

'THE GOOD GROUND'



"Proclamation."

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.





Goal:

Closer relationship with Jesus.

"Follow Me"

"The Parable of the Sower."

Mark 4: 3 - 9 Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 And other seeds fell into good ground and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." 9 And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

"Jesus explains the Parable of the Sower."

Mark 4:14-20

14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

"Jesus explains the Parable of the Sower."

Mark 4:14-20

18 And others are the <u>ones sown among thorns</u>. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 20 But those that were <u>sown on the good ground</u> are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."



Clear from the parable:

- ✓ Seed = Word of God
- ✓ Four types of ground
- ✓ Ground represents our hearts
- ✓ Ground 1 = no fruit = no depth, along the path
- ✓ Ground 2 = little fruit = rocky ground
- ✓ Ground 3 = some fruit = among the thorns
- ✓ Ground 4 = abundant fruit = good ground



Seed = Word of God:

Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is <u>living and powerful</u>, and sharper than any twoedged sword, <u>piercing</u> even to the <u>division of soul and spirit</u>, and of joints and marrow, and is a <u>discerner of the thoughts and intents</u> of the heart.



Seed = Word of God:

SO.....

Any good farmer will tell you.

FRUIT COMES FROM THE TYPE of **SEED**!



1st – without the correct seed, the ground will produce the wrong fruit.

FRUIT (What? How? Who? Where?)

Fruit comes from the seed in you!

John 15: 1 - 8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no <u>fruit</u>, while every branch that does bear <u>fruit</u> he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear <u>fruit</u> by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear <u>fruit</u> unless you remain in me.



FRUIT (What? How? Who? Where?)

Fruit comes from the seed in you!

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



FRUIT (What? How? Who? Where?)

Fruit comes from the **seed** in you!

Then verse 16......

John 15

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear <u>fruit</u>—<u>fruit that will last</u>—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.



Clear from John 15:

- ✓ Jesus = true vine
- ✓ Fruit = comes when you remain in the vine.
- ✓ **Disciples** = expected to produce much fruit.
- ✓ Fruit = for the Father's glory, fruit that <u>remains</u>.



SEED: SALVATION

DEATH TO LIFE



DEAD <u>IN</u> SIN TO DEAD <u>TO</u> SIN



NO FRUIT TO MUCH FRUIT

(REPENTANCE)



(BAPTISM)



(HOLY SPIRIT)

Repent by faith

By faith

Acts 2:38

Receive by faith



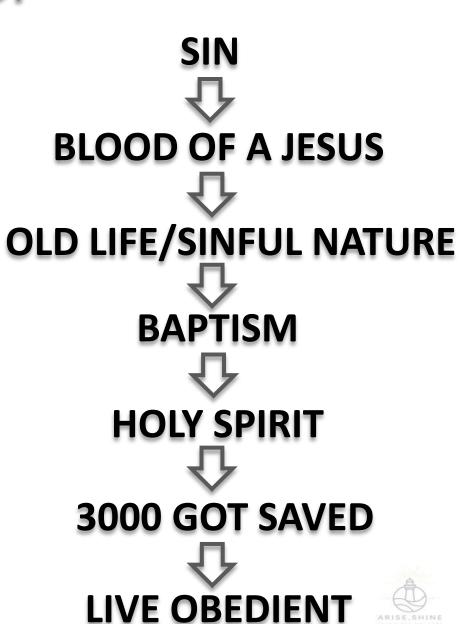
SALVATION ROAD:

By faith apply

By faith act out

By faith receive





How do you know the seed is in you? (Mark of true salvation)

- ✓ Hunger for God's Word.
- ✓ Hunger for fellowship with other believers.
- ✓ Hunger for obedience.
- ✓ Reckless abandon to follow Jesus.
- ✓ You hear His voice.

(It is easy to have theology, but no life.)



So, the seed produces the fruit. (salvation)

But.....

THE GROUND DETERMINES THE GROWTH!



Philippians 2:12 "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

BABIES:

- ✓ Need time to grow up.
- ✓ Don't demand to much of them.
- ✓ Need to learn how to overcome temptation.
- ✓ Will fall in sin again.
- ✓ Need mind renewed.
- ✓ Explain the big picture of the Bible.
- ✓ Teach how to hear God's voice.



Philippians 2:12 "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

YOUNG MEN/WOMEN:

- ✓ Have overcome Satan.
- ✓ Understand what they read.
- ✓ More dependent on God, less on people.
- ✓ Need encouragement to follow His voice.
- ✓ Need encounters where they grow more.



Philippians 2:12 "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

FATHERS/MOTHERS:

- ✓ Know the big picture.
- ✓ Know God.
- ✓ Full of fruit and Spirit.
- ✓ Can walk a road with babies.
- ✓ Give food, encouragement, guidance.

(Growth comes ONLY by faith and denying yourself)



Where is your heart at:

Ground 1 = no fruit = no depth, along the path

You would not be here **OR** you are here but do not want to.



Where is your heart at:

Ground 2 = little fruit - shallow/rocky ground

Quickly fall away when persecution comes.



Where is your heart at:

Ground 3 = some fruit – choked by the thorns.

Worries of this world quench the dream/vision/passion/obedience.





Goal:

Closer relationship with Jesus.

"Follow Me"



ARISE, SHINE

YOUR LIGHT HAS COME