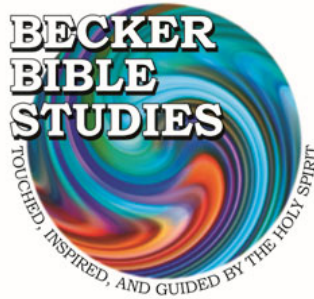


Standards of the Lord Jesus Christ

Lecture 113-7 (The Sermon on the Mount Continued) (Matthew 7:7-12b)

Providence Doctrine, Prosperity Doctrine, Spiritual Works,
Fowls of the Air, Prince of the Power of the Air, Seed, Mustard Tree

By Kathy L. McFarland
August 8, 2023



BI113-6 covered the “Ask” portion of Matthew 7:7a in such great detail explaining deep prayer through Scripture study, that it requires that we continue our coverage in this lesson. Our next typological examination will cover “Seek,” the second of three ways to obtain answers and help from the LORD God.

A review of Lesson 6:

Matthew 7:7–12 (KJV 1900)

⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? ¹² Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Seek, and you shall find (Mt 7:7b continued...)

- a. Ask
- b. Seek
- c. Knock

188. If you prayerfully **seek** from the Father in Heaven, you will **find** it. It is the second of three ways to receive an answer to your prayers from Him.

The Providence Doctrine vs. The Prosperity Doctrine

Matthew 6:26–34 (KJV 1900)

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Fowls of the Air - 4374 πετεινόν (*peteinon*), οὔ (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ DBLHebr 6416; Str 4071—1. LN 4.38 **bird** (Mt 13:4; Mk 4:4; Lk 12:24; Ro 1:23; Jas 3:7+); **2**. LN 4.41 **wild birds** (Mt 6:26; 8:20; 13:32; Mk 4:32; Lk 8:5; 9:58; 13:19; Ac 10:12; 11:6+), see 4041¹

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“Fowls of the air” typologically represent animals that are capable of flying long distances without interruption in Scripture. Those that fly only short distances are classified in the “insect” families typologically within Scripture.

Sow (Plant) - 2178 ἐπισπείρω (*epispeirō*): vb.; ≡ Str 4687; TDNT 7.536—LN 43.8 **sow on top of**, sow afterward (Mt 13:25+)²

Reap (Harvest) - 2545 θερίζω (*therizō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 7917; Str 2325; TDNT 3.132—LN 43.14 **reap**, harvest grain (Mt 25:24; Lk 12:24; Jn 4:36; 1Co 9:11; 2Co 9:6; Gal 6:7; Jas 5:4; Rev 14:15)³

¹ Swanson, James. 1997. In [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#), electronic ed. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Gather - 5251 συναγομαι (*synagomai*), συνάγω (*synagō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 665, 7695; Str 4863—**1.** LN 15.123 (dep.) **come together** (Mt 18:20; Jn 20:19 v.r.); **2.** LN 15.125 **gather together** (Mt 2:4; 6:26; Mt 20:28 v.r. NA26); **3.** LN 85.48 **keep in a place**, store (Lk 12:17); **4.** LN 57.144 **turn into cash** (Lk 15:13)⁴

Barn (Store) - 630 ἀποθήκη (*apothēkē*), ης (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 596—LN 7.25 **storehouse**, barn for grain stores (Mt 3:12; 6:26; 13:30; Lk 3:17; 12:18, 24+)⁵

Cubit - 4388 πῆχυς (*pēchys*), εως (*eōs*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 564; Str 4083—**1.** LN 81.25 **cubit**, the distance from the elbow to the end of the fingers on the same hand (Mt 6:27; Lk 12:25; Jn 21:8; Rev 21:17+), for another interp, see next; **2.** cf. LN 67.151 **a measurement of time**, a cubit of time (Mt 6:27; Lk 12:25+)⁶

Stature 2461 ἡλικία (*hēlikia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 2244; TDNT 2.941—**1.** LN 67.151 **lifetime**, the period of time when one is alive (Mt 6:27; Lk 12:25; Heb 11:11+), for another interp, in Gospels see last; **2.** LN 67.156 **mature**, of age (Jn 9:21, 23+); **3.** LN 81.4 **stature**, bodily height (Mt 6:27; Lk 2:52; 12:25; 19:3; Eph 4:13+)⁷

Raiment - 1903 ἔνδυμα (*endyma*), ατος (*atos*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ Str 1742—**1.** LN 6.162 **clothing**, garment (Mt 3:4; 6:25, 28; 22:11, 12; 28:3; Lk 12:23+);⁸

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We've seen the words "Sow," "Reap," "Gather," and "Store" (barn) before! Do you remember? Let's check out our typology notebook and update it as necessary!

