to die in order to bear fruit. Yeah, in the law of nature, that's what happens. The outside of the seed is the flesh; the inside is the soul, spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes to live in you, death must happen in the flesh, for obedience to the Holy Spirit, who brought life into the spirit. I am crucified with Christ, said Paul. What does it mean? Sharing in the death of our Savior, we die to self. And the life that I now live, I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loves me and gave Himself up for me (Gal.2:22). So it is no longer I who live, but Christ, the resurrected Christ lives in me. If Christ lives in me, I no longer have control of my will. There is now another boss sort of speaking in me that I must follow in obedience. When my life died, the Holy Spirit germinated in my spirit His life to produce fruit into righteousness, patience, love, self-control, faithfulness, submission, mercy, kindness, peace, and goodness. My life is no longer under the condemnation of spiritual death; my life is now under the grace of Grace unto salvation, and sanctification by the work of the Holy Spirit in me. Many of us want the salvation without the sanctification. My friend, there will be no salvation without sanctification, if the Holy Spirit is in you. Thinking that because you don't drink, smoke, practice sexual immorality, you go to church every time its door is opened, that you have crucified your flesh unto sanctification, think again. A life of sanctification is a life of communion with God by the surrender of yourself every day at the reading of His Word, submitting yourself under His sovereign will, without complaining and accepting what circumstance brings knowing that He is in control of your life, so that you will bear fruit through the good and through the bad days, bringing glory to His name. And so it is that with crucifixion of self comes the self-denial, the carrying of your cross and then the following of Jesus. You can not follow Him without first dying, a death unto salvation, sanctification and then glorification. **Think About it!**

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