

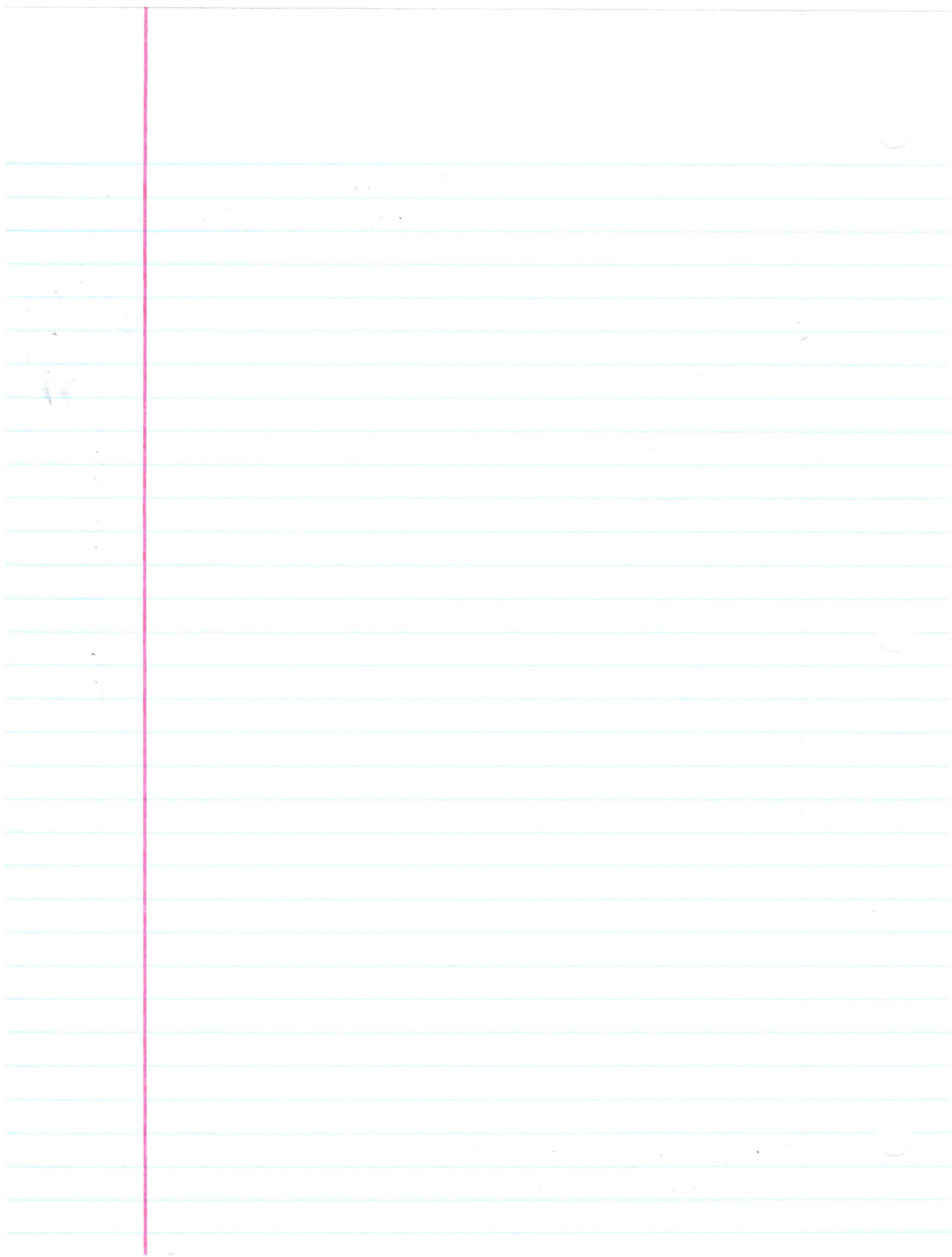
#21

Ears To Hear

- Meditating On God's Word

SONGS
OF PRAISE
- Psalm 32:7 -
PERSEVERANCE

The teaching ministry of
John Kerr



Matthew 13:1-52

Ears To Hear

Mark 4:1-32

- Meditating On God's Word

Luke 8:4-21

Key Verses: Luke 8:8b; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3

"And when He had said these things; He cried, 'He that hath ears to hear, let him hear'."

