




# TRUTH: The Soil of the Heart

Luke 8:4-15

 Luke 8:4-8 (NIV) “While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, He told this parable: <sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When He said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

## 1. Am I **resisting** the Word of God?


 Luke 8:5 (NIV) “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.”


 Luke 8:11-12 (NIV) “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> 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.”


### Three Reasons for a Resistant Heart

- **DISTRACTION**: I don't **hear** God.
- **FEAR**: I don't **trust** God.
- **RESENTMENT**: I don't **like** God.

## 2. Am I **doubting** the Word of God?


 Luke 8:6 (NIV) “Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.”


 Luke 8:13 (NIV) “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.”


 James 1:2-4 (NIV) “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

## 3. Am I **strangling** the Word of God?


 Luke 8:7 (NIV) “Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.”


 Luke 8:14 (NIV) “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.”

 Philippians 4:19 (NIV) “And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

 Matthew 6:34 (NIV) “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

## 4. Am I **growing and producing because of** the Word of God?

 Luke 8:8 (NIV) “Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When He said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

 Luke 8:15 (NIV) “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.”

Is your heart soft or hard to the things of God? What are some things in your life that are crowding God out? Has life become too busy to really hear God? Are you blaming God for something that someone else did? If so, when are you going to let that go so you can grow? Life is full of tests---what is testing your faith right now? Has worry taken the place of worship in your life? Has God's Word taken root in you? Will you be faithful and scatter the seed of the Gospel? Will you have an IMPACT?

