Hearticulture

Grounds for Deep-Seeded Growth

November 15, 2026

It's time to be mindful that God plants His Truth in us like seeds in soil that He expects to grow!

[Because] *He* is *mindful* that we *are* but *dust*. [No *cracks* about *but dust*] – Psalm 103:14 NAS



The question is: ***Are* you *growin'* what He's *sowin'?*** And how's *your* and *God's hearticulture goin'?* Cuz in Jesus' *parable* of the *four soils,* we can *see* how the *condition* of our *heart determines* the *outcome* of our *created purpose.* In *Higher Power,* Noah *pointed out* that, as God's *children,* **we don't *lack potential.*** We can *access all* God's *power.* **We *lack growth*.** And in the *Sower* story, Jesus *points out* that **the *problem* isn't *seed quality,* but *soil condition*.** Even as it *sits dormant,* the *tiniest mustard seed* is *bursting* with *powerful growth potential.* So let's *talk* about what *prevents* it and what *promotes* it. We're *going* from *Higher Power* to *lower ground.* Cuz, **if *you* want *more* of God's *power,* you *gotta* get *grounded!*** Do you have a *green thumb?* Or do you *struggle,* like me, just to *keep* plants *alive?* Well, as *good gardeners* know – I'm *told:* it *starts* with the *soil.* Personally, I *like plastic plants.* Cuz they *thrive* in my *neglect!* But *nothing else* does! And when it comes to *receiving* God's Word *implanted, Jesus* says there's *good soil* that's *deeply loyal,* and *three* other *types* with *deep-seeded issues!* So, when it *comes* to *breaking new ground* and *getting* your *hands dirty,* **what are you *giving* our *Gardner* to *work with?*** Now, *hindsight* being *20/20,* most believers *mistakenly* believe that Jesus used *parables* to *simplify* His message. Have you met Jesus? *Clearly* the *opposite* is usually the *case.* And after *this* parable, His *disciples* privately *asked:*

"*Why* do You *speak* to the people in *parables*?" He replied, "The *knowledge* of the *secrets* of the *kingdom* of heaven has been *given* to *you*, [cuz *you're* the *loyal soil*] but *not* to *them*. [Why? Three reasons; but] Whoever has [*knowledge*] will be given *more*, and he will have an *abundance*." [Cuz *healthy* ground *produces*] – Matthew 13:10-12 NIV

Parables seem *disarmingly simple,* till you *try* to make *all* the pieces *fit.* For instance, it's *easy* to *forget* that ***we're* the *dirt* and *not* the *plant.*** And it's recorded *across* the *Gospels* with *unique bits* in *each account* that must be taken *into account.* And His *explanation* comes at a *different time* and *place* – with *variations* of *that* recorded *across* the *Gospels.* And it's *on purpose.*

God made it so ***truth* requires *pursuit.*** Because, ***pursuit* is *required* for *growth, strength,* and *power.*** So, I *wove* the *three* Gospel *accounts* together. Then I *wove* the three *accounts* of Jesus' *explanation.* And then I *wove* the *explanations* into the *parable* so *we* can *understand* it in *real time.* Some of the *pieces* I *left out* for *later* emphasis in the *sermon.* So let's *go!*

Mark* is *blue; and ***Luke* is *green,*** and I'll give you *Matthew's* running *commentary* as we go.

