



In the parable of the sower of Mat 13:2-23, Jesus taught us about the seed to plant, being the Word of God. He then compares people's attitudes with the types of soils that receive the seed, and their possible outcome for growth.

In fact, whenever we share the message of salvation, some receive the message gladly, while others tell us they're not interested. Then, others find all kinds of reasons to avoid the subject. Finally, there are those who will tell us that they are Christians, yet their lives may not reflect what the Word of God teaches.

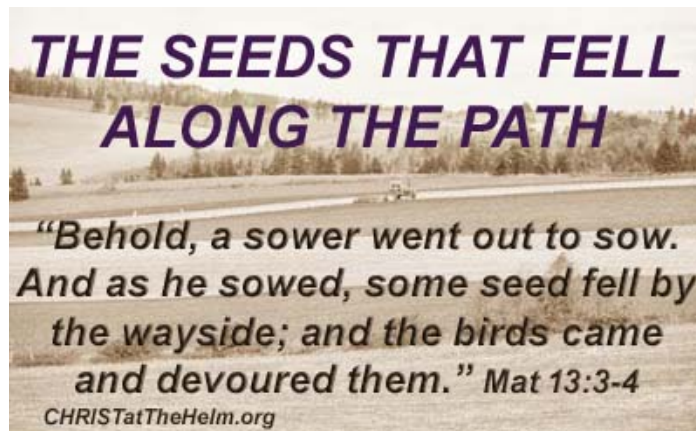
We must therefore understand that while Christ is the perfect and true seed, if people's hearts aren't prepared to receive the seed, not everyone will grow into true faith in God.

So, the first principle to understand is that the power is in the seed, Christ Himself, as Jesus said in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Additionally, 2Cor 9:6 adds: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Therefore, our mission is to sow the seed of Christ abundantly through His Word, and understand that the outcome is based on people's hearts, and not because of our talents or in using human strategies.

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In Mat 13:19, Jesus explains what the wayside soil represents, saying: "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside."

Just as in Isaiah's words quoted in Acts 28:25-26, God said, "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive."

Isn't it interesting to come across very educated people sometimes who can't even perceive or understand the very basic principles of God?

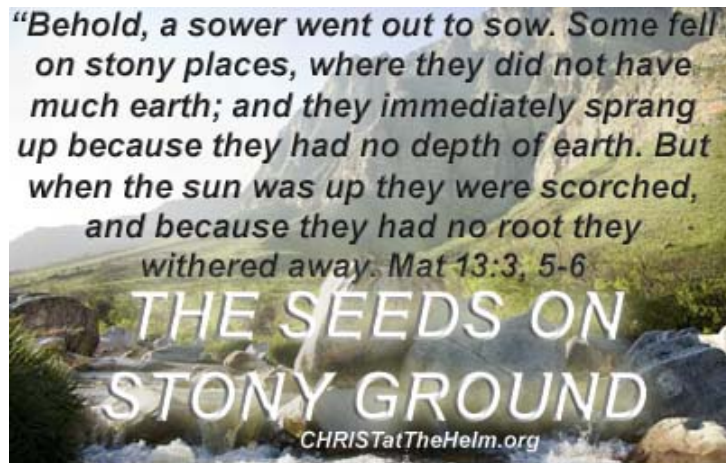
So, why can't some people understand the message of the cross?

Eph 4:17-18: This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."

2Tim 4:3-4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

Are we willing to receive God's Word and grow in Christ?

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Here's how Jesus explained the soils referred to as stony ground in Mat 13:20-21:

"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, immediately he stumbles."

Why would a person who receives the Word of God as truth, then change their mind and go back into the world?

Is it possible that their heart wasn't true to their word, as Jeremiah 17:9 states, "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it? In other words, the mouth may say yes, but the heart is hardened in sin.

