



**Thistlebend “In the Garden” Week Two
CULTIVATING HEARTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

PLANT

Why do we need to plant God’s Word in our hearts?

1. ***Our faith grows*** – “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)
2. ***Jesus is the Living Word*** - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:1-4)
3. ***To fight temptation*** – “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Eph. 6:16-17)
4. ***Our prayers are answered*** - “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:7)
5. ***The truth sanctifies us*** - “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.” (John 17:17-19)
6. ***God’s Word guides us*** - “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)
7. ***The Lord wants His Word to dwell in us*** - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:16)

8. ***God's Word discerns our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts*** - "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)
9. ***God's Word is truth and the truth sets us free*** - "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31b-32)
10. ***God's Word gives us life*** - "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31)
11. ***God's Word brings forth a fruitful harvest*** - "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does he prospers." (Psalm 1:1-3)
12. ***God's Word revives us; makes us wise; rejoices our hearts; enlightens our eyes; is more desirable than much gold; is sweeter than honey; and helps us obey by warning us*** - "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward." (Psalm 19:7-11)
13. ***We see God as Creator*** - "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host." (Psalm 33:6)
14. ***The Lord delights for us to have His Word (truth) in our inmost being*** - "Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart." (Psalm 51:6)
15. ***This is how we fight sin*** - "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)
16. ***God's Word counsels us*** - "Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors." (Psalm 119:24)

17. **God's Word comforts us** - "This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life." (Psalm 119:50)
18. **God's Word is better than gold or silver** - "The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces." (Psalm 119:72)
19. **God Himself has exalted His Word above all things** - "I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word." (Psalm 138:2)
20. **God's Word does not change** - "Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens." (Psalm 119:89)
21. **God's Word is truth** - "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." (Psalm 119:160)
22. **God's Word does not return empty** - "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Is. 55:11)
23. **God's Word transforms us and enables us to discern God's will** - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)
24. **God's Word teaches us, reproves us, corrects us and trains us in righteousness** - "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16)
25. **God's Word gives us peace** - "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."
26. **God's Word is rich food that satisfies our soul**- "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food." (Is. 55:2)
27. **God's Word is eternal** - "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." (Is. 40:8)
28. **The Lord's will for us is to live on His Word** - "And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread

alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”
(Deut. 8:3)

29. ***God’s Word and our obedience to God’s Word brings blessing*** – “But he said, ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!’” (Luke 11:28)

30. ***Christ alone has the Words of eternal life*** – “So Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘Do you want to go away as well?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.’” (John 6:67-69)

Quote from the Introduction to the Reformation Study Bible: R.C. Sproul Editor

“...the Bible is not like any other book. It is the Book of books. We customarily call this book the Holy Bible. Its holiness is found in its otherness. It is a sacred book because it transcends and stands apart from and above every other book. It is holy because its ultimate Author is holy. It is holy because its message is holy. And it is holy because its content is designed to make us holy. The Bible is an inspired book; that is, it is ‘breathed out’ by God (see 2 Timothy 3:16). It is inspired in a way that reaches far beyond the inspiration of human artists. The Bible offers more than brilliant insight, more than human sagacity (I had to look that word up – it means “soundness of judgment”). It is called ‘inspired’ not because of its supernatural mode of transmission via human authors, but because of its origin. It is not merely a book about God; it is a book from God. Therefore, the true church confesses its trust and confidence that the Bible is the vox Dei, the veritable ‘voice of God.’”