- Luke 8:8b (KJV)

"What you do with the Word of God determines what God does with you." - Dr. Joe Combo

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night."

- Psalm 112

"Delight." Does that describe your time in God's Word? Delight is a kid getting a double-dip, chocolate chip, ice cream cone.

Or is it obligation? It was with me.

This truth made the difference from obligation to:

"Oh, how I love your law!"

It is my meditation all the day."

- Psalm 119:97 (NKJV)

You will LOVE God's Word when it is personal, when it has had a direct effect on your life. You need to see God's Word work. Many people never experience that. When you slow down and meditate on the Bible, God will speak straight into YOUR situation. As you are reading and meditating, the Holy Spirit will put other Scriptures into

SONGS OF DELIVERANCE
- Psalm 32:7 -

your mind. You will find Him leading you on a path of truth that you need RIGHT NOW in your life.

"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth."

- John 16:13a

The Holy Spirit guides you into ALL truth. He will show you everything you need to know right now, so you can obey His Word and be prospered. God told Joshua that is the whole reason for meditating on the Word day and night.

"then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

- Joshua 1:8b

King David understood this. He grew up on it, tending sheep. So, the first Psalm says:

"in His law doth he meditate day and night."

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; AND WHATSOEVER HE DOETH SHALL PROSPER."

- Psalm 1:2b, 3 (emphasis mine)

Over and over, God says that He wants everything Whatever you do to prosper. That promise he does is connected to His Word, prospers."

- Ps 1:3 (HCSB)

It is all about how we receive God's Word.

READ: Luke 8:4-21

Look at verse 18.

"Take heed therefore how ye hear."

Be careful How you hear. That is the whole point of this parable, and it's the part that WE control. That is the parable of the seed. I grew up on the farm.

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- Moses ignored the most powerful army on earth, and went forward through the Red Sea.
- Jesus ignored a laughing crowd, and raised a little girl from the dead.
- Noah ignored the whole world, and built an ark to save his family.

Satan will provide distractions that may SEEM legitimate, so you will take your focus off re-ceiving the Word.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

- Matthew 5:6

Sometimes we should be so hungry for the Word that we even forget to be hungry for food. (John 4:32)

D. Good Soil - Those Who Receive The Word Into A Prepared Heart - Luke 8:8

"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts, and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

- Jeremiah 31:33

We live in that covenant. God puts His Spirit into all who believe in Jesus. His Spirit teaches us all things, writes God's laws into our hearts, and causes us to walk in them. Our part is faith. By faith we receive the Word into the good soil of

our heart.

• "The seed is the Word of God."

— Luke 8:11b

• "The sower sows the Word."

— Mark 4:14

So, now the soil is ready. I have prepared to let the Spirit write the truth on my heart. It's time to put down the devotional book, and go to the Teacher.

Slow down and just let Him talk to you.

Pray: "Holy Spirit, where do I read today?"

Slow down, and just let the Holy Spirit talk to you. On one such occasion the Holy Spirit told me to read the book of Nehemiah. I will admit, it had been a long time since I had read Nehemiah. As I began to read, I saw how similar Nehemiah's work was to what God has been doing in my life these three years in prison... and perhaps in YEARS. A month-and-a-half, and 32 pages later, God had given me, "Rebuilding The Ruins The Book of Nehemiah." It's a Bible study on how God can rebuild a man's life.

So, start by asking the Spirit to teach you the Word.

Holy Spirit, Next, don't have an agenda.

Where do I read today? This is not the time to read through the Bible in a year. It's time to just listen at Jesus' feet. Sometimes, I have spent the whole time on one verse, or one chapter. Other times, He says, "Read Ephesians." Just listen.

You will be amazed! Your time with Him will fit in with a book He has you read. Then, the preacher

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on tv will preach on that same Scripture... hmmm.