Miscellaneous	Spiritual Works	1. Spiritual Works for the LORD God require at least one of four basic tasks: a. To Sow b. To Reap c. To Gather d. To Store 2. To Feed - To provide God's food to those He chooses. 3. The LORD God will provide all things necessary for all Spiritual Works to be accomplished, directed by Him through the Kingdom of God towards His righteous workers	1,2,3. Matthew 6:26-34	1,2. BI113-2 3. BI113-7
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These words are all indicative of "SPIRITUAL WORKS."

Through our typology study of the key words "sow, reap, gather, store, and feed" we have discovered that they are key words for "spiritual works." When Christ speaks of the "fowls of the air" He gives the key words of God's provisions that they are NOT tasked by Him to do. Naturally speaking, God's

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

providence cares for His created beings according to this Scripture. Typologically speaking, God's providence cares for the SPIRITUAL WORKS that He has moved Christ's followers to accomplish. So this verse, not only introduces the idea of God's Providence for His Creation, but also the manner that God provides for His many works upon this earth through Human Beings.

Matthew 6:26-34 is where "The Providence Doctrine" emerges in most denominational Christian churches. This theistic doctrine stresses that the LORD God has foresight, direction, and care for His Creation, and governs (provides for) the world that He has made.

This Providence Doctrine is often misused and misapplied by misguided Christians who expect wealth to come to them in a "Prosperity Doctrine." The "Prosperity Doctrine" usually emphasizes that faith in God will bring security and prosperity to humans. It wrongly affirms that if you believe fully on riches, and focus upon specific verses in Scripture, the LORD God will give riches to you, especially if you regularly tithe. They justify this belief as a deserved gift through the sincere love shared between them and the LORD God, with strong faith bringing riches to fruition. This is an incorrect interpretation.

The Providence Doctrine as exemplified by Matthew 6:26-34 shows the foresight, direction, and care for God's creation. Our typology proves that when He has SPIRITUAL WORKS assigned to Human Beings, He will provide the necessary funds, equipment, and help to complete them in His Time. However, the Providence Doctrine as reflected in Matthew 6:26-34 does NOT mention PERSONAL riches, fame, fortune, lottery wins, finding money haphazardly, Tithe rewards, or surprise inheritances. That we have a LORD God Creator that cares and tends to those things He creates should be **SUFFICIENT** for those that love Him!

Doctrine				
Doctrine	Providence Doctrine	1. Theistic doctrine stresses that the LORD God has foresight, direction, and care for His Creation, and governs (provides for) the world that He has made.	1. Matthew 6:26-34	BI113-7
Doctrine	Prosperity Doctrine	1. False doctrine that usually emphasizes that faith in God will bring security and prosperity to humans. It wrongly affirms that if you believe fully on riches, and focus upon specific verses in Scripture, the LORD God will give riches to you, especially if you regularly tithe. They justify this belief as a deserved gift through the sincere love shared between them and the LORD God, with strong faith bringing riches to fruition. This is an incorrect interpretation.	1. Matthew 6:26-34	BI113-7

189. The "fowls of the air" do not sow, reap, gather, or store; Yet the Father feeds them.

190. According to Typology, sow, reap, gather, and store are "Spiritual Works." Thus, the "fowls of the air" do not do spiritual works for the LORD God.

191. Disciples of Christ are much better than the "fowls in the air."

192. Disciples of Christ cannot add one cubit to his stature. A cubit has two meanings in Scripture. The *literal meaning* is the measurement of distance from the elbow to the end of the fingers on the same hand. The *typological meaning* is a measurement of time, a cubit of time.