> [Jesus] taught them *many* things by *parables*, and in His *teaching* said: "*Listen*! [Know *why?* He's about to *sow* God's *Word* in their *ears;* to see what they *plant* in their *heart*] A farmer went out to *sow* his *seed* [the *Word* of *God* (Lk 8:11)]. As he was scattering the *seed*, some [of God's *Word*] fell *along* the *path*, [from *ears* to *heart*] and it was trampled on, [without *regard*] and the *birds* of the *air* [*evil ones* (Mt 13:19)] came and *ate* it *up*. [*Snatched away* the Word *sown* in their *ears* before it *made* it to their *heart* (Mk 4:15; Mt 13:9) And *so* it *goes* with the *hard-hearted*] Some fell on *rocky places*, where it did not have much *soil*. It *sprang up quickly*, [they *receive* the *faith immediately* and *joyfully* (Mt 13:20)] because the *soil* was [*impulsively*, *emotionally*, and *superficially* (Mk 4:17)] *shallow*. [So] when the *sun* [of *trouble* or *persecution* for their *faith* (Mk 4:17)] came up, the *plants* [in their *hearts*] were *scorched*, and they *withered* because they had *no moisture* because they had *no root*. [And *so* it *goes* with the *shallow-hearted* who fall away *quickly* (Mk 4:17)] Other seed fell among [the] *thorns*, [that *entangle* us in *life's worries* and *riches* and *pleasures* (Lk 8:14; Mk 4:19)] which *grew up with it* and *choked* the *plants*, so that [even *though* God's Word was *growing* in their *hearts*] they did not *bear grain*. [And *so* it *goes* with the *distracted hearts* of *growing believers*, who never *mature* to the *point* of *bearing* the *fruit* of their *created purpose* (Lk 8:14; Mk 4:19)] Still other seed fell on *good soil*. [Of *noble* and *loyal hearts* (Lk 8:15); and *unlike* with the *hard hearts*] *It* came up, [cuz they *received* it (Mt 13:23); and *unlike* with the *shallow hearts*, *it*] *grew* [cuz they *retained* it (Lk 8:15)] and [*unlike* with the *distracted hearts*, *it*] *produced a crop*, [of their *uniquely created purpose*, cuz they *made room* for it (Lk 8:15)] multiplying *thirty*, *sixty*, or even a *hundred* times *more* than was *sown*." [And *so* it *goes* with the *loyal soil*] Then Jesus called out, "He who has *ears* to *hear*, let him *hear*." [*In* his *heart!*] – Mk 4:2-9; Lk 8:5-8 NIV

Who's he?! How do you get *ears* to *hear?* Jesus is *referring* to *Ezekiel 3:10,* where God says:

> "*Receive into* your *heart all* My *Words* … and *hear* with your *ears*." – Ezekiel 3:10 NKJ

Some *versions* say, "and have *ears* to *hear.*" So it's simply *someone* who *receives all* of *God's Words* into *their heart.* **Know how we *love* the Lord with *all our heart?*** Well, **we *fill it* with *all His words.*** It's a *lifelong process* of *growing* and *bearing fruit.* So let's *examine* our *own* hearts. Because:

> *Some* people are like seed *along* the *path*, [from our *ears* to our *heart*] where the *Word* is *sown*. As *soon* as they *hear* it, *Satan* comes and *takes away* the *Word* – Mark 4:15 NIV





Cuz they *won't* even *give* it a *chance* to *sink in.* It's *in one* ear and *out* the *other! Dismissed! Closed heart. closed mind. Open invitation* to *Satan.* Whenever our *deceitful* heart *puffs* itself *up* and *pushes* God *aside,* the *enemy* says, "*Hey*. If *you're* not gonna *plant* it, you *won't mind* if *I take* it." *So,* **do *you* have an *impenetrable* heart?** Not to *all* of God's *Word* (or you wouldn't *be* here). But, **are you *closed off* to *some* of it for *fear* what you *hear* will *take away* your *joy?*** If *so,* 1) **You're *normal;*** and 2) **You're *deceived;*** because 3) **You've *got* it exactly *backward.*** Whatever *words* you've *hardened* yourself *against,* you need to *stop* and *consider softening* and *granting* God *access.* And:

> Get *rid* of *all* moral *filth* … and humbly *accept* the *Word planted in* you – James 1:21 NIV

> [To] Be *doers* of the *Word*, and not *hearers only*, *deceiving* yourselves. – James 1:22 ESV

