

which is described in the Bible, as the nature and essence of God (who is the source of the Holy Spirit) and Jesus Christ [Ac 2:38](#); [Ro 8:9](#). God's Spirit imparts spiritual gifts such as: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment, speaking and interpretation of tongues [1 Cor 12:8-10](#). It imparts spiritual discernment, so that we can understand spiritual matters [1 Cor 2:6-16](#). It is the Spirit of truth, and helps us to grow in knowledge of God's word, which is essential to spiritual growth and maturity [Jn 14:17](#); [15:26](#); [16:13](#). The Holy Spirit imparts a willingness to obey God's will and His commandments [Mt 6:10](#); [Lk 22:42](#). It imparts desire, motivation, help, comfort, dedication, character, willpower, passion, zeal and strength. It is described as the Spirit of power, love and self-control [2 Ti 1:7](#). It gives us the power to bear the nine spiritual fruits [Gal 5:22-23](#). A true disciple of Jesus Christ is both called and chosen; has truly repented; and remains faithful to God. He has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is the seal or mark of God's ownership upon a true Christian [Ro 8:14](#); [2 Cor 1:21-22](#); [Eph 1:13:4:30](#). God's Spirit also liberates us from being slaves to sin [Ro 6:16-18](#).

Which category do you fit into? What is your spiritual heart condition? Do you have a fruitful heart? Are you among the rare, true and faithful Christians who are fired up for Jesus, and growing spiritually, bearing fruit and maturing in the faith? If you answered yes, then you will continue to persevere, mature, strengthen and increase in faith; grow in wisdom, knowledge and understanding of God's word; strive to obey God's commandments, and live a life of holiness and godliness. The word of God will continue to light up your life, and lead you towards everlasting life in the Kingdom of God [Ps 119:105](#). If you answered any one of the other three categories, then you desperately need a spiritual heart transplant. God warns you to truly repent! God must be first love and of greatest importance, and our only heart's desire [Ps 73:25](#). Seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness must be number one priority in your life. The greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength [Dt 6:5](#); [Mk 12:30](#). We must love Him more than anything or anyone else. God promises that He will take care of you and all your daily needs, such as: food, shelter and clothing. *Remember*: We must fix our eyes on God and the heavenly things above, which are eternal. The physical things of this world are uncertain, temporary and passing away [2 Cor 4:18](#); [Heb 12:2](#); [1 Jn 2:15-17](#).

Scriptural References:

Psalms 1
Jeremiah 17:7-8
Matthew 5:14-16
Matthew 6:33
Matthew 7:13-29
Matthew 13:1-23
Matthew 28:18-20
Mark 4:1-20
Mark 7:20-23
Mark 16:15-16
Luke 8:1-15
Luke 12:32
Luke 13:6-9
Luke 14:25-33
Luke 22:42
John 4:24
John 15:1-27
1 Corinthians 2:7-16
2 Corinthians 3:18
Galatians 2:20
Galatians 6:7-10,14
Philippians 4:6
1 Timothy 6:6-10
Hebrews 10:35-39
Hebrews 12:1-3
James 1:2-4
James 3:18
1 John 2:15-17

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Parable Of The Sower



Is your heart on fire for Jesus? Is it filled with passion, zeal, fervor and enthusiasm for His righteous Kingdom? Are you living a happy, spiritually prosperous, fruitful and victorious life in Christ? Or is your heart icy cold, stubborn and rebellious, hiding in the darkness of Satan's kingdom? Are you still living a miserable, unfruitful, hopeless and defeated life? Are you taking the word of God seriously, and persevering in the faith? Are you bearing spiritual fruit? Or are you bogged down by the worries and cares of this life, and continuously focused on the uncertain and temporary things of this world, such as wealth and possessions, that you are unable to bear any spiritual fruit?

Why did Jesus speak in Parables? Jesus spoke to all in parables, with the exception of His inner group of disciples, so that the general public would not understand, because it was not Jesus' will to convert the whole world at that time, neither is it His will to convert the whole world in this age Mk 4:11-12. Only God's chosen few, who have been chosen before the foundation of the world, and have the indwelling Holy Spirit, would understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God Eph 1:4.

