

PRIORITIES

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Jesus told this parable: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 'Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." ...

""This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. "Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. "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. "The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8

1. How are you at finishing what you start?

2. In your life when your spiritual life was the most unfruitful, what was the main reason?

☐ I had a whole lot of problems. ☐ I didn't know about Christ. ☐ I was living life my way.
☐ I knew about Christ, but my priorities were messed up. ☐ I lacked a supportive Christian community.

3. What was the main factor at the time your life produced the best crop?

☐ I continually sought God's will. ☐ I had my priorities in order.
☐ I had few distractions in my life. ☐ I had a supportive Christian community.
☐ I had a strong devotional life.

4. What do you have in your life now that gives "depth to your soil" and nurtures your growth? (Choose as many as apply, and put a star by the one that is most important to you.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Christian parents	<input type="checkbox"/> other Christian relatives	<input type="checkbox"/> Relig	<input type="checkbox"/> personal devotions
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian friends	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian music	<input type="checkbox"/> Mass	<input type="checkbox"/> some books I've read
<input type="checkbox"/> church activities	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

5. What are the "thorns" and "rocks" in your life which tend to choke out your spiritual growth?

<input type="checkbox"/> pressure from friends or family	<input type="checkbox"/> influence of TV / movies / music	<input type="checkbox"/> concern about money
<input type="checkbox"/> lack of commitment or discipline	<input type="checkbox"/> a "rocky" home life	<input type="checkbox"/> desire for material things
<input type="checkbox"/> suffering that makes it hard to believe in a good God		<input type="checkbox"/> sexual temptations
<input type="checkbox"/> parties / alcohol/drugs		<input type="checkbox"/> worry about the future

6. How would you describe the root system of your spiritual life right now?

☐ growing ☐ strong and deep ☐ pretty shallow
☐ really dry

7. How often do you make hearing and acting on God's Word a priority in your life?

☐ all of the time ☐ most of the time ☐ some of the time ☐ Sorry you asked!

8. What specific "thorn of worry" would you like the group to pray with you about?