193. A stature is the *literal meaning* of a bodily height. The *typological meaning* is a lifetime, the period of time when one is alive. (Both "cubit" and "stature" are double meaning words that are defined both ways in Greek; that makes our job of defining typology in this case much easier. However, in the instance of double meanings, we must take due care and time to ensure that we are using the correct meaning in every case of Scripture that mentions "cubit" or "stature").

194. Disciples of Christ cannot add height to their body or more time to stay alive.

Fowls of the Air

Mark 4:3–4 (KJV 1900)

³Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: ⁴And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

Mark 4:14–15 (KJV 1900)

¹⁴The sower soweth the word. ¹⁵And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Luke 8:5 (KJV 1900)

⁵A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

Luke 8:11–12 (KJV 1900)

¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²Those 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.

195. Typologically, the sower is one that is planting spiritual seeds containing the Word of God. Christ explains in this parable that some spiritual seeds fell by the way side, and the “fowl of the air” come and devour it up. (Mark 4:3-4; 4:14-15; Luke 8:5; 8:11-12; are defining typology for the “fowl of the air.”)

a. As the seed is sown, some of it falls by the way side. These are spiritual seeds of the Word of God that fall away from the main path and gather along the edges. Typically these are the seeds that are picked up by the uncalled, unchosen, unfaithful or rejecting who are near the peripherals of religious practice, tradition, custom, or family belief. They have consumed the Word of God indirectly, after it becomes trodden down on the edges of the path.

b. When the “fowls of the air” actually eat the seeds, Satan comes and takes away the Word of God out of their hearts to prevent them from receiving the Salvation of Christ.

c. The Word of God placed in the hearts of the wayside “fowl of the air” is discarded or put on the back shelves by delayed responses. This is how Satan is able to remove the seeds from the hearts of the “fowl of the air.”

Fruit	Seed	1. Word of God.	1. Mark 4:3-4; 4:14-15; Luke 8:5; 8:11-12	1. Bl113-7
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196. The “fowl of the air” do NOT have the Salvation of Christ.

197. The “fowl of the air” know some things about the Word of God that they obtain through the wayside path of religious practice, tradition, custom, or family belief.

198. The “fowl of the air” are watched by Satan, who intervenes when they eat the seeds of the Word of God by the wayside.

Kathy L McFarland's Teachings

We must go deeper if we are to fully understand the typology of the “fowl of the air” The next Scripture is deep, deep, deep, and very difficult to understand. Stay with me on this one, and fight to obtain the deeper things revealed. Remember when I said that typically the wayside eaters are the uncalled, unchosen, unfaithful, or rejecting near the peripherals of religious practice, tradition, custom, or family belief? That is the best way to describe PRESENT-DAY “fowl of the air!”

However, in New Testament Bible days, they had a name for those that met this definition. They were called GENTILES. They were NOT the Jewish people chosen by God. They were NOT the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, Essenes or any other of the Jewish sects of that time. They were GENTILES. Their society was close to the path of the religion of those that worshipped the LORD God, and they received some seeds from the Word of God along the wayside. But they could never come close to knowing the Word of God because they were considered unclean and unworthy by the Jewish community.

Gentiles witnessed the practices, traditions, customs and family belief of the Jews. But they were outsiders that could NOT receive the Word of God because they were despised by the Jews as not belonging and not special like them and it was literally against the law for them to be in the presence of Jews.

That dislike continued against the Gentiles, even amongst the followers of Christ. (Remember, the first Disciples of Christ were Jews.) But one day, recorded in Acts 10:9-16, the Lord gave Disciple Peter a vision. And that vision not only changed the witness of Christ throughout the world, but also gives us further knowledge about the identity of the “fowl of the air.”

Acts 10:9–16 (KJV 1900)

⁹ On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: ¹⁰ And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, ¹¹ And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: ¹² Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. ¹⁴ But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. ¹⁵ And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common. ¹⁶ This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

Acts 10:25–28 (KJV 1900)

²⁵ And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped *him*. ²⁶ But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. ²⁸ And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

199. Peter's trance showed four different types of God's creation coming down from Heaven in a certain vessel with a great sheet knit at four corners. One of those type of creations was "fowls of the air." (We will study the typology of the other three types of created beings at a later date.)