Otherwise, **you'll be *robbed* of *all* you *could've been,*** without *ever* even *knowing* it; because, *so* goes God's *Word* from the *hard-hearted,* before it's *ever* even *given* a *chance* to *mature.*

> Others, like seed *sown* on *rocky* places, *hear* the *Word* and at *once receive* it with *joy*. But [they don't *nurture* it, and therefore] since they have *no root*, [*connecting* them *directly* to God's *Word*] they last *only* a *short time*. When *trouble* or persecution comes *because* of [their *new faith* in] the *Word*, [they've got no *solid Rock* on which to *stand*, so] they [just as] *quickly* [*reject* it with *sorrow* and] fall away. – Mark 4:16-17 NIV



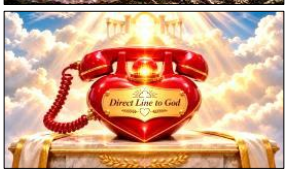


It was *common* for *shallow* soil to *conceal* the *stone* beneath the *surface,* which caused the *seed* to *sprout* quicker, *water* to *evaporate* quicker, and *young plants* to *dry up* and *wither* quicker – it's the *quicker wither upper.* **They *impulsively embrace* the Lord without *counting* the *cost* or *deepening* their *understand*.** So their *enthusiasm* is *short-lived. So,* **is *your* soil a *bit shallow?*** *Truth* has *sunk in* to a *point,* but **its *roots* have *yet* to *reach* your *core identity.*** I've seen *all* too *often* that what we *receive* out of *emotion,* we soon *reject* out of *emotion.* Which is why, **the *first* to *germinate* are *likely* the *first* to *terminate!***

Know how to *tell* if our *roots* run *deep? Turn up* the *heat!* We can *see* by ***how* we *respond* when the *heat* is *on.*** Don't *excuse* it. *Examine* it. Cuz *that's* how you *know* if Jesus is *just* ***under* the *surface* as *part* of your *life,*** or ***deeply rooted* as *Lord* of your *life!*** The *trials* and *troubles* that *initially* might *drive* us *to* the Lord can also *drive* us *from* the Lord. Which is *why* **we must *stain* to *train* our *roots* to *reach* for *truth.*** It's the *only way* our faith can *survive* and even *thrive* in the *midst* of our *trials. So, cultivate* your *faith* or you'll *die* on the *Vine right* when it's *time* to *blossom.*

> For the *sun rises* with *scorching heat* and *withers* the *plant*; its [*young*] *blossom falls* and its *beauty* is *destroyed*. … [But] *Blessed* is the man who *perseveres* under *trial*, because *when* he has *stood* the *test*, he will *receive* the *crown* of *life* – James 1:11-12 NIV





[But] The *seed* that fell among *thorns* [gets the *crown* of *thorns*, which] *stands* for *those* who [have *ears* to] *hear*, [and *receive* and *grow*] but *as* they *go* on *their way* they are *choked* by life's *worries*, [and] *riches* and *pleasures*, and *they* do not *mature*. [*Who* has the *time*?!] – Luke 8:14 NIV

They're all *leaves.* Like *Adam* and *Eve* and the *fig tree* Jesus' *cursed!* ***Distracted* hearts don't *lose* their *faith.*** They just *misplace* it, like *car keys,* in all the *unimportant, urgent, daily-distractions.* But ***Failing* to *prune* is there *ruin.*** *So,* **is *your* soil *too entangled?*** Need to *pull* a *weed?*

> I passed by the *field* of a *sluggard*, [too *lazy* to *weed*, and then] by the *vineyard* of a man *lacking sense*, [*enough* to *weed*] and behold, *it* was [the *same result!* The fields of *both* the *lazy* and the *busy* were] all *overgrown* with *thorns* – Proverbs 24:30-32 ESV

So, beware the *briars* of *busyness.* Remember: "We're *sorry*, all *circuits* are *busy*." Phone *systems* are primarily *digital* now, but *Verizon* still *uses* that *classic line. Sadly,* so do *we.* **That's the *classic line* the *Lord* often *hears.*** *Unless* we *assign* Him a *direct line* and our *highest priority.*