"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

- Hebrews 4:12

This book, the Bible, is not like ANY OTHER book in the world! <u>It is alive!</u> "quick" Not figuratively;	
This book	it IS alive! It is the <u>source</u>
is not like	of life! All life began by
ANY OTHER	God's Word. (John 1:3; Genesis
<u>Book!</u>	1:3)

You hold in your other hand, the power to create a universe, part a sea, heal a cripple, <u>raise the dead</u> , prosper a business, restore a broken marriage, rebuild a ruined life. O, shout praise to God for His Word!	You hold in your other hand, the power to create a <u>universe!</u>
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Don't just read, meditate.
Glory to God!

Introduction

Background Information

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of a new educational program on student learning outcomes. The program, which was developed by a team of experts in the field, aims to improve students' understanding of complex concepts and their ability to apply this knowledge in practical situations. The study will focus on the following research questions:

- 1. What are the key components of the educational program?
- 2. How does the program differ from traditional teaching methods?
- 3. What are the expected outcomes of the program?
- 4. How can the program be implemented effectively in a classroom setting?

The study will involve a series of experiments and observations. The first phase will focus on the development of the program, while the second phase will involve its implementation in a classroom. The third phase will involve the collection and analysis of data to determine the program's effectiveness. The results of the study will be used to inform the development of future educational programs and to improve the quality of education for all students.

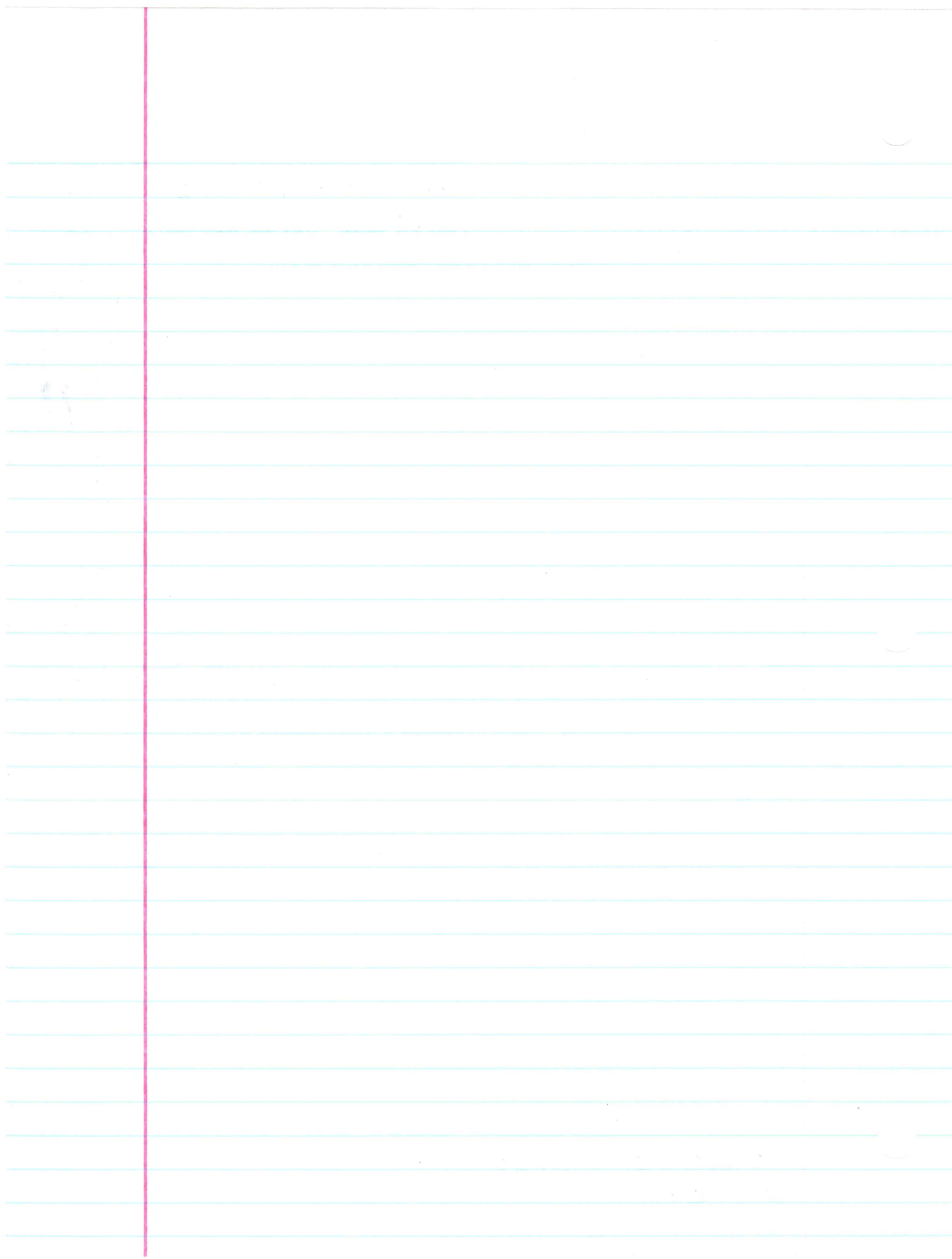
The study is expected to have a significant impact on the field of education, as it will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of different teaching methods and the importance of practical learning experiences.

