

Overview:

Spring planting season is quickly approaching. It is that time of year when everyone is checking the forecast and trying to determine if it is safe to start planting. It is time to start dusting off the rototiller, shovels, rakes, and put all the tools to work.

Gardening takes time and a lot of work. Even with the perfect conditions there is no guarantee things will grow. A seed can be planted at the right depth, in fertile ground, receive plenty of water and still not grow. The best gardener in the world cannot make a seed grow.

In today's passage the Apostle Paul uses the analogy of planting a seed to illustrate sharing the gospel. Paul shared the Gospel, Apollos gave further teaching, but it was God that prompted the new believer's heart to respond. Paul describes those who share the Gospel to unbelievers as co-workers with God.

Sometimes people feel the full responsibility of having someone believe in Jesus falls on the one sharing the Gospel. This is like a gardener using will power to make a seed grow. The responsibility of a believer is to share the Gospel and answer any questions someone might have. Only God knows the heart and intent of the person.

Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

1. Discuss as a group who likes to garden and who does not. Why and why not? What are some of the key steps to successful gardening?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. What does the planting, watering, and growing of God's word look like today with the busyness of life?
3. Discuss some fears people have when it comes to sharing the Gospel to an unbeliever.
4. Read Colossians 4:5-6. Why is it so important to know how you come across to an unbeliever?
5. What is the difference between being bold about your faith and being obnoxious?
6. When it comes to sharing the Gospel do you view yourself as a co-worker with God? Why or why not?
7. What steps can believers do to create trust with someone who is skeptical?