

GOOD GROUND

Prepare my heart

Everything that grows and bears fruit starts with a seed. If you want to have a harvest, you have to plant a seed. That's not only true of farming, but in spiritual growth. The harvest of righteousness only comes when we faithfully plant the seed of the word of God.

The seed in the good ground represents the person who hears God's word, understands it and then grows. The soil of their heart was proved to be good because it produced fruit. If you are not producing fruit, it's time to examine your heart. The ground did not become good by producing fruit, it was proved to be good because it produced fruit. We are not saved by our good works, but we do good works because we are saved.

This Week's Verse

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Luke 8:15 NKJV

Hidden Word

B T O T F O T G G
A T W H H T W
W A N A G H
K I A B F W P

Truth to Carry This Week

*God's Word can only grow in me
when I'm willing to receive it*

READ IT SLOWLY

*But the ones that fell on the
good ground are those
who, having heard the
word with a noble and
good heart, keep it and
bear fruit with patience.*

Luke 8:15 NKJV

WRITE IT OUT

Write the verse below



WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN TO
YOU RIGHT NOW?



WHAT THIS VERSE MEANS

The Parable of the Sower is recorded in three of the Gospels, Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8. Jesus tells of a farmer who goes out to sow seed. The same seed is scattered, but it lands on different kinds of ground. Some falls along the path and is taken away. Some falls on rocky ground, where it begins to grow but cannot develop strong roots. Some falls among thorns that eventually choke it. And some falls on good ground, where it grows and produces fruit. Jesus later explains that the seed is the Word of God. The difference wasn't the seed. It was the soil.

The same can be true in our everyday lives. We can sit in church every Sunday, listen to sermons in the car, read our Bible, highlight verses, and hear God's truth again and again, but hearing the Word isn't the same as allowing it to take root.

Sometimes our hearts are hard.

We've been hurt, disappointed, or frustrated, and we aren't as open to what God is saying as we once were.

Sometimes our faith is shallow.

We are excited about what God says until following Him becomes difficult.

Sometimes our hearts are crowded with thorns.

Schedules, responsibilities, worries, relationships, finances, work, our phones, and a hundred other things compete for our attention. God's Word gets planted, but everything else quickly crowds around it.

And then there is *good ground*

Jesus describes good ground as those who hear God's Word "with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." Notice that good ground doesn't just hear the Word. It keeps it.

A seed doesn't become a fruit-bearing plant overnight. Much of its first growth happens beneath the surface where no one can see it. Our spiritual growth can be the same way. So don't become discouraged if you don't see immediate change.

Good ground bears fruit with patience.

For now, your job is simply to prepare the soil.

WEEK 1

Hide it in your heart.

VERSE

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Luke 8:15 NKJV

Cover the full verse. Use only the letters.

B T O T F O T G G
A T W H H T W
W A N A G H
K I A B F W P

REFLECTION

What kind of soil is my heart?

Am I bearing the kind of fruit that indicates a heart transformed by Christ?

FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS

But the ones that fell on the _____ ground are those who, having heard the _____ with a noble and good _____, keep it and bear _____ with patience.

You can do this

Each time you practice
you are hiding God's
Word deeper in your
heart

WEEK 1

Activity.

Check the soil: What kind of ground is my heart?

Jesus used four different kinds of ground to show us four different ways our hearts can respond to God's Word. Read Luke 8:4-15, then take a moment to examine your heart.



The Path

What has hardened my heart?



The Thorns

What is crowding out God's Word?



The Rocks

Where do I need deeper roots?



Good Ground

What is God growing in me?

Prepare My Heart

Something I need to remove



Something I want God to grow

TODAY I WILL REMEMBER

WEEK 1

Talk to God.

A prayer to start

God,
Prepare my heart to be good ground. Soften
the places that have become hard, deepen the
places that are shallow, and remove anything
that is crowding out Your voice. Help me not
only hear Your Word, but keep it. Plant Your
truth deeply within me and patiently grow
something in my life that bears fruit for You.

Amen.

END OF WEEK CHECK-IN

This week I practiced the verse:

☐

1 time

☐

3 times

☐

2 times

☐

More than 3 times!

Can I say the verse using only the Hidden
Word?

☐

Not yet

☐

Yes!

☐

Almost

This week, God reminded me:

MY PRAYER

God, today I feel:

God, I need help with:

God, thank You for:

MEMORY CHECK

Try to write this week's verse from
memory. Don't worry if you can't get every
word. God is still teaching your heart.

Use this space to slow down and reflect. Write what stood out to you, what God may be showing you, or a prayer you have.

Use this space to practice this week's Hidden Word.