



The Word: Seed  
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“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear... “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

Mark 4:3-20

#### **Foot Path: Hard Heart**

Unforgiveness / Anger, Unwillingness to surrender, Unbelief / Pride

“In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.”

Psalms 10:4

#### **Rocky Soil: Shallow Heart**

Conflicting expectations, Change is difficult, Loyalties are challenged

#### **Crowded Soil: Divided Heart**

Worries of life, Lack of trust in the goodness of God, Lure of wealth

#### **Fertile Soul: Humble Heart**

Trusts in the truth of God’s word, Trusts in the goodness of God,

Obedient to what they hear

“...if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.” James 1:25

#### Essentials for Growth: **Good Seed & Good Soil**

“...humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts...” James 1:21

#### **G.R.O.W. Guide to Reading & Applying God’ Word**

Scripture Passage: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you, and speak to you through His Word.

Journal your observations **as you read** through the passage. Write down anything that stands out to you, questions you have, anything that surprises or causes you to wonder about.

**G - What is God Saying?** The Holy Spirit speaks to us! After you take notes on your observations and questions on the passage you read... in one sentence summarize what you think God is trying to say through this scripture. Is this passage teaching you about God’s character? How do you have a relationship with God? Is it about God’s plans or purposes? Maybe it is about how we do relationships with others? What is the big idea? Why is this recorded for you and others to read it today? What would be a summary sentence?

**R – Reflection Time:** How does the way you live reflect or not reflect this truth you are reading about today? Describe your daily experiences and circumstances. Do you have internal struggle with what you are reading? Why? What makes this hard to understand or apply? Be honest with the reality of your life and what with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak and write it down. Where do you struggle in obedience?

**O – Opportunity for Obedience:** In light of your current realities, what adjustments could you make in your life that would help you align more with what you are learning about God, yourself, or others? Brainstorm a few ways you could be obedient to this truth you have read about. What is something you practically CAN try this week. Ask the Holy Spirit for help and write down ideas for obedience.

**W – Committing our Will to His Will:** Make a decision to be obedient in what you think the Holy Spirit speaking to you about, and surrender your Will to His Will in prayer now. Complete this simple sentence.

I will \_\_\_\_\_ this week.