
Cultivating Your Ground (Producing Much Fruit)

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Pastor Wil Nichols

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Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Cultivating Your Ground (Producing Much Fruit)

New Series Messages: "The Fruit of the Holy Spirit"

- **How do we know the Holy Spirit is Working?**
- Scripture: Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- Subject: Where's the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up)
- Subject: What's the Fruit? (Good or Evil)
- Subject: The Purpose of the Fruit (Paying the Cost to Win the Lost)
 - The Function of the Fruit
 - The Cost of the Fruit
 - The Reward of the Fruit

Lesson Text

Mark 4:3–8 (AV)³ Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: ⁴ And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. ⁵ And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: ⁶ But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. ⁸ And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

Introduction

When we accept Christ into our Heart and the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we are supposed to produce the Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

But what we've learned is that in reality, far too many Christians and Churches have leaves (gifts) but no fruit! And like Adam and Eve, they use the leaves to cover their lack of fruit.

Others may be producing fruit, but their fruit is evil because their trees are corrupt.

Today we want to look at another challenge to producing the Fruit of the Spirit, which is the condition of the ground in which the seed of the fruit is sowed.

Our lesson text illustrates four types of Ground: Wayside Ground never produces fruit; Stony Ground scorches the fruit; Thorny Ground chokes the fruit; Good Ground multiplies the fruit.

The ground represents the various conditions of man's heart; and the seed is the Word of God.

When the ground (our heart) is not in the proper condition, it is our responsibility to cultivate (farm, develop, improve, and enrich) it so that the seed can multiply and produce much fruit.

Mark 4: ⁸ **And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.**

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Cultivating Your Ground (Producing Much Fruit)

“The Hard Hearts, Stony Hears, Thorny Hearts, and Fertile Hearts”

I. The Wayside Ground (Hard Hearts)

Mark 4: ⁴ **And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.**

Wayside Ground represents a Harden Heart, so hard that the Word/Seed cannot penetrate it. As a result, the birds (the devil) takes the seed away before it can take root.

Mark 4:15 (AV)¹⁵ **And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.**

A Hard Heart can't produce fruit because the Word never takes root in our hearts.

Hearts become hardened when they are constantly walked on and abused!

Luke 8:5 (AV)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.**

Psalms 41:9 (AV)⁹ **Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.**

The Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Abuse of betrayal, mistreatment, persecution, and disappointments can create bitter, broken, hard hearts!

The Wayside Ground (Hard Hearts) must be Broken Up with Worship and Praise!

Jeremiah 4:3 (AV)³ **For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.**

2 Chronicles 30:8 (AV)⁸ **Now be ye not stiffnecked (Hard Headed), as your fathers *were*, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary,**

In the 73rd Psalm, David had almost given up because his heart was suffering from seeing the prosperity of the wicked. And it remained that way until he went into the sanctuary of the Lord.

Psalms 73:17 (AV)¹⁷ **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end.**

We must break up the hard hearts of bitterness, the hard hearts of betrayal, the hard hearts of disappointment and depression with our Worship of the Lord, and Praise in His Sanctuary

Psalms 100:4 (AV)⁴ **Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.**

II. The Stony Ground (Shallow Hearts)

Mark 4: ⁵ And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: ⁶ But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

The Stony Ground represents a Shallow Heart, so shallow that the Word/Seed cannot survive. As soon as it experiences the heat of persecution, the Word withers away!

Mark 4:16–17 (AV)¹⁶ And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

A Shallow Heart can't maintain its fruit because it is easily offended from being too carnal.

1 Corinthians 3:2–3 (AV)² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able. ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Shallow hearts have roots with no depth, saved but no sanctification, happiness but no joy, relationships but no love, talent but no character, wealth but no peace.

The Stony Ground (Shallow Hearts) must be Cleared Up with Sacrifice

Luke 9:23 (AV)²³ And he said to *them* all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

To clear up the stones of a shallow heart, we must deny our flesh through sacrifice.

Romans 8:5 (AV)⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:13 (AV)¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do **mortify** the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

III. The Thorny Ground (Choked Heart)

Mark 4: ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

The Thorny Ground represents a Choked Heart; choked out to the point that the Word/Seed loses its ability to produce and thus becomes unfruitful.

Mark 4:18–19 (AV)¹⁸ And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, ¹⁹ And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

A Choked Heart loses its fruit because there's too much of the wrong things or people around it.

Psalms 1:1 (AV)¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

1 Timothy 6:10 (AV)¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The Thorny Ground (Choked Heart) must be Cleaned Up with Righteousness

Psalms 51:10 (AV)¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

To clean up the weeds and thorns that choke the Word from our hearts, we must clean it up with the righteousness of God's Word.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 119:11 (AV)¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

IV. The Good Ground (Fertile Heart)

Mark 4:8 **And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.**

The Good Ground represents a Fertile Heart in which the Word/Seed is Multiplied.

Mark 4:20 (AV)²⁰ **And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

When we Break Up our Wayside Hard Hearts, Clear Up our Stony Shallow Hearts, Clean Up our Thorny Choked Hearts, we end up with Good Fertile Hearts.

The Good Ground (Fertile Heart) produces a Great Harvest.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

John 15:5 (AV)⁵ **I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

Galatians 6:9 (AV)⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

John 15:7-8 (AV)⁷ **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Cultivating Your Ground (Producing Much Fruit))

Study Tools:

- Sermon Video and Notes: <https://victoriouspraise.org/>
- Bibles, Commentaries, and Dictionnaires: <https://biblehub.com/tools.htm>
- Book Source: [“The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit”](#); Read the Following Chapters:
 - “Part 2: Fruit of the Spirit”
 - “Building a “Fenced” Garden”
 - “Yielding Faith and Works”

Lesson Text

- Mark 4:3–8

Sermon Outline

- I. The Wayside Ground (Hard Hearts)
- II. The Stony Ground (Shallow Hearts)
- III. The Thorny Ground (Choked Heart)
- IV. The Good Ground (Fertile Heart)

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. At this stage on your Christian journey, what type of ground are you?
2. Using your five senses (sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch), describe the fruit your ground has created. Is it an orange, banana, apple, kiwifruit, avocado, strawberry, etc.?

II. Into the Bible

1. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell the parable of The Sower; each using different terms. Read all three (Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15) and compare the variations of each. Share which Gospel speaks clearest to you regarding this parable.
2. Jesus spoke in parables (word pictures) throughout His ministry using metaphors, similes, and allegories. Why did Jesus utilize parables? Use scripture to support your answer.

III. Life Application

1. How can we tell when we need to change our heart environment?
2. Describe the day to day actions of a person who is cultivating good ground.

Prayer:

- **Prayer Request:**
- **Personal Prayer:**