What is the meaning of the 'Parable of the Sower'? It is the parable that Jesus Christ used (a parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual truth) to illustrate how differently people will respond to the word of God. Jesus tells the story and interprets it for us. The sower is Jesus. The seed represents the word of God. The birds represent Satan. There are four different kinds of soil, which represent the four different categories of hearers, and their various spiritual heart conditions. They have four different reactions to the word of God. They respond differently and for various reasons. How one will respond, depends largely upon the spiritual condition of his heart and state of mind. Who or what is he focused on? How does he spend his time, energy and resources? What are his priorities? What and who is of greatest importance in his life? Who and what is his first love? In this parable, all hear the truth, but only those whom God has chosen for salvation, really grasp and understand it. As Scripture mentions, 'many are called, but few are chosen' Mt 22:14. Many receive the opportunity for God to work in them, through the power of His Holy Spirit Php 2:13, but only a few truly respond to His calling, with true, heartfelt repentance. They surrender their lives to God, with complete commitment, devotion and dedication to obey God and His commandments, and bear fruit. It is crucial that we remain faithful to our calling, in order to be saved.

What do the four types of soil represent?

1) **Hard soil** - Those who hear the word of God, but they don't really believe or understand the message and its significance, and lack the faith to be saved. This happens because the devil snatches away the message. This person's heart is dull and hardened by sin and therefore, resists the word of God, and makes it easy for Satan to snatch it away. The good seed of the gospel does not sprout at all. This person's heart is compared to the hard, cold concrete. His heart is so calloused, that is, emotionally hardened, that the beautiful word of God cannot penetrate it. The gospel cannot take root in a hardened heart. He does not even begin to study the scriptures, believe and act on them. He has not been called by God Mt 13:3-4, 19.

In the following three categories, the people are called by God, but they respond differently:

2) **Shallow soil** - The seed fell in a rocky place. The stony ground does not have enough soil to keep the plant growing into a fully mature plant. There is just enough to cause only an initial growth. This kind of soil represents the shallow, superficial heart. This person's heart is compared to the thin layer of soil on a rock. When the word of God is planted into his heart, there is no depth. It is initial and temporary, because it has no roots. He hears the word of God, and receives it joyfully and enthusiastically, but he stumbles and quickly falls away, and rejects God's calling in the time of testing (trials), and because of trouble, persecution or pressure from others who don't understand the message. He is easily distracted and negatively influenced by them, and therefore, he lacks trust in God's word and courage to persevere. He quickly begins to doubt and disbelieve God's word. Instead of conforming to God, he conforms to those around him. He is concerned more about what others think, than what God thinks. He allows the negative ideas and opinions of others, to influence and shape his life. At first, he is emotional about the word of God, and believes in Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins, but when it comes to becoming a true disciple of Christ, he simply uses different excuses, such as: lack of time, other priorities (concerns) and commitments, life's difficulties, hardships and personal problems to depart from the faith. He does not want to accept the responsibilities or meet the challenges, or endure the trials that are required to become a genuine and faithful Christian. Therefore, he departs from the faith as a result. His faith is immature. He does not really understand the price that must be paid, or the faith, patience, perseverance, endurance, commitment, passion, devotion and dedication required to become a true disciple of Christ Lk 9:23. He doesn't invest his time to the study of the Bible. His so-called faith is shallow, temporary and disappears rapidly. The word of God does not sink deeply into his heart and mind. He is a hearer of the word only, but not a faithful doer. Therefore, he will wither and die like a thirsty plant in the scorching heat of the sun. He is unfruitful. An "emotional hearer" who lacks maturity Mt 13:5-6, 20-21.

