



Back to the Basics —

**BECOME A SEED PLANTER
AND CHANGE LIVES™**

**GOD'S
WORD®**
TO THE NATIONS
**MISSION
SOCIETY**

God's mission in the space/time continuum of eternity is detailed in Luke 19:10—
“the Son of Man has come to seek and to save people who are lost.”

If somehow we were to ignore or to miss this specific verse, the apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Timothy 2:4 that God “wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth.”

As Paul reveals in the next two verses of this same letter, the truth that God wants everyone to learn—the truth that God knows will change everyone's future—is this:
“There is one God. There is one mediator between God and humans—a human, Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for all people to free them from their sins.”

So, **if this is such an important mission**, why aren't the people of God today *turning the world upside down*, like Christians did during the first three centuries following that first Pentecost?

What's the Challenge for God's People?

The challenge is that we need to get back to the basics so that the Spirit can use us to fix what's spiritually broken in the lives of friends, co-workers, neighbors, and classmates — so that each of them have a future that ends in eternal life, *not eternal death!*

Of course, the first basic we need to fully grasp is that: **God's mission is "to seek and to save people who are lost"** (Luke 19:10).

Now, please read this carefully. As important as all the following directives are, God's *primary* mission is not "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). God's mission is *not* to "preach the Good News" (Mark 16:15). God's mission is *not* to be Jesus' "witnesses here, there, and everywhere" (Acts 1:8). These actually reflect the methods or means we have been given to accomplish God's mission — "**to seek and to save people who are lost**" — and to integrate people into the body of Christ.

Until more of God's people grasp this *Scriptural priority*, God's church will not be focused on the eternal life and death issues reflected in God's mission. In other words, we will not be focused on the *real goal* of God's mission.

If this lack of focus on the real mission isn't a significant enough impediment to God's pastors and people being about God's mission, there are several other basic reasons why outreach (or evangelism) is the number one challenge in the church today.

1) Most of us are scared to speak to other people about what we believe.

As such, despite all the exhortations and pleas from the pulpit, the multitude of training programs, and all the slogans, it's hardly surprising that making evangelism calls ranks with public speaking as most people's greatest fear.

Note: This is a key area where the biblical outreach strategy **Become a Seed Planter and Change Lives** can help.

2) Most of us can't explain what we really believe, at least not in language that *unchurched* people (and, in fact, most *churched* people) can understand. As a result, witnessing about our faith is nearly as frightening an event as making evangelism calls.

Note: This is a where our mission society's translation, *GOD'S WORD*,[®] may help, inasmuch as it communicates Jesus' life-changing message in clear, natural English to everyone — minus the traditional theological words found in most translations.

3) In spite of these two important facts, most of the church's focus remains on harvesting instead of planting, even though God's word is filled with illustrations emphasizing the importance of both (see John 4:37-38).

Why Plant Good Seed Everywhere?

In Luke 8:4-11 (the familiar “Parable of the Sower”), we’re given what our mission society believes to be the dominant biblical strategy to accomplish God’s mission: **Become a Seed Planter and Change Lives**. Let’s quickly evaluate this account:

First, where is the farmer planting the *seed*?

Everywhere — on the road, on rocky soil, among thorns, and on good ground.

Second, does *seed* cost money?

Of course! Just stop for a moment and reflect upon the impact of this parable on the large crowd (mostly farmers) that were listening to Jesus on this occasion. What kind of farmer would use seed for which he paid a lot of money and plant it *everywhere*?

As a side note, why doesn’t a farmer plant cheap seed?

Because he wouldn’t get a good harvest.

Ahhh... but, God does know what he’s doing! The *seed* (i.e., *God’s word*, per Luke 8:11) cost him the ultimate price — the life, the blood, of his own Son. Also, why does God want his word planted *everywhere*? Because “he wants *all* people to be saved and to learn the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

How Do You Become a Seed Planter?

Actually, it’s as easy as 1... 2... 3...

1) Pray.

- Pray for people who are lost — individuals who do not know Jesus as their Savior (Romans 10:1, 1 Timothy 2:1-4) or are nominal Christians, at best.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you **Become a Seed Planter and Change Lives**.

2) Get the right seed.

