

The Human Heart is Ground for God's Word

God made man's heart the ground for His Word to land in, grow in, and produce from. The Lord calls **"good ground"** the heart that receives the seed, hears and understands it, and then bears fruit that produces a thirty, sixty or hundred-fold return!

It is important to note that there is an adversary that also sows seeds. These seeds produce tares, which have no usable grain, and are **poisonous for human consumption!** They are only good to be burned. It is imperative to use discernment in what we allow into our gateways. If it's not in line with the Word of God, we do not want it in the ground of our hearts!

Scriptures: Matthew 13:1-32, Proverbs 4:20-23

- *Discuss the differences of the grounds in Matthew 13:4-8 & 18-23. What is God's desired purpose for the seed of His Word in man's heart? Understanding that people's hearts are like ground, how will you pray for those you want to see saved, healed & delivered? What prevents the Word from fully producing in people's hearts? How will you respond to the Word as it is sown into your heart?*
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Bloom Where you are Planted

Roots draw from the soil they are abiding in. Plants bloom where they are planted. Their root systems nourish the entire tree. And, this applies to both good and bad systems.

Do you see people you admire that are rooted in Christ, in their relationships, and in their purpose & calling? They didn't come by it accidentally. They kept themselves rooted, watering the soil with love & integrity, weeding out offenses, unforgiveness, and catching the "little foxes" before they spoil the vine.

Some people will not stay in relationships, under leadership, in jobs, churches, families, or groups long enough to allow healthy root systems to form. They will find an offense, a problem, or a means of accusation against others, and run before they can mature. This is why their lives produces little to no fruit, or unhealthy fruit.

We extend compassion, because this mindset is the result of past trauma, abuse, neglect or rejection (even from "trusted" people). However - given a healthy environment, this mind-set and behavior will need to be healed for a believer to mature and grow properly in Christ. Without healing in this area, even "well-meaning" believers can stay in a "wandering" or "orphaned" mentality, instead of becoming rooted to produce true fruit as sons and daughters.

Scriptures: Psalm 1:1-6, Song of Solomon 2:15, John 15:5-6, Ephesians 3:16-19

- *Discuss how you've seen root systems in your own, or others lives work for good or for destruction. Discuss what has helped you stay rooted in Christ, when you've faced temptations to uproot. What are tools and practices you can do to stay "abiding" in the Vine, and to keep out the "little foxes" that spoil the vine?*
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Bearing MUCH Fruit

God is the God of MULTIPLICATION, in every area of our lives. He expects His Word to accomplish what it was sent to do, and to produce “much fruit” in and through us. That encompasses both **internal fruit** (*the fruit of the Spirit*) and **external fruit** (*doing the works of Jesus on the earth*). Both matter to Him, and it’s important to grow in both ways, however, the external fruit will only **remain** if the **internal** fruit is in tact.

God is also our Gardener. Do you trust Him, and will you cooperate with Him when He wants to weed, prune and tend to your attitudes, actions, decisions and lifestyle? He desires to be Lord of your **entire life**, but He will not force Himself on you. Continual abiding in Him is the way to produce true Godly fruit.

Just as you are uniquely created, so are your gifts and callings. As you continue to stay rooted, you will grow **bountifully** into the destiny He has planned for your life. Just watch and see! ALL for HIS glory and HIS honor!

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:10-11, John 15:7-8, Galatians 5:22-26

- *Discuss the shortfalls of pursuing external fruit above internal fruit. Will you abide in Jesus all the way to the end? Are you ready to rise up to the call of bearing “much fruit” and making the necessary changes to see that happen?*