3) **Weed-choked soil** - This person's problem is greed, selfishness and pride. Power, position, status, prestige, acquiring wealth and possessions is first priority, and of greatest importance to him. He has placed too much love towards family, friends, wealth, education, business, career and sports, etc. His overflowing love for other things have annulled his shallow and inadequate love for Christ. His heart is not right with God. He serves money Mt 6:24, and is a friend of the world Jas 4:4. He hears the word of God, but there are too many bad "seeds" growing in the soil (heart), and is easily choked by the things of this world, such as: cares, pleasures and deceitfulness of wealth, and he does not bear fruit. He has not truly repented of his sins, and removed the "weeds" (false idols) out of his heart, which are major obstacles in his life, and will choke his spiritual growth and maturity. Since he has a crowded heart, there is no room in his heart for the good seed of God's word to grow. His life is spiritually unfruitful. This person's eyes, heart and mind are focused on the temporary and physical things of this world. His heart is overflowing with cares, riches, lusts, pleasures, possessions and other physical things, which have captured his attention and occupy his time. He becomes distracted by, and concerned with them. He has allowed other things to get in the way of his faith. He has built false idols in his heart. Passion for these idols have choked out the gospel. Therefore, there is no room for God in his heart, and no time for God in his life. His heart is not receptive to the word of God. He is too busy with useless things and serving himself 1 Ti 6:9-10; 1 Jn 2:15-17. He begins to lose focus and interest in the things of God, because he considers the physical things to be of greater value than spiritual things. Those who are greedy are never satisfied and therefore, his excessive desire for wealth will drive him further and further away from the faith (*Please read tract: 'No Idols!'*). This does not

happen overnight. Slowly but surely, this person's heart becomes crowded, until eventually these physical things become entrenched in the heart and mind of the individual. He lacks the passion, zeal, fervor and enthusiasm for God. This person is described in scripture as a Laodicean, who is spiritually inactive and lethargic Rev 3:14-18. He is compared to a withered branch that is cut off, and thrown in the fire Jn 15:1-2, 6. He rejects the calling from God Mt 13:7, 22.

4) **Good, fertile soil** - Stands for those rare and true Christians, with good and honest hearts, who hear, accept and understand the word of God, and through patience (endurance) and perseverance produce spiritual fruit - thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times what was sown. Thirty-fold, would be considered an acceptable return. Sixty-fold, a more fruitful return. One-hundred fold, an outstanding, exceptional and God-honoring return. This is how we show the world that we are Christ's true disciples. We glorify God by bearing abundant, good fruit Jn 15:8; Col 1:10. It is a mark of true discipleship. Abiding in Christ, who is the vine, means that our lives will be overflowing with good and fruitful deeds Jn 15:1-8. Apart from Christ, we can do absolutely nothing. The branch cannot bear fruit by itself. The seed of the word of God is sown in this fertile soil, and it grows into a healthy, fruit-bearing plant. Our hearts and minds genuinely accept the word of God. We have living faith, patience, perseverance and endurance to continue in the truth of God. We accept the truth, faithfully live by the truth, and teach the truth throughout the world. Our hearts and minds are receptive to the word of God. We have a passionate, fervent, zealous, humble, faithful, patient, pure and undivided heart for God, with pure devotion for His word. We have the boldness and courage to persevere despite trials, difficulties and persecutions Heb 10:35-39. We are not caught up in the physical things of this world, such as wealth. We are not caught up in the world's way of "get." We bear our cross, and surrender our lives and will to God, just as Christ sought to do His Father's will Jn 5:30. God's will and purpose is top priority in our lives. We conform to God's highest standards for our lives, with our minds actively renewed, and our lives transformed by His Holy Spirit. We develop Christ-like character, and become transformed into His image Lk 9:23; Ro 8:29; Gal 2:20. We have counted the cost, and have the determination and commitment required to press on forward in our spiritual goals, and successfully finish the course to win an everlasting crown Lk 14:25-35; Php 3:13-14; 2 Ti 4:7-8. We bear our cross with humility, and live lives worthy of our calling Eph 4:1-2; Php 2:1-11. Our hearts are on fire for Jesus, and His righteous and everlasting Kingdom Mt 6:33; Lk 24:32. Jesus is first love and number one priority in our lives. We demonstrate our love for God, by keeping His commandments. This is how we abide in Christ. Those who are in this category have fruitful hearts. We demonstrate our faith by actions. We become mature Christians through prayer, fasting, serving God faithfully and wholeheartedly, and studying and meditating on the word of God, and planting it firmly in our hearts and minds Jas 1:21, and striving to live by every word of God Mt 4:4. We grow in knowledge of God and understanding of the Holy Bible Col 1:10. To be saved, we must remain faithful to our calling and endure to the end. One of the promises in scripture is that we will reap what we sow. The more good seeds we sow, the more we will reap a fruitful harvest of righteousness, and God promises to provide us with the resources we need to plant good seeds 2 Cor 9:6-15. Our eyes, minds and hearts are continually fixed and focused on Jesus Christ and His word Heb 12:2. These are the few who are walking the narrow road that leads to salvation, and they are the ones who will inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God Mt 13:8, 23; Lk 12:32.