- Purchase cases of *GOD’S WORD: Real Hope* or *GOD’S WORD of Encouragement*, in a variety of special versions.

3) Plant the seed.

- Look for opportunities to plant God’s word in the course of your daily activities (i.e. wherever you go). Here are a few planting tips:
 - At the doctor’s office — where there are a lot of people in need — leave a copy of *GOD’S WORD of Encouragement* or *GOD’S WORD of Love* in the waiting room when you’re called to see the doctor.
 - At malls, grocery stores, or other public places — when you see someone who appears to be stressed — offer them a copy of *GOD’S WORD of Encouragement*.

- While traveling through airports, leave a copy (or copies) of *GOD'S WORD of Encouragement*, *GOD'S WORD of Love*, or *GOD'S WORD: Real Hope* in the chapel or boarding area.
- Of course, make certain you have copies of these booklets in your purse, briefcase, or coat pocket in case the Spirit provides you with an opportunity to engage in a spiritual discussion with people you meet.
- If you are sending packages to members of the military, include a copy of *GOD'S WORD of Encouragement — A Special Armed Forces Edition*.
- If a friend, coworker, family member, or neighbor is having trouble in some area of their life, offer them a copy of *GOD'S WORD: Real Hope* or *GOD'S WORD of Love* with these words: “This has helped me, maybe it will help you too.”
- Get copies of *The Christmas Story* and *The Easter Story* for use during these special seasons of the year.

Remember, the planting possibilities are endless! Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize everyday opportunities to plant seed and change lives.

Our mission society, like the apostle Paul (Romans 15:20), believes that we need to take God's life-changing word to the people in our increasingly multicultural communities, our nation, and our world that do not know Jesus as their Savior!

What's the Awesome Power of the Seed?

- 1) If God's word is like *seed* that he wants *planted everywhere* (and it is, as we discussed in Luke 8:4-11), and...
- 2) If that *seed* has the *divine power to sprout and grow* all by itself (and it does, per Mark 4:26-27) because God alone is the one who makes it grow (per 1 Corinthians 3:6-8), and...
- 3) If the life-changing message communicated in and through that *seed* is so *powerful* (and it is, per Romans 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 2:4-5), and it “accomplishes whatever God wants and achieves whatever he sends it to do” (and it does, according to Isaiah 55:10-11), then...
- 4) Each person — whether young or old, educated or less educated, trained or untrained in the latest evangelism techniques — only has to **Become a Seed Planter** because the Holy Spirit will work in and through the *seed* (i.e., God's word) that *you* plant to *change lives* so that a lot more people have futures that end in eternal life!

To learn more about how you may **Become a Seed Planter and Change Lives**, contact God's Word to the Nations Mission Society at godsword.org, email us at bible@godsword.org, or call our Society toll-free at **877.463.7967**.

How Do You Get Back to the Basics?

First, you need to understand *how powerful* the Good News is! As the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:16, “It [the Good News] is God’s power to save everyone who believes, Jews first and Greeks as well.”

Remember, basic to successful evangelism is *genuine concern* for the people around you who don’t know the Good News of Jesus’ life-changing message.

Unfortunately, too many congregations continue to buy the least expensive Bibles and Scripture portions available — or get them *for free*. As a result, they take *whatever they can get* — regardless of quality, readability, or applicability to the people they’re serving or trying to reach.

To read more and order the *good seed* available from *GOD’S WORD*®, visit godsword.org and select “Ministry Resources.”

OUR IDENTITY God’s Word to the Nations is a mission society—a mission resource for God’s people!

OUR MISSION To identify and empower individuals to take *GOD’S WORD*® to the English-speaking people of the world, focusing especially upon those who do not know Jesus as their Savior.

OUR PROMISE TO OUR PARTNERS Our Society will provide you with superb outreach materials. These materials will enable you to be used by the Holy Spirit to support a movement among God’s people to be active participants in his mission “*to seek and to save people who are lost*” (Luke 19:10). To this end we promote the biblical outreach strategy: **Become a Seed Planter and Change Lives.™**



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MAIL PO Box 400
Orange Park, FL
32067-0400

PHONE 877.463.7967

EMAIL bible@godsword.org

WEB godsword.org