Blessed be the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Welcome as we delve into the study of the Bible—the lamp that guides our feet and the light for our path. One of the devil's tactics is to steal what is still small and unguarded. There is a profound connection between *hearing God's Word and truly understanding it*. That's why it's crucial: ensure you understand the Word.

The Bible says:

Matthew 13:18-19 (NIV) – "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path."

The devil is likened to a bird that swoops down to snatch up seeds before they take root. He goes around the world stealing the seeds of life planted in people's hearts every day. He does this because he knows that if these seeds take root and grow into strong trees, they will cause him great harm.

The person who does not understand God’s Word is the devil’s primary target.

The devil cannot take away what someone truly understands. He only steals what is not understood—meaning, a person may hear the Word, but it never sinks deep into their heart.

Read this verse again:

Matthew 13:23 (NIV) – “But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Do you see it? There is a strong link between *hearing God’s Word and understanding it*. It’s not enough to simply hear it; understanding it is what bears fruit.

In daily life, if you hear something but don’t understand it, it’s easy to ignore. No matter how meaningful or valuable it is, if you don’t grasp it, you’ll likely just pass it by. The same is true of God’s Word. We should not read the Bible just to know many verses, to appear spiritual, or to check a box. We must read and

listen deeply so that we truly understand. Satan cannot steal what we understand.

Satan cannot intimidate or defeat someone who understands the Word. In fact, he fears deeply a person who has studied and understood even one verse in depth more than someone who has memorized the entire Bible without understanding it. He is not afraid of those who hear thousands of sermons but never apply them—these are the people he targets most.

When you hear the Gospel today—the good news of Jesus Christ and the warning about the consequences of sin—it is like seeds being planted in your heart. But if your heart is distracted, casual, or indifferent, when the sermon ends and you leave without asking questions or seeking to apply it, you risk never truly knowing God. You will remain stagnant and powerless over sin.

God’s Word demands focus and diligence. Ensure you understand it. Don’t just read or listen to fill time. Study it carefully, because it is the power of God that brings salvation. That salvation must be evident in your life. Even if there are parts you don’t understand, seek answers. Ask questions, investigate, and pray until the Word becomes clear to you.

Asking questions is not foolish. Set aside time to approach your pastor, teacher, or a spiritually mature brother or sister in Christ. Ask things like:

- “What does this verse mean? I’m confused.”
- “Why does Scripture say this, but we don’t practice it that way?”
- “Why did Jesus come to earth?”
- “What is the rapture?”
- “Why does baptism sometimes say ‘in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit’ and other times ‘in the name of Jesus’?”
- “What is Israel? What will the end times be like? Why are there

so many denominations today?”

Ask different people, compare their answers, then go to your knees and pray for God to reveal the truth. He is faithful: if we seek Him earnestly, we will find Him. Do not leave questions unanswered. These very questions are seeds that Satan wants to steal. Once answered, they will bear great fruit in your life and harm the enemy. But if ignored, Satan will steal them, and you will remain stagnant.

Many of us are afraid to ask questions. Fear of approaching a pastor or teacher is common. But remember, even Jesus answered questions when He was asked. So why should a pastor, teacher, or prophet be above being asked questions? Approach them with wisdom, respect, and humility.

And pastors, when asked questions, it doesn’t mean you must know everything or answer perfectly. Even small insights can be life-changing for someone spiritually young. If you don’t know, it’s better to say, “I don’t know, but I will find out,” than to mislead them.

May the Lord help us to understand His Word fully.

(Ensure you understand the Word.)

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