

## YOU CAN CHANGE!

New Year 2019

*"3... A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop-- a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 He who has ears, let him hear."*  
Matthew 13:3-9

**KEY TRUTH:** Growth is to be EXPECTED.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Personal growth comes to those who LISTEN.

### GROWTH STOPPERS:

#### 1. FAMILIARITY

*'The seed,' he explained, 'that fell on the hard path represents those who hear the message but then Satan comes at once and takes it away from them.'*" Mark 4:15

- It's caused by hearing without RESPONDING
- It's caused by acting without THINKING.
- It's caused when I declare without DOING.

**Key Observation:** If I change my HEART, then all of a sudden what has become familiar becomes NEW.

*"Today if you hear God's voice speaking to you, do not harden your heart against him as the people of Israel did when they rebelled against him in the desert."* Hebrews 3:15

#### 2. SHALLOWNESS

*"The rocky soil represents those who hear the message and receive it with joy but like young plants in such soil, their roots don't go down very deep. At first they get along fine, but they wilt as soon as they have problems or are persecuted because they believe the word."* Mark 4:16-17

*"And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love."* Ephesians 3:17

#### 3. DISTRACTIONS

*"The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the good news but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for nice things so no crop is produced."*  
Mark 4:18-19

- WORRY

*"Don't worry about anything. But pray about everything."* Philippians 4:6

- Deceitfulness of RICHES
- Desire for THINGS

### GROWTH STARTERS FOR 2019

*"But the good soil represents those who hear and accept God's message and produce a huge harvest – thirty, sixty and even a hundred times as much as had been planted."* Mark 4:20

1. HEAR the Word.
2. ACCEPT the Word
  - PERSONAL, PRACTICAL, POSSIBLE, PROVABLE
3. PRODUCE – you start to grow.