



## Functions of the Word of God

November 4th, 2020

### To be a Seed Causing the Believers to Become the Reproduction of God

**Luke 8:11** Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

**John 12:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

**1 Peter 1:23** Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.

**1 John 3:9** Everyone who has been begotten of God does not practice sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God. **10** In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest. Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, neither he who does not love his brother.

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### The Parable of the Sower

The record of the parable of the sower in Luke 8:4-15 is somewhat different from the record in Matthew 13. Matthew's purpose in recording this parable is to point out how it reveals the kingdom life. However, Luke's purpose is to show us that as those who are living in peace, following the Lord, and ministering to Him, we should grow in life.

In 8:5-8 the Lord Jesus tells the parable of the sower; in verses 9 through 15 He explains this parable to His disciples. Luke

8:5a says, "The sower went out to sow his seed." The sower is the Lord Himself, and the seed is the word with the Lord in it as life. In verses 5 through 8 four kinds of soil are mentioned. As we shall see, these kinds of soil signify four conditions of the human heart.

### Four Kinds of Hearts

In Luke 8:11-15 we see four kinds of hearts into which the seed is sown. The first kind of heart is likened to the soil "beside the road" (v. 5). Concerning this, the Lord says

in verse 12, “Those beside the road are those who heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved.” The earth beside the road is the earth on the wayside. This earth has been hardened by a great deal of traffic. As a result, wheat cannot grow in that kind of soil.

A heart that is like the wayside, like the soil beside the road, is a heart in which there is too much traffic of worldly business. If our heart is occupied with making a living, there will be too much traffic in our heart. The result will be that our heart will not be the proper soil for the growing of Christ, for it will be a heart hardened by worldly traffic.

A second kind of heart is likened to rocky ground (8:6, 13). This kind of ground has soil on the surface, but underneath it is full of rocks. It is not possible for Christ to grow in this kind of heart. A person with such a heart may receive Christ and be saved; however, it will be difficult for him to grow in life. Because of the rocks, it is difficult for Christ to grow in the heart signified by the rocky ground. Matthew 13:5 describes this kind of heart as rocky places, which do not have much earth. This signifies the heart that is shallow in receiving the Lord’s word. Such a heart is shallow because deep within are “rocks”—hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity—which frustrate the seed from gaining root in the depths of the heart.

Luke 8:7 says. “And other seed fell in the midst of the thorns, and the thorns sprouted up with it and choked it.” Concerning this, verse 14 explains: “And that which fell into the thorns, these are those who heard, and they are choked by the ongoing anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and do not bring any fruit

to maturity.” Here we see clearly that the “thorns” signify anxieties, riches (in particular, the deceitfulness of riches—Matt. 13:22), and the pleasures of life. These things choke the word and prevent it from growing in the heart and becoming fruitful.

The fourth kind of heart is that signified by the good earth: “And other seed fell into the good earth, and having sprouted up, it produced fruit a hundredfold” (v. 8). In verse 15 the Lord explains, “But that in the good earth, these are those who in a noble and good heart hear the word, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with endurance.” This good earth signifies the good heart, a heart that is not hardened by worldly traffic, that does not have hidden sins, and that is without the anxiety of the age, the deceitfulness of riches, and the pleasures of life. Such a heart gives all the ground to receiving the word so that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold.

A heart without worldly traffic, rocks, and thorns is a purified heart. This kind of heart is good for growing Christ.

### **Regenerated Through the Living and Abiding Word of God**

Verse 23 of 1 Peter 1 indicates that we have been regenerated through the living and abiding word of God. We have not been regenerated of corruptible seed. A seed is a container of life. The word of God as the incorruptible seed contains God’s life. Hence, it is living and abiding. Through this word we have been regenerated. It is God’s living and abiding word of life that conveys God’s life into our spirit for our regeneration.