#22

For His Name's Sake
— Psalm 23

SONGS
OF
DAVID
— Psalm 32:7 —
ELVERANCE

The teaching ministry of
John Kerr



For His Name's Sake - Psalm 23

- Psalm 23

Key Verse: Psalm 23:3

I often meditate on Psalm 23, especially as I am falling asleep. It is a great reminder to me of how much depends on God, and how my efforts are summed up in focusing my faith on Him.

One night, verse three caught my attention. He guides me in righteousness "for His name's sake". In each of these things that He does in Psalm 23, His name is the cause; He ~~does~~ all of this "for His name's sake".

"The Lord is my shepherd;"

- That's His name: Jehovah - Ruchi
- "The Lord, our Shepherd"

"I shall not want"

- That's His name: Jehovah - Jireh
- "The Lord, our Provider"

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside still waters."

- That's His name: Jehovah - Shalom
- "The Lord, our Peace"

"He restoreth my soul."

- That's His name: Jehovah - Rophe
- "The Lord, our Healer"

The Almighty God chooses to name Himself after your needs!

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; ¹for Thou art with me; ²Thy rod and Thy
staff they comfort me."

- ¹That's His name: Jehovah - Shammah

"The LORD, who is present"

- ²That's His name: Jehovah - Shalom

"The LORD, our Peace"

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies,"

- That's His name: Jehovah - Nissi

"The LORD, our Banner"

"Thou anointest my head with oil,"

- That's His name: Jehovah - M'kaddesh

"The LORD, our Sanctifier"

"my cup runneth over."

- That's His name: Jehovah - Jireh

"The LORD, our Provider"

"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness FOR HIS NAME'S
SAKE"

- That is His name: Jehovah - Tsidkenu

"The LORD, our Righteousness"

"For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He
could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself, saying,
'Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multi-
ply you.'"

— Hebrews 6:13 (NKJV)

God swears by His name—His reputation—and He uses
that name to bless us. "Hallowed be Thy name!"

SONGS OF DELIVERANCE - Psalm 32:7 -

For His Name's Sake

- Psalm 23

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness
for His Name's sake."

- Psalm 23:3

He leads me in the paths of righteousness because
that is His Name: Jehovah - Tsidkenu

"The Lord, our Righteousness"

Everything God does, He does for His name's sake.
His name is who He is - His character - and He has
chosen to name Himself according to our needs.

"For mine own sake, even for mine own sake,
will I do it: for how shall my name be polluted?
and I will not give my glory unto another."

- Isaiah 48:11

"I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel,
but for my name's sake, which you have pro-
faned among the heathen, whither ye went."

- Ezekiel 36:22

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

• That's His Name: Jehovah - Jireh

"The Lord, our Provider"

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He
leadeth me beside still waters."

• That's His Name: Jehovah - Shalom

"The Lord, our Peace"

"He restoreth my soul."

• That's His Name: Jehovah - Rephe

"The Lord, our Healer"

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadows of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

- That's His Name: Jehovah - Shalom
"The Lord, our Peace"

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

- That's His Name: Jehovah - Nissi
"The Lord, our Banner"

"Thou anointed my head with oil."

