

Rooted in Truth: Guarding the Soil of Your Heart

Our new life in Christ comes with a new heart and spirit full of His grace and truth. This godly heart must be guarded as we actively reject lies and protect the truth.

Rooted in Truth: Seeds, Roots, and Fruits:

Those rooted in Christ produce the righteous fruit that pleases God. Disobedience and lies threaten this freedom, it's time to uproot evil fruit with the truth.

Rooted in Truth: Growing Where God Plants Us:

In the beginning, God placed us in His goodness, but through deception came death and displacement. We must be replanted in truth to obtain life in Christ.

Guard Your Heart to Guard Your Life

Proverbs 4:20-23

New Living Translation

20 My child, pay attention to what I say.

Listen carefully to my words.

21 Don't lose sight of them.

Let them penetrate deep into your heart,

22 for they bring life to those who find them,
and healing to their whole body.

23 Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.

- Don't try to repair the old heart when by faith you can live from the new one.

Psalm 119:11

Amplified Bible

Your word I have treasured and stored in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.

- God's word/Jesus exposes evil fruit/intentions/thoughts and allows us to replace them with the truth.

Colossians 2:6-7

New Living Translation

6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

The Condition of our Heart's Soil

Matthew 13:1-9

New Living Translation

Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

13 Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. 2 A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. 3 He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. 4 As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. 6 But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. 8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! 9 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

- What was the condition of your heart when you first heard God's truth about finances, marriage, or physical intimacy?

Matthew 13:18-23

New Living Translation

18 "Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds:
 19 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. 20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. 22 The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. 23 The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

- Thought ceilings and root blockers prevent spiritual fruit from growing.
- Sinful fruit comes from the soil of the old heart, the ungodly mind.

Beware "Be aware" of the Enemy's Seeds

Matthew 13:24-26

24 Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. 25 But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. 26 When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.

- Elder Charles Arrick's Testimony
- Guarding the soil of your heart with the power of God;

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Amplified Bible

3 For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man. 4 The

weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ,

- Depressing thoughts about the lack of family support destroyed this morning.
- Guarding the soil of your heart begins with determining if it's true.

A Peaceful Heart

- Guarding the soil of your heart is not only defensive but offensive. Not only what you prevent from growing, but what you plant, the mediations of your heart.
- You're seeing what you're sowing so what are you saying about yourself, or your life?

Galatians 5:22-23

New Living Translation

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Philippians 4:6-9

New Living Translation

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3:1-15

New Living Translation

3 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your[a] life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.[b] 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,[c] circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,[d] slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.