

- Genesis 12:1-4 NIV, The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.
 - God planted a single seed of faith in the heart of Abraham
 - From that single seed faith in God and His Word Abraham grew into full faith
 - Even trusting God's command to sacrifice his promised son Isaac
 - That faith in Abraham grew until it influenced around a million Israelites coming out of Egyptian Slavery, all the way through Jesus Christ and up to you and me today

- That same seed of faith was planted into the hearts of Jesus' disciples
 - Matthew 4:18-23 NIV, 18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.
 - ➤ 21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.
- It is the same seed of faith God placed within our hearts at salvation

Scripture

Mark 4:30-32 NIV, 30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

- We have talked about our personal heart-soil and its response to God's Word Seed
 - Letting the Truth Seed shine into every area of your life exposing the lies and replacing them with the truth of God
 - Trusting the seed planted to produce God's desired result in your life
 - > The seed knows what to do
 - Today, trust the seed to grow and mature

- Inconspicuous not easily noticed or seen; not prominent or striking
 - You can see it if you know what signs to look for, but physically it doesn't come up and slap you in the face for notice
 - "Under the radar" would be another way to imagine it
 - You plant a seed under the soil
 - It is hidden, you can't physically see it
 - There are no visual signs of growth, but you know the seed is there and you begin looking for signs
 - Slowly it begins to push up and you identify it

- Inconspicuous not easily noticed or seen; not prominent or striking
 - Abraham no one special at the start, no one could see what he would become but God
 - Gideon becoming a great warrior
 - David becoming a King after his whole family forgot about him
 - A Samaritan woman having had five husband and currently living with one unmarried

- Inconspicuous not easily noticed or seen; not prominent or striking
 - A small group of people trying to follow and understand Jesus
 - No one in this group was special, or had great talents, or great faith
 - All of them at this point were looking for a different Messiah with their own agendas
 - No one suspected that Peter would walk on water
 - Or could stand before the most powerful religious leaders of Israel and preach salvation only through Jesus Christ

- Inconspicuous not easily noticed or seen; not prominent or striking
 - Acts 4:12-13 NIV, 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."
 - ➤ 13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.
 - Every born-again child of God begins with an inconspicuous seed of faith that God desires to grow into His image of you
 - Vs. 30-31, "30 What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth."

Seed growth is always expected and nurtured by God

- Vs 31-32, 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.
 Yet when planted, it grows.
- 1st Peter 2:2-3 NIV, 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- Since we have tasted of salvation and know that the Lord is good then we must begin to grow up in our salvation
 - Or allow the seed of faith to mature into what God desires you to be
 - Not your family, friends, enemies, history, failures or successes

Seed growth is always expected and nurtured by God

- You don't expect your children to remain living and responding like a toddler?
 - You don't expect your calves to remain the same as when born
 - You expect growth and maturity everywhere else except at times your salvation
- How?
 - We must learn who Jesus really is
 - We must learn the great treasure of salvation
 - We must let the Word of God nurture us revealing the lies we have been living and replace them with God's truth
 - We must learn like Abraham to just let go and trust God to fulfill his purpose in our lives, in His time and in His way

Seed growth is always expected and nurtured by God

- Colossians 2:6-7 NIV, 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
- Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV, 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- The size of the seed never determines the full growth of the plant
 - Vs. 32, "Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."
 - The mustard seed is so small you will lose it in the soil
 - But it is there and even pushes through the ground small
 - No one upon seeing the initial growth would ever consider it important
 - But it can grow upwards to 30 feet tall, with branches strong enough to give relief and safety to all types of birds

- God will expand your influence as He matures you
 - As He redeems your past, He grows a branch other needing that can rest and find truth
 - As He brings forgiveness into your failures, He grows another branch
 - As He brings triumph to your shame and hope to your future
 - He will make your life a place where others can come and find rest and peace, truth and acceptance

- This also tells me that God's Kingdom is big enough and strong enough for every type of person with all types of issues
 - There is a place for you in God's Kingdom
 - There's a place where all of us bent just a little different can find acceptance
 - A place you can come in and find peace, acceptance, hope
 - There is place you fit called the Kingdom of God

- There is place you fit called the Kingdom of God
 - John 14:1-4 NIV, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

- Luke tells us Jesus was crucified with two thieves
 - Isaiah 53:12 NIV, "numbered with the transgressors"
 - Mark called them rebels and note in Mark 15:32 NIV, "Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him."
 - Luke 23:42-43 NIV, 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
 - ➤ 43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
 - Amazing, the life of this saved thief whose name we do not know still speaks to us today

