

Matthew 6:33 *Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

2. Be willing to endure the _____ to get the _____

I Peter 1:7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

3. Don't allow those with other _____ to influence you.

They may look the same on the surface, but if their values are different...you can pray for them, and you can help them, but understand that that ground is not your goal.

I Corinthians 15:33 *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 *The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

18 *Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

THE FOUR SOILS

1. The _____ Soil (v. 4, 19)

- The wayside refers to the narrow footpaths that ran beside the field, and thus produced hard soil.

- Pictures the heart that hears the Word, but doesn't _____ it.
- They could be steeped in sin and _____ to understand or believe.
- They could be _____ towards the things of God.
- The soil is so _____ the Word of God cannot penetrate.
- If the seed doesn't penetrate, the fowls (Satan) will come and _____ it away.

2. The _____ Soil (v. 5-6, 20-21)

- Thin layer of topsoil on top of rock.
- This soil looks good and seeds will germinate quickly
- Because there is no _____, when the sun beats down, it will wither and die quickly.

3. The _____ Soil (v. 7, 22)

- Also looks like good soil, but underneath the surface are living roots and seeds of thorns and weeds.
- Picture of the heart that tries to benefit from the Gospel while still clinging to the world.

James 1:8 *A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

4. The _____ Soil (v. 8, 23)

- This ground has been worked and prepared.
- The farmer understands that to have good ground, you must be diligently up-keeping it on a daily basis.
- The plant can grow to full maturity and then produce fruit that brings honor and gain to the farmer.
- Pictures the heart that has been diligently prepared by the faithful Christian – through the grace of God.
 - Daily time in the _____
 - Daily time in _____
 - Daily time resisting the _____
 - Daily time _____ to God

Three Steps to Good Soil

1. Decide to make God your _____

Colossians 1:18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*