200. A voice in Peter's vision instructed to kill and eat the "fowls of the air." (This can be confusing. The Lord was instructing to kill and eat the fowls, because of the dietary laws of the Jews prohibited the eating of things that were declared unclean by the LORD God in the Old Testament. By instructing Peter to kill and eat something unclean, Peter balked, because it was against his religious practice by orders of the LORD God.

201. Then the Lord said, "**What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.**"

202. From that point on, the Disciples of Jesus Christ had their marching orders. The Gentiles of old, and the bystanders outside the path of the LORD God were no longer excluded from SEEKING! SEEKING! SEEKING!⁹

203. Cornelius, a Roman Centurian who spread the Gospel to the Gentiles, met Peter and worshipped him because His status as Christ's Disciple. Peter called himself equal, and declared he also was just a man.

204. Peter went into the place Cornelius was teaching the Gospel, and found many Gentiles that had come together.

205. Peter said that God had shown him not to call any man common or unclean in his vision, and He stayed and spoke with the gathered Gentiles.

Kathy L McFarland Teachings

Seekers of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Salvation are ALLOWED! No longer did the LORD God belong just to His Chosen! While the worldly multitudes are common and unclean, those that seek the Lord will be found! Remember our path of study is examining Matthew 7:7–12 (KJV 1900) and focusing upon the "seeking."

Once seekers find the Lord Jesus Christ, they are cleansed and uncommon. Before they find Christ, they are common and unclean.

Genesis 1:24–31 (KJV 1900)

²⁴ And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the

⁹ To seek Christ requires the wild birds to get out of the treetops, leave their nests, and go to the good ground to receive the teachings of Christ and the Word of God. (See continuing study)

earth. ²⁷ So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

²⁹ And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so. ³¹ And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

206. God created man in His image on the sixth day after seeing the pattern of evolutionary creation that earth brought forth. (Genesis 1:24-28)

207. God gave dominion to His created man over the evolved creatures.

208. One of those evolved creature groups were the “fowl of the air.”

209. The LORD God gave the created mankind every herb bearing seed and fruit of a tree for meat. (Note the created mankind gets the seeds, which grows new herbs and trees and fruits in their dominion)

210. The LORD God gave the evolved creatures every green herb for meat; thus, the “fowl of the air” received the green herb for eating. (Note the evolved creatures do not get the seeds, and must rely upon the LORD God or His created mankind to seed the herbs He has given them to eat) (One of the best studies I have ever completed involves Genesis 1; we will study this in depth in its time!)

Matthew 6:26 (KJV 1900)

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Our learning so far: Fowls of the air are the LORD God’s directed living creatures from the pattern of earth’s evolution. God gave dominion to His created man over the “fowl of the air” that was within earth’s atmosphere. The “fowl of the air” lives are provided for by the LORD God. They do NOT do works for Him, but yet He provides their every need. Disciples of Jesus Christ are much better than the fowls of the air.

“Fowls of the air” speak literally of “wild birds in the sky.” This term speaks typologically of the Gentiles in the wild and those today who are on the outskirts of the relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Disciples with their spiritual knowledge and practices.

Think about it for a minute. Symbolically, wild birds in the sky are fly closer to the Heaven of the LORD God than do walk the land on earth. The air of the sky is the closest thing to reaching the abode of

our LORD God in Heaven. So close! Yet so far away. Just as the Gentiles of New Testament time who were hearing and observing the things of God on the outskirts as the Jews knowledge and observance of the things of God occurred around them. Just like people today who stand on the outskirts of belief, gaining a familiarity with Christianity, yet being so far away from belief because the devil removes the knowledge from the heart.

Matthew 8:20 (KJV 1900)

²⁰ And Jesus saith unto him, **The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.**

211. We know that typologically speaking that the “fowls of the air” are NOT angels, because angels dwell with the LORD God within Heaven. Though some angels go to and fro between Heaven and Earth as Messengers, they do not have domain in nests in trees.

212. Jesus says that the birds of the air have nests to sleep in. Wild birds, those people that are NOT followers of Christ, adapt even though they do NOT hold claim to salvation. They make nests on the tops of trees for their rest.

