

# “Break Up Your Fallow Ground and Make Entrance For Hope”

## *Threshing Part Seven*

***“Break up your fallow ground,  
and sow not among thorns” Jeremiah 4:3***

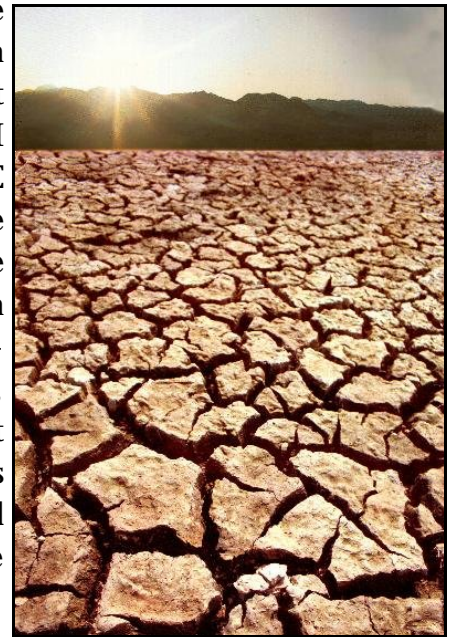
Why do farmers break up their fallow ground, and remove the rocks, thorns, and weeds? It is preparation for sowing seed into their field. They are breaking open and preparing the ground to make an entrance and place for the seed to have a suitable environment for growth. Fallow ground is ground that has been un-harvested / un-cultivated for a season, and has therefore been left to itself, untended and without seed in it. During such a time the ground can become hardened and overgrown with weeds and thorns. Seed cannot be sown into ground that is hard and unbroken. Only ground that is broken open can receive seed and facilitate growth. A hardened patch of ground must endure “the trauma of the plow” to become broken enough to receive seed. Brokenness must occur in the ground before the seed can ever get inside. Without the seed sown into the soil, there is no hope of fruitfulness or change. Hence, we are exhorted to break up our fallow ground.



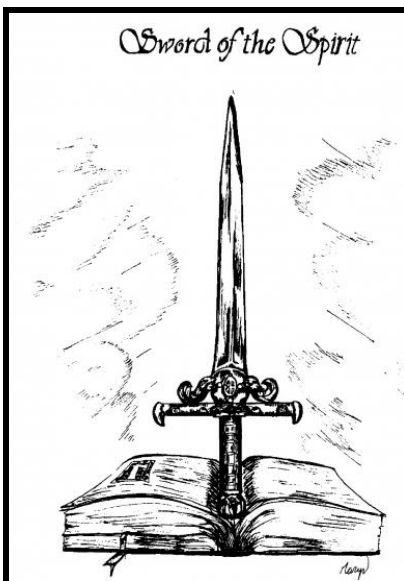
Before considering the necessity of dealing with ground that needs breaking, we must remember the difference between the Seed and us. We are the earthen vessel, the “dirt”, which is selfish, proud and corruptible. Jesus is the Seed, which is incorruptible and contains the eternal Life of God. In farming terms, the difference between what is the dirt and what is the seed is undeniably clear. You can tenderly cultivate a field of dirt all day long. You can plow it, fertilize it, pour miracle grow into it, and water it but NOTHING of life will come forth from your labors. Only the presence of the seed in the dirt brings the potential for fruit. If that seed cannot get inside of the dirt because the dirt is hard and unyielding, then brokenness is needed. Brokenness is purposeless unless it makes room for the seed. There is no hope for Light, Life, or true change until that Seed which is Christ can have place INSIDE the earth of our hearts.

Let us leave farming terms and speak more clearly in relation to our daily lives. Consider if there is an area in our life where we have allowed un-forgiveness to remain for many years. There is a sense of bitterness (thorns) and hardness of heart that has kept us unresponsive to the Lord and unable to receive His Word deep within. We hear God’s word, but our heart does not open. Pride, stubbornness, and a sense of injustice sustain our hardened stance. After many years we begin to feel dead inside. There has been no movement of life, no communion with God, no inward stirring of the indwelling Son. We begin to feel trapped in the prison of our own bitterness. We may ask ourselves questions such as, “Where are those rivers of living water that are meant to flow from my innermost being? Is there any hope of Christ filling this area again?” The answer is YES... IF we will break from our pride and stubbornness and open up so that the Seed of Life can be sown there. Notice that the

scripture in Jeremiah 4:3 exhorts us to do the breaking up of the hard ground. We are not able to produce the Life, but we can begin to make our hearts ready for the Life to come in. Some may cry out in confusion at this point, “But HOW do I break my ground when I feel so hard inside?” True brokenness is simply OPENESS TO THE SEED. Only Life can overcome pride and un-forgiveness, but before Life comes we can break with our hardened stance that shuts out the Word of God. We can begin to receive a view that is higher than our own opinion. Without this form of humility we will continually usurp the Seed with our own mind and ways. Remember, without openness to the Seed there is no hope of the changes that only Life can bring. We may be closed to the Seed because our focus is on the dirt. We may have made it all about our strengths and weaknesses, or some temporal situation rather than the supreme reality of God’s Son in us as our ALL.



The preaching of the Cross needs to become the “plow of God” treading over us, breaking up our resistance to God’s wisdom and way (I Corinthians 1:18). The Word of God needs to become a



two edged sword that can pierce and divide deep into the motives and intents of our hearts, discerning the hidden areas where self has been trying to survive (Hebrews 4:12). The dealings of God need to become like a hammer that can finally break through our strong opinions and open us up to God’s view instead. The voice of God needs to become like a trumpet that wakes us up from our passive resistance to His eternal work in us. Our numbness will flee away and new responsiveness to God will come as we simply open to Him again. Begin to lay yourself open before the Lord that you might soften to His eternal heart cry. Our Father is the Eternal Gardener that wants to sow His Son and grow His Son into every area of our being. He alone can bring the increase, but we can cultivate a field that opens to receive His tending, and refuses to lay fallow, untouched, and uninfluenced by the advances of the Gardener.

A broken and open field cries out, “Word of God speak, Word of God move, Word of God go deep into my ground until Christ is literally alive and fruitful and filling my land!” If God’s word comes like a sharp sword, a loud trumpet, a hammer or a plow, even then that field remains open because its one and only purpose is to bring forth Christ. It will not be offended with the force of the plow or the piercing of the sword. God’s Word is a mighty tool, both to prepare fallow fields for new Life and sow Christ into cultivated hearts. May we be that field, that patch of dirt where Christ can grow, form and fill our earth with His glory! May the Holy Spirit minister grace to us as we open before the Lord in areas that have lain fallow and untouched by the Lord for years. May we trust in our Father to bring us from the emptiness of lying fallow into the blessedness of bearing Christ.

