

TITLE: THE PRESSING
TEXT: MATTHEW 13:3-8 NASB

“MY FATHER IS GLORIFIED BY THIS, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT, AND SO PROVE TO BE MY DISCIPLES.” (JOHN 15:8) NASB

“AND OTHER (SEED) FELL ON THE GOOD SOIL AND YIELDED A CROP, SOME A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, AND SOME THIRTY” (MATTHEW 13:8) NASB

“AND NOT BE LIKE THEIR FATHERS, A STUBBORN AND REBELLIOUS GENERATION, A GENERATION THAT DID NOT PREPARE ITS HEART AND WHOSE SPIRIT WAS NOT FAITHFUL TO GOD” (PSALM 78:8) NASB

THERE ARE THREE STAGES OF PREPARING FOR FRUITFULNESS:

I. IDENTIFY THORNS IN YOUR LIFE

“FOR THUS SAYS THE LORD . . . ‘BREAK UP YOUR FALLOW GROUND, AND DO NOT SOW AMONG THORNS’” (JEREMIAH 4:3) NASB

“TO THE PURE, ALL THINGS ARE PURE; BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE DEFILED AND UNBELIEVING, NOTHING IS PURE, BUT BOTH THEIR MIND AND THEIR CONSCIENCE ARE DEFILED” (TITUS 1:15) NASB

2. MAKE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO HIS WAYS

*** ASK FOR A PURE HEART**

“SEARCH ME, O GOD, AND KNOW MY HEART; TRY ME AND KNOW MY ANXIOUS THOUGHTS; AND SEE IF THERE BE ANY HURTFUL WAY IN ME, AND LEAD ME IN THE EVERLASTING WAY” (PSALM 139:23-24) NASB

• ASK FOR CONSEQUENCES

“BECAUSE THE SENTENCE AGAINST AN EVIL DEED IS NOT EXECUTED QUICKLY, THEREFORE THE HEARTS OF THE SONS OF MEN . . . ARE GIVEN FULLY TO DO EVIL” (ECCLECIASTES 8:11) NASB

3. MAKE WISE, BUT FIRM, DECISIONS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

“HE WHO OFFERS A SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING HONORS ME; AND TO HIM WHO ORDERS HIS WAY ARIGHT I SHALL SHOW THE SALVATION OF GOD” (PSALM 50:23) NASB

“WHO MAY WORSHIP IN YOUR SANCTUARY, LORD? WHO MAY ENTER YOUR PRESENCE ON YOUR HOLY HILL? THOSE WHO . . . HONOR THE FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD AND KEEP THEIR PROMISES EVEN WHEN IT HURTS” (PSALM 15:1, 4) NLT