213. Trees in Scripture are typologically the Spiritual Lives of forgiven followers walking with the Lord Jesus Christ. That wild birds of the air find their rest in the top of the spiritual life of believers, shows how close they get to belief without forming their own spiritual trees or experiencing salvation through Christ. They remain on the outskirts of belief, even though their nests are lodged in the midst of the top branches of a tree.

214. Only “seekers” can come to know Christ. Seekers can only come at God’s moving. But once seekers learn and accept Christ as Savior, their own spiritual trees take root and begin to grow from the good ground. They CANNOT be wild birds that nest in the spiritual trees of others.

Even if a person on the outskirts of a Christian community and receives the leftovers of peace and joy of God from intense spiritual gatherings nearby, he will NOT become a Christian. It does not matter how big the tree is, how comfortable and protective the nest is, or how nice and accommodating the wild bird is! Any Word of God that leaks his way that he quickly eats, will be even more quickly snatched away from his heart by the devil. It becomes a cycle of comfort for the bird to be protected in the midst of believers, learning the talk of salvation but never coming to Christ’s Truth, and able to exist in the religious life while participating in the life of the world.

Personal Sharing for Deeper Understanding

I know a man. He is likable, good-looking, congenial, personable, and smart. He was raised in a strong Christian home, and celebrated traditional religious holidays with them. The family's favorite holiday celebration is the week that ends with Resurrection Day. Palm Sunday, Holy Monday through Wednesday, Maundy Thursday (Passover), Good Friday, and then Christ's glorious Resurrection! Family traditions focus upon experiencing the Passion of Christ; Scripture, food, singing, worship, tears, and joyful celebration center the week. When the grown children in the family are able, they schedule their vacations during this time to be together with each other in worship of the most important events in Christianity.

This man I know desired to be with family celebrations during this Holy Week. So he arrived during that important celebration with his heathen girlfriend that dabbled in sexual perversion, witchcraft and demons and proudly talked about her diverse beliefs in unholy things. He wanted to show the woman his family traditions and was hopeful that his "nest atop the trees" would cause her to connect closer to his people, and his people to her.

The family was aghast, and each member did everything they could to talk with the man about the ungodly union he had formed with a wicked woman. He couldn't see it; the warnings just wouldn't connect. He was respectful and listened; yet, when he would return to the evil one's embrace, she would sway him back to his liberal acceptance of different profane beliefs. God's people would have their say, then Satan would snatch righteous Scripture knowledge away from him and he would only hear her words.

During that terrible week, he and his minion kept their "nest" upstairs, while the family gathered downstairs for their celebrations and worship. When each of the Scripture studies began downstairs, the man would hurry forth and was prepared to receive them in traditional participation. But as soon as the worship concluded, he would hurry back to her arms, and his whole spiritual being changed to acceptance of her evil ways.

By the end of the week, the situation had become so intolerable and against the family's beliefs, that the man was asked to remove the woman from their home. He agreed that there was absolutely no hope in mutual respect or understanding developing between this girl and his family; so he resolved this by declaring when he married her, that he would keep her separate from the family as he continued a relationship with them on his own.

Christ and the family have NOT lost the man yet. There is still time, as long as he has breath, to get upon that narrow path and follow Him. However, it is absolute and certain that the man will NEVER find Christ in his nest in the treetops of the spiritual lives of others. He must quit being a wild bird, get out of the sky, get out of the trees, get out of the nests! He must go to the good ground where the seeds of the Word of God are planted, and SEEK, SEEK, SEEK, Him with an honest and good heart, keeping what he learns and bring forth fruit with patience. Remember the Parable of the Sower...

Luke 8:5–15 (KJV 1900)

⁵ A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. ⁸ And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, *He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

⁹ And his disciples asked him, saying, *What might this parable be?* ¹⁰ And he said, *Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.*

¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Matthew 13:31–32 (KJV 1900)

³¹ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, *The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: ³² Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

215. Remember back on SOF #210 when we learned that God provided the green Herbs to the fowls of the air to be eaten? The grain of a mustard seed, the least of all seeds, but the greatest of all herbs, BECOMES A TREE, after planting in the field. The birds of the air can't eat the tree, but they can lodge in the branches on the outskirts of spiritual life and receive the comfort from their treetop nests close to the movement of God but WITHOUT His full presence.

