

Treasures on Earth vs. Treasures in Heaven

(Part 5)

In our ongoing exploration of the contrast between earthly treasures and heavenly treasures, we have reached Part 5 of this study. Building on the insights from Part 4, we delve deeper into the profound truths revealed in Scripture, focusing on the role of the Holy Spirit and the significance of God's Word in our lives.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:37-39 underscores a remarkable promise: the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who repent and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. This gift is not merely symbolic; it is transformative, enabling believers to bear spiritual fruit that glorifies God.

As Jesus Himself taught, God is glorified when His children bear much fruit (**John 15:8**). This parallels the natural desire of parents to see their children thrive and succeed.

However, a question arises: Why do some Christians, despite receiving the Holy Spirit, bear little fruit or exhibit limited spiritual transformation? The answer lies in understanding the depth of our engagement with Scripture and the Holy Spirit's guidance.

The Remez Method: Jesus' Teaching Style

In His earthly ministry, Jesus often used a teaching method known as **remez**, which means "**hinting**" or "**alluding to**." This rabbinic style encouraged listeners to connect His words with deeper truths found in Scripture. For example, Jesus hinted at profound spiritual realities through metaphors and references to familiar concepts.

A key to understanding these hints lies in **familiarity with Scripture**. The more we immerse ourselves in God's Word, the more the Holy Spirit can reveal deeper meanings and guide us into truth. This principle is evident in passages like **Ezekiel 47:1-12** and **Psalms 1:1-3**, where themes of water, trees, and fruitfulness symbolize spiritual vitality and consistent growth.

Rivers of Living Water

In **John 7:37-39**, Jesus speaks of "**rivers of living water**" flowing from those who **believe** in Him, referring to the work of the Holy Spirit. These rivers represent life-giving words and communication with God through our **prayer language**, often expressed as **speaking in tongues**. This heavenly language is described as being filled with words of life—words that originate from Jesus Himself.

The concept of "rivers" aligns with Ezekiel's vision, where the river flowing from the sanctuary brings life wherever it goes (**Ezekiel 47:9, 12**). Similarly, our prayer language, inspired by the Holy Spirit, carries words of life that nourish and build us spiritually.

The Importance of Precision in God's Word

An enlightening moment in this study was the discovery of the correct spelling and meaning of **remez**. Initially misunderstood as **remes**, which refers to "**creeping things**" in **Genesis 1:25**, this correction highlights the importance of accuracy in handling God's Word.

As **2 Timothy 2:15** reminds us, we are called to rightly divide the Word of truth. Even a single letter can alter the meaning of a word, underscoring the need for diligence and reliance on the Holy Spirit as our Teacher.

Treasures in Heaven: The Value of Words

Turning to **Matthew 6:19-21**, Jesus instructs us not to store up treasures on earth but to lay up treasures in heaven. **This raises a critical question:** If we cannot take material possessions with us when we die, what constitutes our heavenly treasure?

The Greek word for "**treasure**" (**thesauros**) reveals that it refers to a storehouse or repository—metaphorically, a place where thoughts, feelings, or valuable words are kept. This understanding shifts our focus from material wealth to spiritual riches, particularly the Word of God.

The Bible itself is a **great thesaurus**, filled with choice words and divine wisdom. Our treasures are not possessions, but the eternal truths and life-giving words found in Scripture. As **Colossians 2:3** declares, all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ.

Storing Up God's Word

Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the importance of storing God's Word in our hearts. Verses like **Job 22:21-22** and **Psalms 119:9-11** encourage us to meditate on and internalize His commandments. By doing so, we align our hearts with His will and equip ourselves to live righteously.

Proverbs 24:3-4 beautifully illustrate this principle: "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches." **Wisdom, understanding, and knowledge**—rooted in God's Word—are the true treasures that enrich our lives and guide our steps.

Conclusion

As we continue to explore the contrast between earthly and heavenly treasures, we are reminded that our ultimate treasure lies not in possessions but in the eternal truths of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to bear fruit, guiding us into deeper understanding through Scripture. By storing up His Word in our hearts, we build a foundation of wisdom, knowledge, and spiritual maturity that endures beyond this life.

Let us **commit** ourselves to seeking these heavenly treasures, allowing God's Word to shape our character and guide our actions. For where our treasure is—where His words dwell richly in us—there will our hearts be also.

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