How does a Christian bear spiritual fruit? As Christians, we must live highly spiritually productive, fruitful and prosperous lives. Bearing fruit is a crucial part of spiritual growth and maturity. It is essential that we ask God for His help, in prayer. We must remain attached to the vine, where we receive our nourishment and support, if we are to bear much spiritual fruit Jn 15:1-8. One will die spiritually, if he does not abide in Christ, just as a withered branch that is cut off, and thrown in the fire. To abide in Christ, we must also keep His commandments. As we strengthen the bond in our relationship with Christ, we will become more like Him in all aspects of our Christian lives. For example: in character, attitude, outlook, thoughts and purpose. We must be actively doing good deeds. Faith combined with actions is called living faith. We live by the Spirit, so that we do not gratify the lusts of the flesh Gal 5:16-18; Col 3:5-10. We must eradicate sin from our lives, through the indwelling help of the Holy Spirit. Replacing the sins of the flesh, with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are the primary characteristics of a life that is lived for Christ Gal 5:22-23. Fruit production requires faith, work, time, patience and perseverance. This is a crucial part of bearing fruit. This is how we praise, worship and honor God our Father, and His Son Jesus Christ Jn 15:8. In the same way that a tree is known by its fruit, we are identified as Christ's disciples by bearing good, abundant spiritual fruit that glorify God. True disciples, teachers and prophets are recognized by their good fruit Mt 7:15-20; 21-23; 12:33-37.

Bearing fruit is manifested in different ways:

1) **Growing, exercising and developing godly, holy, righteous character** - Developing Christ-like character demonstrates that we are abiding in Christ. This is a sign that we are living by the Spirit, and walking in newness of life Gal 5:16, 24-26; Eph 4:24. Obeying God's commandments produces assurance that we will inherit the Kingdom of God. Growing in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ 2 Pe 1:5-8; 3:18. 2) **Offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God** - Continuously praising God and giving Him thanks through prayer, produces peace Ps 106:1; 118:1; Php 1:11; 4:6-7; Heb 13:15; 1 Pe 2:5. 3) **Doing good deeds** - Such as winning souls to Christ, by preaching the gospel ("good news") throughout the world Pr 11:30; Mt 5:16; Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16; Ro 1:13. We are commanded to make disciples of all nations. Leading others to Christ produces exhilarating joy, which is one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit Gal 5:22-23. Bearing fruit results in living a spiritually productive, fruitful, prosperous, fulfilling and abundant life that Jesus spoke of in Jn 10:10. 4) **Helping the poor and needy** - Brings honor to God, and produces happiness Pr 14:31; Ac 20:35; Heb 13:16. Doing good works, such as supporting the poor and needy, is also a sign that we are bearing fruit.

What is our sacrifice of praise to God? 1) Loving the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, demonstrated through obedience to His commandments Dt 6:5; 1 Jn 5:3. 2) Growing in grace and true knowledge of Jesus Christ, and His word 2 Pe 3:18. 3) The fruit of our lips in praise and worship, continually confessing and glorifying God's name Heb 13:15. 4) Humble and contrite spirit Ps 51:17. 5) Offering our bodies to God as living sacrifices. Living our lives in such a way that brings glory and honor to God. A life that is holy, pleasing and acceptable to Him Ro 12:1.

What is the role of God's Holy Spirit? Only when Jesus Christ abides in us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can we live spiritually fruitful lives, and become alive spiritually Jn 15:4-5; Gal 5:16, 25. The Holy Spirit has the infinite power to transform lives. It enables us to live a holy and godly life. Upon repentance and baptism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,