



Welcome the Word.

Elements of the parable

Mark 4:8-9 *And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.*⁹ *And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

- Seed falling
- Good soil receiving
- Seed producing
 - Growing up
 - Increasing
 - Yielding

Ears to hear: "involves surrender of proud self-reliance and submission to God."¹

Explanation of the parable

Mark 4:20 *But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.*

Luke 8:15 *As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.*

- Hear the Word
- Accept the Word

"He is neither hard, shallow nor preoccupied."²

- Bear fruit: 30x, 60x, & 100x

Q: Have you shifted your allegiance to Jesus Christ?
If not, say “Yes” to Jesus today. If so, the question becomes,
“How do I continue growing in welcoming the Word?”

Practical reversal of the previous three responses

- 1) Be quick to hear, slow to speak – James 1:19-21
Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- 2) Take your thoughts captive with God’s Word. Bit by bit, you will grow out of being dominated by fragile feelings. You’ll still struggle, but now you can win – 2 Corinthians 10:5 *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,*
- 3) Step by step, make room for Jesus in every room of your life.
 - Cares of this world: Maximize your weekend by prioritizing church connection.
 - Deceitfulness of riches: Start giving. Start somewhere. Work towards the tithe.
 - Desires for other things: Can I live without this *item/stuff*? How long can I live without it?

Psalm 4:7 *You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.*

Questions to diagnose your spiritual growth

- 1) Do I thirst for God?
- 2) Do I still grieve over sin or excuse it?
- 3) Am I a quick forgiver?
- 4) Am I growing in love?
- 5) Am I governed by God's Word?
- 6) Do I delight in the local church?
- 7) Do I yearn for heaven and to be with Jesus?³

Q: What's my next step with Jesus Christ?

A: [Connect Card](#)

- I am committing my life to Jesus for the first time.
- I am repenting and renewing my commitment to Jesus.
- I am interested in being baptized by immersion.
- I would like more information on Starting Point class.
- I am interested in serving.
- I want to register for Foundations.
- I am interested in Recovery Church.
- I am interested in joining a small group.

¹ *ESV Study Bible*, Mark 4:9.

² Walter W. Wessel, "Mark," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 651.

³ Donald S. Whitney, *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health* (Carol Stream, IL: NavPress, 2001).