

# You've Got to Grow!

## Jesus' Story of the Soils: Luke 8:4-15

Farmer = God      Seed = God's Word      Soil = My Life

### To Experience Consistent Spiritual Growth, I Must...

#### 1. Stay responsive to God!

*A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds came and ate it.* Luke 8:5 (NLT)

*The hard path where some seed fell represents the hard hearts of those who hear the words of God, but then the devil comes and steals the words away and prevents people from believing and being saved.* Luke 8:12 (LB)

#### The hardened soil = A Closed Mind

##### 3 Causes...

- Fear
- Bitterness
- Pride

*Don't be proud but accept God's teaching that is planted in your heart. This teaching can save your soul.* James 1:21 (ICB)

#### 2. Stay committed to growth!

*Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. This seed began to grow, but soon it withered and died for lack of moisture.* Luke 8:6 (LB)

*Some people are like the seeds on rocky soil. They welcome the word with joy whenever they hear it, but they don't develop any roots. They believe for a while, but when their faith is tested, they abandon it.* Luke 8:13 (GWT)

#### The shallow soil = An Insincere Commitment

*Don't...only hear the message, but put it into practice, otherwise you are merely deluding yourselves.* James 1:22 (PH)

*Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.*

1 Timothy 4:7 (PH)

#### 5 Practices of Spiritual Fitness

- I must be connected with others
- I must practice spiritual habits
- I must use my talents
- I must share my faith
- I must discover and fulfill my purpose

#### 3. Steer clear of distractions!

*Some seed fell among thorny weeds, but the weeds grew up with it and choked the good plants.* Luke 8:7 (NCV)

*The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.* Luke 8:14 (NLT)

#### The soil with weeds = An Overloaded Life

*And the seed that fell on the good ground is like those who hear God's teaching with good, honest hearts and obey it and patiently produce good fruit.* Luke 8:15 (NLT)