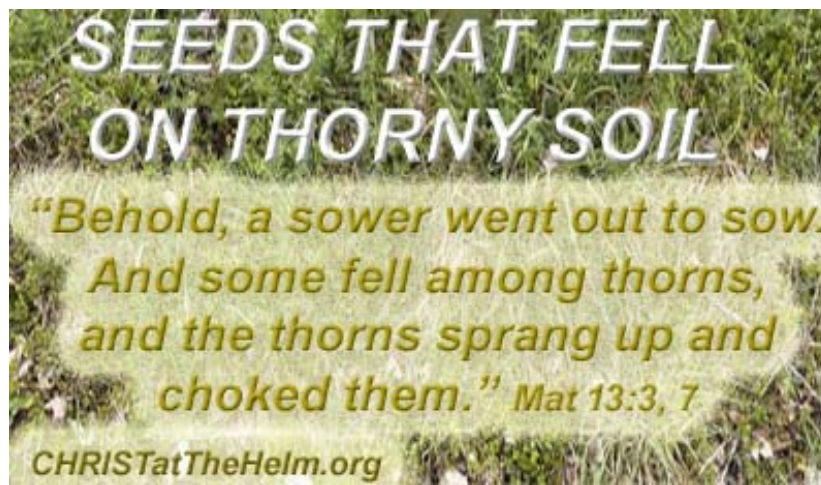
The reason Heb 4:12 says, "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

As well Heb 3:12 cautions us: "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God."

Then Pro 28:13 adds: "Happy *is* the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity."

Is Christ sovereign in our heart or is it dominated by the world?

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Here's how Jesus explained the thorny soil in Mat 13:22: "The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word, making it unfruitful."

In plain terms, the love of the world and the lusts of life can completely choke the Word of God sowed in a person's heart, resulting in choosing the world over God.

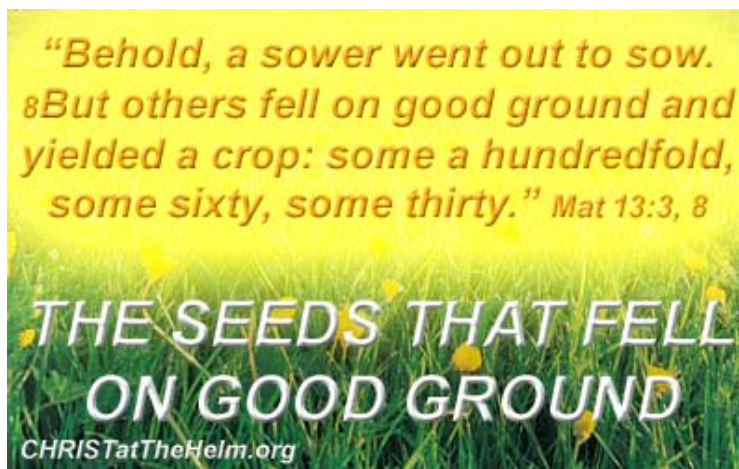
Paul gave a clear image of this in 2Tim 3:1-4: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

James 1:21-22 gives us the clear answer to this problem in saying, "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Pro 22:5 warns us this way: "Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them."

Are there thorns in our hearts that draws us to the world's lusts?

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Jesus explained how the good soil receives the seed of the Word of God in Mat 13:23: “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Clearly, unless fruit is produced in our life to bear witness of the Spirit of Christ growing in our hearts, we may proclaim to be believers, but we’ll never fool God.

Why?

Rom 8:11: “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

John 1:12: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

Eze 11:19: “Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.”

In essence, if our hearts are pure and true in accepting the seed of Christ, our life will reflect the new nature in Christ through fruit produced as a result.

How so?

Rom 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

Does our life bear witness to our new nature in Christ?

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If we focus on the one and only central message of the bible, we realize that it is about making the decision to either follow God or the world. And the outcome is also very clear in both choices: Follow God and live eternally in His glory, or choose the world, die in our sins and be lost forever in a most atrocious and painful way without end.

The reason Paul said in Gal 6:7-8, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

Here is a warning to that effect: Heb 3:12-13: "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

2Tim 3:1 starts with "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come," then lists a series of deceptions that the world offers.

Speaking of Christ, Acts 4:12 says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Let's ask, as Ps 51:10 says: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me"?

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