- That's His Name: Jehovah - Tsidkenu
"The Lord, our Righteousness"

"my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

- That's His Name: Jehovah - Jireh
"The Lord, our Provider"

"For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, 'Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you!'"
— Hebrews 6:13

God swears by His name. His name is His reputation, and He uses His name to bless us, and He will not allow His name to be profaned.

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I remember planting season. EVERYTHING depends on preparing the soil. In the early Spring, Farmer Jorster would plow. Then he would disk. Then he would disk again, until the soil was ready to accept the seed. (Are you listening?)

The parable of the sower is summed up in one word: cultivation.

Cultivation — preparation ahead of planting — determined the outcome. The seed produced to the degree that the ground was prepared. This parable of the sower is not some haphazard scattering of seed, and by chance some produced. That's why Jesus said, "Be careful how you hear." On purpose, choose to listen as prepared soil.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

— Romans 10:17

So, you and I decide if faith comes, by how we prepare our hearts to listen to the Word. Faith is the crop that is produced in a heart that is prepared to receive the seed of the Word. you and I decide if faith comes, by how we listen to the Word.

I. Everyone Hears. — Luke 8:12, 13, 14, 15

There were four kinds of soil, but one thing in common:

- "they that hear" — v. 12 — on the wayside
- "they hear" — v. 13 — stony soil

• "they have heard" - v.14 - among the Jews

• "having heard" - v.15 - good ground

Whatever the condition of your heart, you have heard the Word. If you have not already, now would be a good time to open your heart to what the Holy Spirit of your heart wants to teach you right now. you have heard. "Holy Spirit, my heart is good soil. I receive the Word that You want to write into my heart, today. In Jesus' name, amen."

II. Not Everyone Receives. - Luke 8:10

A. The Wayside - Those Who Have Been Trampled Underfoot. - Luke 8:5

When the world sees a beaten path, it will keep walking on it. The wayside is like a road. On the farm, we had packed-down paths that led to the various fields. Those paths were once soft earth. They became "waysides" by being beaten-down, and trampled. (or mached down by a Jarmall tractor.)

Maybe a parent was abusive. You were told that you were a mistake, useless, you would never be anything. Maybe you were physically abused. Maybe you were bullied in school.

So you became hard.

To defend yourself, you locked out everyone; not EVER to get hurt like that again.

Wayside. A hard-packed heart. No one gets in, not even God. ESPECIALLY God!

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"How could He let this happen to me?"

I thought God had wronged me. I stopped listening. I told God to leave me the #!@~ alone. My life fell apart, and I ended up in prison. The very moment that I came back to Him, He began fixing what I had destroyed. (Get my notes, "I Will Restore To You The Years".)

Maybe "the wayside" has led you to divorce, or broken relationships with your kids, family, or parents; or maybe even to prison.

Oh, listen! Many times, on the farm, those waysides were plowed up and planted. There is hope! You don't have to know how, just CHOOSE to let God speak to your heart.

"And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh."

That they may walk in My statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God."

- Ezekiel 11: 19, 20 (see 36: 26)

Notice, this is God's work. Three times, He says, This is "I will". In Ezekiel 36: 26, He says, God's Work. "I will CAUSE you to walk in My statutes." When we just let Him, He does the hard part. God does the hard part.

Whatever has caused your heart to become hard, ask God Now to give you a new heart. Glory to God!

He will.

B. The Stony Soil - Those Who Are Holding Back - Luke 8:16

Stony soil has good soil in it, but only to a certain extent. On the farm in Pennsylvania, we had slate. 6 or 8 inches under ground was a big, flat, stone. We had carrots that were 6 inches long and 8 inches in diameter! You could slice them like an onion.

"God, I'll trust you only this far." I've been there. I would listen to the word, but if the preacher preached on certain things, I would turn off. Stone. When I felt I couldn't do it, I ignored it. Stone.

God's Word cannot produce fruit in a heart that holds back, and will not receive all of God's instruction. We have to surrender the hard places, all.

C. Thorny Soil - Those Who Are Double-Minded - Luke 8:17

Peter sank because he lost focus. The Lord has to occasionally remind me, some things you must ignore! "Don't look at the water, Peter." (Matthew 14:22-33)

There are some things in life that we must ignore on purpose. Other people may think they are important, and even think you are irresponsible. Any normal person would be concerned about a stormy sea.