

GROW SOMEWHERE

Spiritual Responsiveness

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:2)

In Luke 8, Jesus tells a story about the spiritual responsiveness and growth...

*While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown... This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."
(Luke 8:4-8, 11-15)*

- **The elements: a generous Sower (God); the seed (His word); and the soil (our hearts).**

🔍 **Key insight: which elements in the story remain constant and which element changes?**

Jesus then explains the types of "soil" where His word may fall...

- **Some seed falls on hard soil – (vv. 5, 12)**

The unresponsive heart prevents salvation

- **Some seed falls on rocky soil – (vv. 6, 13)**

The shallow heart prevents perseverance

- **Some seed falls on cluttered soil – (vv. 7, 14)**

The cluttered heart prevents maturity

...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Heb. 12:1b)

- **Some seed falls on good soil – (vv. 8, 15)**

The responsive, deep and undivided heart produces great growth over time

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)