

Soil, Seed, and Fruit I

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John 15:2 a branch in Christ bears fruit
John 15:6 a branch not bearing fruit is burned
Galatians 6:8 sow to the Spirit—Heaven
Galatians 6:8 sow to the sin nature—flames
1 Corinthians 15:1 if you hold fast that word...
Hebrews 3:14 become partakers of Christ, if...

Parable of the Sower Luke 8:5-15

Being *saved by grace* includes sowing to please the Spirit—this results in reaping eternal life. If we sow to please the sin-nature, we will reap eternal destruction.

Bearing spiritual fruit means acting by the power of the Spirit. Jesus said **AV John 15:2** “*Every branch in me that beareth not fruit [His Father] taketh away.*”

To be *in Him*, is acting, talking, and deciding as He told us to in Scripture. Obeying His words is bearing *spiritual fruit*.

Jesus said spiritual growth results from *abiding in Him*—staying *connected* to His words and following His instructions.

If we try doing anything by our own ability, we will fail—**AV John 15:4** “*As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*”

If we do not continue acting, talking, deciding, and living by keeping 100% of our trust on Him, we can be **AV John 15:6** “*Cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*” It is a *serious* issue with even *more serious* results!

We are *saved* by grace, but we can *fall* from grace; We are *justified* by faith, but our faith can *cease* to exist. We are not under the law but allowing ourselves to be controlled by the sin-nature results in spiritual death.

God is always faithful to us, but we must be faithful to Him and His Word to the end of our lives to escape the lake of fire.

God surely loves us, but those who inherit the kingdom love Him with all their heart, soul, and mind. To love God is to follow His commands. **AV John 14:15** “*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*”

Eternal life is just up ahead and soon to be reaped—so warnings are needed.

NIV Galatians 6:8 “*The one who sows to please his **sinful** nature, from that nature will reap **destruction**; the one who sows to please the **Spirit**, from the Spirit will reap **eternal life**.*”

Jesus told the *Parable of the Sower* which mentions four types of people who hear the Word of God and their responses to it.

AV Luke 8:5 “*A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.*”

AV Luke 8:6 *And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.*

AV Luke 8:7 *And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.*

AV Luke 8:8 *And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold.*

And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

Jesus is saying that after *hearing* the word we must *act* on it.

AV Luke 8:9 “*His disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?*”

10 *And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might **not** see, and hearing they might **not** understand.”*

AV Luke 8:11 *Now the parable is this: The **seed** is the **word** of God.*

12 *Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

13 *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

14 *And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*

15 *But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, **keep** it, and bring forth **fruit** with patience.*

Those along the path who hear, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved—are people who never come to saving faith, because even though they *heard* the word, they did not *believe* the word enough to put it into practice.

They allow Satan to distract them with other interests so that they never bear fruit—or never see an increase of their faith in Christ.

The false teaching of *eternal security* confuses the issue by saying if anyone falls away from the faith, they were never saved in the first

place—but only *this* person who has the Word taken from them after hearing it, was never saved.

They are the only one in this parable that never believed the Word when they heard it.

The second person in this parable hears, receives, and believes for a time.

Let us consider this person in detail, because the false doctrine of eternal security is so widely accepted today, and this example refutes that delusion.

The *once saved always saved* teaching says a first-time *believer* will always *be* a believer and will always *bring forth* fruit—but that is not true.

First-time believers don't always remain believers—many things can pull them away from faith in God. Jesus gives many warnings about *falling away* from faith after *accepting* the faith.

Jesus explains the second type person—NIV **Luke 8:13** “*Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.*”

Another translation says they ‘*have no lasting root,*’ which is a clear translation because it leaves little room for misinterpretation.

This second type *did* have roots because plant growth resulted from the seed. This type of person *receives* God's Word and has faith to *believe* the Word for a time.

Faith to believe and to trust God is necessary for eternal life to be the result.

There are some, however, who after having faith in Christ and believing for a while, *leave* the faith.

Jesus is explaining that there are many who *hear* the Word and *believe* what they heard for a time, but when trials or temptations arise, they no longer believe nor trust God in faith.

False teachers often refer to Matthew 13 or Mark 4 when speaking on the Parable of the

Sower, because the wording of Luke 8:13 is difficult to twist—*for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

Eternal security teachers say that if people fall away from faith in Christ, they never did believe in the first place.

But Luke 8:13 refutes false doctrine by saying there are people who *believe for awhile* but fall away from faith in Christ when their faith is tested.

This second person believed and showed spiritual fruit, then later stopped believing and stopped bearing fruit.

They *had* genuine faith in Christ for some time, because plant life sprung up from the root. *Plant life* is referring to *spiritual life*. Something happened after the plant started to grow and bear fruit.

This is a major point, because only by faith in Christ is anyone saved.

However, if we later let go of our faith in Christ, and no longer trust Him for daily life issues, we are then *not* saved—at least until we see the error of our way, repent, and return to faith in Christ.

This second type of person *believes* and has faith in Christ and is *saved* at that point.

Jesus explains NKJV **Matthew 13:21** says: “*Yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles [falls away NIV].*”

Some type of persecution or difficulty was too much for this person—and it proves that their proclaimed faith in Christ to be false or bogus.

They did not hold on to, nor hold fast to, the Word—which is necessary to do to be saved.

NKJV **1 Corinthians 15:1** “*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,*

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word [if ye keep in memory AV] which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Such a person did not retain the *confidence* they first had in God—this would result in them not *sharing* in Christ.

NKJV **Hebrews 3:14** “*For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.*”

This translation NLT “*For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.*”

The very fact that they accepted God's Word and wanted to live a godly life, is what brought about the persecution in the first place.

NIV **2 Timothy 3:12** “*Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*”

This *once saved* person was putting God's Word into practice—and as could be expected, persecution was met.

We will encounter trials and difficulties, if we want to live a godly life of faith in Christ.

NKJV **Galatians 6:8** “*For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*”



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