So, ***where's*** **the** ***Lord*** **at on your** ***list*** **of** ***priorities?*** Are you *giving Him* proper *attention?* Cuz you're likely *quick* to *complain* when *He* doesn't *seem* to be *giving* you *yours!* **We** ***each*** **have a** ***limited bandwidth.*** And *our circuits* are *easily overwhelmed.* So we gotta *prioritize* His *direct line! So, look* at your *heart-and-soil* to *see* if you *needs* to *pull* some *weeds!* Because:

> We *are* God's fellow *workers*; [*and* together] you *are* God's *field* – 1 Corinthians 3:9 NIV

But it's got *four types* of *soil.* **The** ***hardened*** **have** ***no desire*** to consider *all* His *Word.* Do *you?* **The** ***shallow*** **have** ***no plan*** to *grow.* Do *you?* And **the** ***busy*** **have no** ***time.*** Do *you?*

> The message *they heard* was of *no value* to them, because [*hardened*, *shallow*, or *busy*] those who *heard* did not *combine* it with *faith* [in *action*; just *inaction*]. – Hebrews 4:2 NIV
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> [So] *Accept instruction* from His *mouth* and *lay up* His *words* in your *heart*. – Job 22:22 NIV
>
> *Apply* your *heart* to instruction and your *ears* to *words* of *knowledge*. – Proverbs 23:12 NIV
>
> [And] "I will *give* you a *new heart* and put a *new spirit* in you" – Ezekiel 36:26 NIV
>
> For *God* did not *give* us a *spirit* of *cowardice* but rather of *power* – 2 Timothy 1:7 NAB

He who has *ears* to *hear,* let 'em *hear:* **if you** ***want*** **a** ***spirit*** **of** ***power,*** **you** ***gotta*** **be** ***grounded*** **and** ***growing.*** Which *won't* happen in a ***hard heart.*** Cuz it can't *penetrate* the *surface.* Or a ***shallow*** **heart.** Cuz it won't *take root.* Or a ***busy*** **heart,** cuz *competing distractions* will *choke* it out. *So:*

> *Let* the *Word* of *Christ* dwell in *you richly* in *all wisdom* – Colossians 3:16 NKJ
>
> [And] *Love* one another *deeply*, *from* the *heart*. – 1 Peter 1:22 NIV



A *noble* and *good* heart, [which is *found deep down* in the *well-grounded*, cuz *they* are *those*] who *hear* the Word, [and] *retain* it, and by *persevering produce* a *crop*. [*According* to their *own created purpose*] – Luke 8:15 NIV



For *you* have been *born again*, not of *perishable seed*, but of *imperishable*, through the *living* and *enduring Word* of *God*. – 1 Peter 1:23 NIV

When *Jesus explained* His parable of *the four Soils*, He *warned* His *disciples:*

> "If you can't *understand this story*, how will you *understand all the others*?" – Mark 4:13 NLT

Because, as any *good gardener* will *tell* you – *so* I'm *told* – it all *starts* with the *soil.* And **this** ***dying world*** **doesn't** ***need*** **any more** ***artificial believers!*** So, *open* your *heart,* and *clean* your *ears,* and:

> "*Consider carefully how* you *listen*. [Because] Whoever has [*understanding*] will be given *more*; [*understanding*, and] whoever does *not have*, [*understanding*] even what [*little*] he [*wrongly*] *thinks* he *has* will be *taken* from him." [By those *devil-birds!*] – Luke 8:17-18 NIV
>
> [Therefore, *you* must] *Welcome* the *Word* that has been *planted in* you – James 1:21 NAB
>
> [For] "The *one* who *received* the *seed* that fell on *good soil* is the man who *hears* the Word and *understands* it. [And] He *produces* [many] times what was *sown*." – Matthew 13:23 NIV

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.