

*“Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the House of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD, Alas for the day! For the Day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; **For The Corn Is Withered.**” Joel 1:14-17 KJV*



This is a prophetic passage in its context, but the Truth of it is multi-faceted. We learn from the Parable of the Sower the “*seed is the Word of God.*” It is not the fault of the seed the corn is withered for in the Parable it is the ground that determines growth. “*Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the Word with Joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the Word, keep (obey) it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*” The only ground that produces fruit is the obedient heart. A good harvest depends on the diligence of the farmer. “*He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that DILIGENTLY seek Him.*” All hear the Word, but only a few obey it. Another Truth is the Temple of God is His People. “*What? know ye not that your body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. And what agreement hath the Temple of God with idols? For ye are the Temple of the living God; as God hath said, ‘I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My People.’*” All hear the Word but only the “good ground” produces. “*But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect Law of Liberty, and continueth therein (diligent), he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be Blessed in his deed.*” Obedience is the evidence of the faithful heart. Repentance is the attitude of consistently looking to obey God.

Is God's Word in fallow ground,
When it within my heart is found?
Or does it grow in goodly soil,
With diligent and faithful toil? –CGP

Another Truth is the Judgment of God falls on the disobedient. “*Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the Wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*” Do you want to obey God? Is the corn in your field withered?

“But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7 KJV