Introduction: There are some things powerful which are easy to see, a hurricane, an explosion. There are some things powerful which cannot be seen but its influence can be seen. Leaven is in the latter category.

**I) Leaven In the Negative**

**A) Old Testament**

1. Something to be cast out, separated from.

**14 ‘So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. 15 Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. Exodus 12:14-15**

2. Sacrifices not to have leaven.

**11 ‘No grain offering which you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the LORD made by fire. Leviticus 2:11**

**B) New Testament**

1. The effects of sin.

**6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 1 Corinthians 5:6**

2. The example of sin and tolerance of it allows it to influence those around it.

**8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Corinthians 5:8**

**II) Jesus Use of Leaven**

**A) Jesus compares the influence of His followers to:**

1. Salt in Matthew 5.13 which preserves, enhances, cleanses, etc.

2. Light in Matthew 5.14-16 which enlightens, shines in the dark, exposes sin, etc.

**B) In a parable**

**20 And again He said, “To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? 21 It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.” Luke 13:20-21**

**33 Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.” Matthew 13:33**

1. Chemically speaking leaven is a substance, as yeast or baking powder, that causes fermentation and expansion of dough or batter. fermented dough reserved for producing fermentation ...

2. Placed in a lump of dough it will permeate through it and cause expansion.

**C) Leaven can be good or bad.**

1. Everything mentioned from this point on can be for good or bad.

2. We determine that influence.

**III) Christian Leaven Works by Mixing**

**A) The leaven was mixed or hidden in the meal, Luke 13.21**

**B) Christian leaven works on that which is close.**

1. In the home and family.

a. Spreading the Gospel.

**41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). John 1:41**

b. Many a spouse has been converted by the conduct of a godly spouse.

**Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 1 Peter 3:1-4**

2. In the work place.

**After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. Acts 18:1-3**

3. Wherever we are.

**12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ Philippians 1:12-13**

4. Christianity turned the world upside down in the first century.

**6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Acts 17:6**

**C) Christian Leaven Works Quietly - No loud noises or big demonstrations.**

**20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17:20-21**

1. No military revolution or carnal weapons.

**36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” John 18:36**

2. No radical changes in accepted social customs.

**Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. 21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. 22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called. 1 Corinthians 7:20-24**

**D) Christian Leaven Works Thoroughly**

1. Till all was mixed, Luke 13.21

2. The Gospel spreads from person to person, village to village, country to country, nation to nation.

3. Intended for all mankind.

**Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

4. Not stopping till the world is filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

**F) CHRISTIAN LEAVEN WORKS, and works, and works, etc.**

1. It worked wonders in the first century.

2. From Jerusalem, to Antioch, to Galatia, and then to Rome. It continues to work today.

Conclusion: **Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. 12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."**