

Gods call on the nation of Ireland

I believe this is a fresh word from the Lord and not because of anything else but only because it is what He is doing in this nation at this time: and he “lets us in on it” so to speak. It is exciting and challenging – and the truth is we can LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT but God is moving and He is moving in Ireland.

PRAYER:

God your promise in Isaiah 55 v11 is that your word will not return to you empty, but that it will accomplish what you desire and achieve the purpose for which it is sent! Father open our hearts and minds to all you are saying to us today by Your Holy Spirit. May you water and grow your word within us so it will be established in completeness with your plans for each one of us.

Mark 4:26-29 (New International Version, ©2010)

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Jesus said this was a description of the Kingdom of God. What does that mean for us today. I believe it means three things:

1. The Kingdom seed grows into a spiritual harvest in us
2. The Kingdom seed grows into a spiritual harvest in others around us
3. The Kingdom seed grows into a spiritual harvest in this nation

1. The Kingdom seed grows into a spiritual harvest in us

Verse 27 & 28 it says:

²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

Night and day once the seed is scattered it grows in us. We don't know how it grows. So we are not doing the work of growing it – the Holy Spirit grows the seed when it has been scattered.

We are receiving God's word all the time – through preaching, at prayer meetings through Prophecy and even as we share in fellowshiping with each other every day. The word is just working away in us as we sleep and as we get up. Sometimes it can take a while to see a harvest from the seed in certain areas within us. But the promise to us is that the Kingdom of God works like this- the seed is growing within us to a spiritual harvest. You can't always see it grow but you can be sure of a spiritual harvest within you.

I want to use this personal illustration of what happened in my life last year in which I saw eventually a spiritual harvest in an area where seed had been sown.

We had been really praying about family and friends who just never seemed to be getting anyway close to God. All we could see were messes as people seemed to refuse Jesus. God had done so much in our lives and we were so eager for everyone to accept what Jesus had done for them that we ended up just getting tired and discouraged. At that time we got a direct word from God in Revelation 4 verse 1: *It said*

“Come up here and I will show you what must take place after this.”

It was a real, living rhema word – a word or seed that got scattered into my heart. God was and is very much in control He was telling us the only way to do anything for the Kingdom of God was from the heavenlies. God directs us from the heavenly realms. The only power we have is when we are connected to Him in deep fellowship.

In Ephesians 2 verse 6 – it says

“God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”

We do everything from this high point. We stay in this place by putting God first, making time for Him every day, staying connected no matter what is happening around us and trusting Him in all things. Our faith in Him keeps us in the secret place. That seed was working away in me over the last 10 months from that time. I didn't notice it but now I see the spiritual harvest in that instruction from that seed. I know absolutely without a doubt that staying seated in the heavenly realms by trusting God in all things is the only way. That seed has worked a spiritual harvest in my life. The same could be said for the seed of the word in healing or in other areas. The word works away in us to produce a spiritual harvest and we just have to keep on being in a place where we get the word scattered into our hearts. God then does it. Don't move from where the seed is being scattered! IN SHORT CONTINUE STAY IN A PLACE TO RECEIVE GODS WORD (SEED).

Isaiah 55 v11 says :

*so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

2.

The Kingdom seed grows into a spiritual harvest in others around us

Mark 4 v 26 to 28

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

This really excites me, not only does the seed grow in us to a spiritual harvest but through us, God wants seed to be scattered into others so we become the farmer who scatters the seed. Just as we have received our spiritual harvests we find that the Holy Spirit "sets up" divine situations in which we are called to scatter seed into others lives. That is very exciting! We can see this happen right through this fellowship. Everyone has scattering seed times. Everyone is scattering Kingdom Seed. The seed works within these other people and changes people, families, cities and nations!

Rathfriland - a good practical example of scattering seed to change lives, towns, cities and nations.

Sheila and Olive go to the charity shop in Rathfriland and the woman in the shop tells them she is in a lot of pain because of Arthritis. Olive & Sheila pray for her and she is healed. The next time they meet Olive & Sheila find that this lady is scattering Kingdom Seed and in fact so are a lot of others as Carol hears the story about the lady's healing in another home in Rathfriland too.

So the call in Ireland today is what we are doing we are scattering & scattering the seed of the Kingdom of God.

3.

The Kingdom seed grows into a spiritual harvest in this nation

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

In the context of this nation of Ireland can we see what God is doing? This is a very, very exciting time for the church. We have been all chosen and born for this season. We have been created and called to be farmers scattering Kingdom Seed. This call is not just for us in Hope Fellowship but it is a call to the Church all around Ireland. In verse 29 it says as soon as the grain is ripe – he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come. Who has grown the harvest – GOD but who has been called to scatter the seed – US!

The ultimate harvest in Ireland is for souls and God wants souls and we want souls into God’s Kingdom. God’s plan is that no one should perish. We might think this is a hard call but it is easy for God if we are obedient and **SCATTER THAT SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

We watched a film a few weeks ago that I had seen some time ago it is about an African farmer called Angus Buchanan. It really made me think of Ireland and not just because it is a potato story called “Faith like potatoes”. It made me think of Ireland and what God is doing now.

Angus was a wild man who got radically saved and he became a very strong and brave believer. Listening to God, being directed by him and doing what God told Him.

The story starts in Africa where there has been an extremely dry season and no rain has come and none forecasted to come any time soon. No one has dared plant seed but Angus has heard from God and believes he should plant seed - he receives a word from God from Ecclesiastes 11 verse 4:

Ecclesiastes 11 verse 4:

*⁴ Whoever watches the wind will not plant;
whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.*

Angus received this word and believed it meant he should not look to the natural but should trust God and look to the supernatural and sow the seed. Everything in the natural would have put him off planting but he had heard from God to sow the seed and he did. The banks warned him, friends and family warned him and even the friendly pastor wasn't that sure about it all. The only one who did seem to believe Angus was his worker who said that God had done great things before and God would do it again.

The great day of the harvest came. Angus and his worker stood alone on the heat scorched dry drills. It really doesn't look too good in the natural. Angus prays and gives thanks and commits everything to God. They dig into the soil and find

Numbers 23 verse 19 is very true:-

"God is not man that he should lie or the son of man that He should change His mind."

They find they have the biggest harvest of potatoes they have ever seen. When I watched that day I thought of what God has asked us to do here. He has asked us to sow and scatter seed often into very dry and dusty places. But it is a great time for Ireland as it will be a great time of harvest – the best spiritual harvest Ireland has ever seen. It might not look like it now in the natural but God has spoken and he just wants us all to continue to scatter the seeds of his Kingdom and He will grow the harvest.

At the very end of the story we see a trail of family and friends arriving to help take in the harvest. These are people whose hearts were for Angus but weren't quite sure how it would work out but they turned up in faith to labour and take in the harvest along with him. I believe we will see this too. Others, later, will come to help take in the harvest whose hearts are for God.

Our Part - call and responsibility is:

To be committed completely to God and this will bring holiness and revelation.

To honour God, His church and others.

To move only in accountability and integrity.