216. If the wild birds in the air are dwelling in the treetops of the spiritual lives of others, they are hearing and seeing pieces of "spiritual intelligence" that are not commonly seen by wild beasts on the ground. But, as we know in the Parable of the Sower, once those things are eaten by the wild birds on the "wayside," Satan snatches that knowledge out of their heart, confusing the understanding of God's Things. Unless the wild bird becomes a true seeker on the ground, there is no relief for understanding the things of God.

Mark 4:30–32 (KJV 1900)

³⁰ And he said, **Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: ³² But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.**

217. Both Matthew 13:31-32 and Mark 4:30-32, show Christ likening the kingdom of God to the grain of a mustard seed. Please note that Mark 4:30:32 speaks a bit more on the subject when the small seed of the mustard herb branches out into great branches that the fowls of the air “may lodge under the shadow of it.”

218. SO THAT THE FOWLS OF THE AIR MAY LODGE **UNDER** THE SHADOW OF IT!!! We have been talking about these pesky wild birds building the nests in the tops of the trees, benefitting from being close to the spiritual lives of Christians. But then, the smallest mustard seed, becomes the greatest of herbs by becoming a TREE, with branches creating shadows the fowls of the air can lodge under.

219. Get off the treetops, wild birds! GO TO THE GOOD GROUND!!! The simple mustard seed of faith can grow into great tree to cause you to return to the good ground and partake of the Word of God with honesty, a good heart, and keeping it and producing works of God to glorify Him! (Luke 8:5-15)

The Rest of the Story...

DANGER! DANGER! DANGER!

Can you guess who controls the air currently? Who has power over all the creatures that dwell in the air?

Ephesians 2:1–2 (KJV 1900)

And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

220. The Prince of the power of the air is the spirit that works in the children of disobedience.

221. Children of disobedience are the wild birds in the air.

222. Children of disobedience are controlled by Satan’s power and outside the salvation of Jesus Christ.

223. Because wild birds are so close to the things of the Kingdom of God, they can express words and concepts that sound like they are Christian. However, they are NOT! They are outside the

Kingdom of God and those ideas and meanings and understandings are quickly snatched away from them by the Prince of the power of air.

224. Unless a wild bird seeks God with all His heart and is noticed by Him and granted entry into learning the things of Christ, he remains a disobedient person ruled by the devil. Only after His acceptance of Christ as Savior declared in faith from the good ground can a wild bird quit being a wild bird.

Matthew 7:7–8 (KJV 1900)

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Bird	Fowl	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Disciples of Christ are better than the fowl in the air 2. The fowl in the air do NOT do the works of the LORD God 3. The fowl in the air are ruled by the Prince of the Power of the Air, Satan 4. The fowl in the air dwell in the treetops in the outskirts of Christian spirituality with no salvation until they go to the good ground and are saved 5. The fowl in the air must go to the "good ground" in the shadow of the Mustard Tree in faith to seek Christ 6. The fowl of the air are God-approved evolved creatures that He gives herbs to eat 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 2 Matthew 6:26 3. Ephesians 2:1-2 4. Acts 10:25-28 5. Mark 4:4-20; Luke 8:5-15 6. Genesis 1:24-31 	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - BI113-7
Miscellaneous	Prince of the Power of the Air	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Satan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ephesians 2:1-2 	1 - BI113-7
Tree	Mustard Tree	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Like the Kingdom of God 2. Starts as a herb, grows to a tree with many branches that attract wild fowl in its shadows 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1,2 Mark 4:30-32 	1,2 BI113-7

Teachings of Kathy L McFarland

Those that seek the LORD God through the Lord Jesus Christ will find His Path! But it will not be found in the world. Christ will not be found on the treetops or in the nests. He can only be found on the "good ground" by someone that is seeking truth with an honest and good heart and willing to keep the teachings of Christ and grow to doing works of the LORD God that will bring Them glory! Seek and you will find.