

2. FRUITFULNESS: DEVELOPING UNDERSTANDING

(Mat 13:1 KJV) The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. (Mat 13:2 KJV) And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. (Mat 13:3 KJV) And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; (Mat 13:4 KJV) And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: (Mat 13:5 KJV) Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: (Mat 13:6 KJV) And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. (Mat 13:7 KJV) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: (Mat 13:8 KJV) But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. (Mat 13:9 KJV) Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

(Mat 13:18 KJV) Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. (Mat 13:19 KJV) When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

I. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

- A. *Seed fell on way side*--devoured by the fowls of the air.
- B. *Seed fell on stony ground*--withered because of lack of depth.
- C. *Seed fell among thorns*--choked by the cares of this life.

II. BEING FRUITFUL BY PRESERVING THE SEED.

- A. *Fruitfulness: Developing Understanding.*
- B. *Fruitfulness: Developing a Good Root System.*
- C. *Fruitfulness: Dealing with the Stresses of Life.*
- D. *Fruitfulness: Cultivating Good Soil.*

III. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: THE SEED THAT FALLS ON THE WAYSIDE.

- A. *Fowls of the air come to devour.*
- B. *Interpretation:*
 1. (Mat 13:19 KJV) When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.
 2. Difficulty of understanding the Word of God.
 3. (Acts 8:30 KJV) And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?
- C. Two types of understanding.
 1. Natural understanding:
 - a. Mental process of a person who understands; comprehension.
 - b. Understanding in the realm of the mind.
 2. Spiritual understanding.
 - a. Jesus's explanation for using parables. (Mat 13:13 KJV) Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. (Mat 13:14 KJV) And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: (Mat 13:15 KJV) For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their

eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. (Mat 13:16 KJV) But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

b. **Spiritual understanding likened unto open eyes; enlightenment.**

D. ***Enlightenment.***

1. (Eph 1:18 KJV) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
2. (Eph 4:17 KJV) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,(Eph 4:18 KJV) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
3. (Luke 24:45 KJV) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

E. ***Our understanding and experiences of the natural comes first.***

1. *"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual."* (I Cor. 15:46).
2. We understand the function of the spiritual body through the analogy of the natural body.
3. We understand the relationship of Jesus to His church through analogy of relationship of husband and his wife.
4. Understanding of spiritual, mystical, universal church (which is Christ's Body in the earth) through the function of the local church.
5. We understand God's relationship with spiritual Israel by studying His relationship with natural Israel.
6. Understand the spiritual birth through understanding natural birth.

IV. **WITH ALL YOUR GETTING, GET UNDERSTANDING.**

- A. ***Get understanding.*** (Prov 4:5 KJV) Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. (Prov 4:7 KJV) Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.
- B. ***Pauls's desire that we be filled.*** (Col 1:9 KJV) For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

V. **A PROFILE OF ONE WITH UNDERSTANDING.**

- A. ***Happiness.*** (Prov 3:13 KJV) Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.
- B. ***Knowledge of the holy.*** (Prov 9:10 KJV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
- C. ***Gets along with his neighbors.*** (Prov 11:12 KJV) He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.
- D. ***Is temperate.*** (Prov 14:29 KJV) He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.
- E. ***Walks upright.*** (Prov 15:21 KJV) Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.
- F. ***Chaste and clean sexually.*** (Prov 6:32 KJV) But whoso committeth adultery with a woman

lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

HOW TO GET UNDERSTANDING.

A. *Understanding comes from the Lord.*

1. The Lord gives by His mouth. (Prov 2:6 KJV) For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
2. The inspiration of God. (Job 32:8 KJV) But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.
3. The Lord. (2 Tim 2:7 KJV) Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

B. *Understanding comes through asking and seeking.*

1. Seeking early. (Proverbs 8:1-21). (Prov 8:1 KJV) Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? (Prov 8:2 KJV) She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. (Prov 8:3 KJV) She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. (Prov 8:4 KJV) Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. (Prov 8:5 KJV) O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. (Prov 8:6 KJV) Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. (Prov 8:7 KJV) For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. (Prov 8:8 KJV) All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. (Prov 8:9 KJV) They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. (Prov 8:10 KJV) Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. (Prov 8:11 KJV) For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. (Prov 8:12 KJV) I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. (Prov 8:13 KJV) The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. (Prov 8:14 KJV) Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. (Prov 8:15 KJV) By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. (Prov 8:16 KJV) By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. (Prov 8:17 KJV) I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. (Prov 8:18 KJV) Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. (Prov 8:19 KJV) My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. (Prov 8:20 KJV) I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: (Prov 8:21 KJV) That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.
2. Vv. 32-35. (Prov 8:32 KJV) Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. (Prov 8:33 KJV) Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. (Prov 8:34 KJV) Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. (Prov 8:35 KJV) For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.
3. Ask of God.
 - a. (James 1:5 KJV) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
 - b. (Mat 7:7 KJV) Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: (Mat 7:8 KJV) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

C. *Understanding comes through the Word of God.*

1. (Prov 3:1 KJV) My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: (Prov 3:2 KJV) For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. (Prov 3:3 KJV) Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: (Prov 3:4 KJV) So shalt thou find favour and good

understanding in the sight of God and man.

2. (Psa 111:10 KJV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.
3. (Psa 119:100 KJV) I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.
4. (Psa 119:130 KJV) The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

D. *Understanding comes through teaching.*

1. Seek knowledge. (Prov 15:14 KJV) The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.
2. Weaned from milk. (Isa 28:9 KJV) Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.
3. Anointed pastors. (Jer 3:15 KJV) And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.
4. Having a teachable spirit.
Willingness to seek counsel. (Prov 1:5 KJV) A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
Willingness to receive reproof. (Prov 15:32 KJV) He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

Understanding comes through faith. (Heb 11:3 KJV) Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Understanding comes by selling out and buying it.

- (Prov 23:23 KJV) Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.
 (Mat 13:45 KJV) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: (Mat 13:46 KJV) Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.