

To grow well a seed must be planted in good soil and watered

This is unchangeably true in both the natural realm of plants and in God's spiritual realm:

In the Spirit realm: What is the seed? Luke 8:11 **...The seed is the word of God.**

What is the soil? Mat 13:19 **...The word of the kingdom...which was sown in their heart;**

What is the water? 1 Cor 3:6 **I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.**

Prov 11:25 **...Those who water will also be watered themselves.**

What is this water, this living water without which seeds even when planted will not grow?

1. God's word is water: Eph 5:26 **...The washing of water by the word,**
But the word spoken is spirit: John 6:63 **The words that I speak to you are spirit...**
2. The Holy Spirit is water: John 7:38-39 **Those who believe Me...out of their hearts will flow rivers of living water. Jesus said this about the Spirit...**
3. Our hearts or spirits are water: Prov 21:1 **The king's heart (or spirit) is in the hand of the LORD, Like rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wills.**

So, anything that is spirit, and alive in God, is water, that is, living water, be it God's spoken words, or the Holy Spirit or our own hearts or spirits. So how then do we water? We water by speaking words from our hearts by the breath of the Holy Spirit. How do these words as water then differ from seed? Because these living words will be either:

Living Words spoken about scripture or lovingly about God Himself.

Living words of praise to God for His Goodness and of prayer to Him.

Living words of our own testimony.

Living words of exhortation, edification and comfort - 1 Cor 14:3.

Living words of actual scripture but which are not being given as seed.

Any living words that constitute fruit, most of which is not actually seed.

An apple is fruit, but most of it while desirable, is not the actual seed which it contains.

John 15:16 **I chose you and ordained you that you should go and bear fruit...**

Mark 4:26 **The kingdom of God is as if a person should scatter seed on the ground,**

Most natural fruit is attractive to look at, tastes good and is beneficial to the eater, in order to induce animals or people to consume the fruit. With the objective that in some way the fruit's seeds will be dispersed and so potentially reproduce that particular species of plant.

What is likely to be the source of the living water for less and more mature Christians?

For newly converted or revived Christian, the living water essential for the seeds of God's words to grow, will be spirit words spoken by the Holy Spirit through other Christians.

For Christians filled with and led by the Holy Spirit they will be watered continually by the Holy Spirit as they submit to the Spirit's guidance in every choice and decision

Isa 27:2-3 **...A vineyard** (consisting of those Christians currently living in Christ, led by His Spirit) **I, the LORD, keep it, I water it every moment...** (This means a Christian's heart stays tender and every fresh seed is continually watered).

In nature does seed instantly become a full grown plant? No, neither does God's seed:

What happens when the seed of God's word is sown in a heart and watered? Just like natural seed it germinates and begins to grow but it is not very strong yet, and may need to be constantly watered for a time until it is fully grown and powerful enough to deliver a person's soul, that is, their will from being a captive in some area to their human nature.

James 1:21 **...Receive with meekness the implanted word** (implanted literally means the word that sprouts up or germinates), **which has the power to save your souls** (to free your will from captivity to some besetting sin).

Mark 4:28 **For the earth** (the heart) **yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head** (the seed of God's word originally sown has now produced a harvest of seeds to be sown into other hearts).

Do we expect God's seed once planted to produce instant rather than progressive change

Once the seed of God's word is successfully sown in a heart, shouldn't we give it time to germinate and mature before expecting its transforming power to manifest in a person's life? Shouldn't our focus be to let the Holy Spirit lead us to frequently water the seed and then introduce that soil, that person, to the moment by moment waterer, the Holy Spirit?

Rev 22:17 **The Holy Spirit and the bride** (the living Church) **say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" And let those who are thirsty come. Whoever wants to, let them take the water of life freely.**