

# **Growing the Kingdom of Heaven within (part**

## **2) Cultivating the field of your heart**

**God the Gardener wants you to be part of His Tree of  
Life**

- Just as a farmer sows seed in hope of a harvest,

God sows the seed of His Word in our hearts to re-create a living spirit in us that we will bear His fruit.

- Although individually we bear the fruits of the spirit in our words and actions (Gal 5:22-23, Prv 13:2), the Kingdom of Heaven is God's family tree and every new believer is a new fruit on its branches (Jas 1:18).
- As each of us matures, we also become the smaller branches and leaves of the tree of life that heal the nations (Rv 22:2).



**And [Jesus] spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went**

**out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds  
fell beside the  
road, and the birds came and ate them up.  
Others fell on the rocky places, where they  
did not have much soil; and immediately they  
sprang up, because they had no depth of  
soil. But when the sun had risen, they were  
scorched; and because they had no root,  
they withered away. Mt 13:3-6**

Others fell **among the thorns**,  
and the thorns came up and  
choked them out. And others  
fell on **the**

**good soil** and yielded a crop,  
some a hundredfold, some sixty,  
and some thirty. He who has

**ears, let him hear.**

**Mt 13:7-9**

**Why did God use a field to symbolize our**

**hearts?** • God sows the seed of His word in

our hearts of lifeless “dust” (Gn 2:7) to create the life of our spirit within. • Like a physical field, a spiritual field can be small or large, representing one heart or many hearts.

- *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Cor 3:9)*

**Prophetic symbol**

**True reality**



The Field

A heart or hearts

**A  
the roadside**

**heart like**

**Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom**

**and does not understand it,  
the evil one comes and  
snatches away what has  
been sown in his heart. This  
is the one on whom seed  
was sown beside the road.**

**(Mt 13:18-19)**

## **A heart like the roadside**

- Like the hard-packed ground of a roadside,

closed or hardened hearts  
struggle even to  
understand God's  
revealed Word.

- Satan's evil spirits (evil birds) ensure that no seed of God can take root.

## **A heart like the roadside**

- As God's fellow workers,

how can we overcome?

- Open our hearts
- Study, practice speaking the word
- Ask questions when we don't understand

## **A heart like the rocky soil**

**The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who **hears the****

**word and immediately  
receives it with joy; yet he has  
no firm root in himself, but is  
only temporary, and when  
affliction or persecution  
arises because of the word,  
immediately he falls away.**

**(Mt 13:20-21)**

## **A heart like the rocky soil**

- Those open to receiving the word will be amazed and receive it with

joy, but they stubbornly hold onto too many of their old thoughts, which block understanding and faith.

- Why does Satan attack these people with affliction or persecution because of the word? Because they don't have the faith to overcome.
- Ex: Nicodemus (Jn 3:1-6, Jn 7:50-52)

## **A heart like the rocky soil**

- As God's fellow workers, how can we overcome?

- Remind ourselves that the standard for our faith should be what God's Word says, not what we want it to say (Acts 17:11).
- Fear God more than men (Mt 10:28)

**A heart like the thorny soil**

**And the one on whom**

**seed was sown among the  
thorns, this is the man  
who hears the word, and  
the worry of the world  
and the deceitfulness of  
wealth choke the word,  
and it becomes  
unfruitful. (Mt 13:22)**

**A heart like the thorny soil**

- Those focused too much on meeting the desires of the flesh cannot please God (Rom 8:5-8). They will be too busy bearing worldly fruit to bear any godly fruit.
- Ex: Judas (Jn 12:4-8), Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)

**Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we**

**eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows**

**that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

## **Mt 6:31-33**

**But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have**

**wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

**1 Tm 6:6-10**

**A heart like the thorny soil**

- As God's fellow workers, how can we overcome?
- Make effort every day to prioritize God and His

kingdom in the way we  
each spend our daily 24-hr  
allotment of time.

## **A heart like the good soil**

**And the one on whom seed  
But the seed in the good  
was sown on the good soil,  
soil, these are the ones  
this is the man who **hears****

**who have heard the  
the word and understands  
word in an honest and  
it; who indeed bears fruit  
good heart, and hold it  
and brings forth, some a  
fast, and bear fruit with  
hundredfold, some sixty,  
perseverance. (Lk 8:15)  
and some thirty.” (Mt 13:23)**

# A heart like the good soil

- A good and noble heart accepts the Word, holds onto it, prioritizes it with obedience, and bears godly fruit through consistent effort and perseverance (Gal 5:22-23, Jn 15:8).
- Ex: Paul (1 Cor 9:23-27)

**I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.**

**Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.**

# 1 Cor 9:23-27

## A heart like the good soil

- As God's fellow workers, how can we overcome?
- Cultivate spiritual discipline toward prayer and toward sealing and sharing the word.
- Communicate well with the

staff to help us help you stay  
accountable.



**For I consider that the  
sufferings of this present  
time are not worthy to be  
compared with the glory that  
is to be revealed to us.**

# Rom 8:18

## Summary and conclusion

- When we encounter the true Word of God, which is His seed, we must cultivate the soil of our hearts so that God's seed can grow well within us.
- To overcome the field like the roadside, we can open our hearts, put in the effort to study, and ask questions to make sure we understand.
- To overcome the rocky soil, we can remind ourselves that the standard should be the Bible rather than just relying on what we already know, think, or feel.



- To overcome the thorny soil, we can make an effort daily to prioritize God's Word and ensure we grow in it.
- It isn't easy to become good soil, but we don't have to do it alone. God will surely help us if we ask for help ... and so will the staff of this class.  

Let's pray

