

# Living by His WORD

THE WORD  
hearing and doing



If you read Mark 4:3-9, then you'll see the 4 types of ground Jesus had mentioned:

- 1 The Wayside (no plans or purpose for hearing the Word)
- 2 Stony Ground (Limited stability)
- 3 Thorny Ground (No sanctification)
- 4 Good Ground (Able to produce good fruit)

Jesus said in **verse 9**, "he who has ears to hear, let him hear". The ground He speaks of is the heart of a person and the development of their character. The seeds of God's word must take root in the ground or the seed will remain just a seed.

When reading the parable, you soon discover the "hearing" Jesus mentions will more likely be heard through the four types of ground or "heart".

Look at **verse 15**. Satan comes immediately to three types of ground... the wayside, the stony and thorny ground who hear incorrectly. This tells us the **first** opponent to hearing properly is our self. This is what Satan will or will not be able to use to steal the word from us. **What is in our heart determines the outcome of the seed.**

**Mark 4:4** says "when there's no plan and purpose for the seed, the birds came and devoured it." This is how Satan can use people to steal the word from us before it can take root in our life.

Only the 4th type of ground is declared GOOD. Only the person who is able to grow is the one who hears correctly and then produces fruit.

When you plant in the ground without doing something to find out whether the seed will grow or not, it will most likely produce nothing. I was helping my son who is a landscaping contractor for a military base in our area. We were driving one day to a housing area he wanted to check out. On the way there he stopped to watch some men that were planting trees. He said to me, "those trees will all die." When I asked why, He told me that the ground they were planting in was not being prepared as it should be and every one of those trees would eventually die. When I was driving down that way approximately two months later I noticed the trees he mentioned were all dead. **If seed can't take root in the ground it will never grow.**

I was always puzzled by the fact that in this parable, "they heard the word" in **verse 16** "and immediately received it with gladness, but could not endure." Notice **verse 20** says good ground. They also heard also and accepted it, but they were able to produce. What was the difference between the two? The key

is found in how they received the word. In **verse 16** the word received it, is the Greek word **lambano**. Meaning: They just happened to be at the right place, the word fell on them, and they liked what they heard. They were not purposely seeking for it. But in **verse 20** the word received/accepted is the Greek word **paradechomai**. This tells us that they were purposely going to a specific place to hear the word and place it along side of themselves to hold close and conform to what they have heard. The reason they were able to produce fruit is because **they were doing something to their ground to receive the seed** so it could take root and grow in them.

When we make a decision to not just hear, but also do the Word and take action, that's when we prepare our ground to receive the good seed of God's Word and watch it produce fruit in our lives! Praise the Lord for this understanding of the Parable of the sower in Mark chapter 4.

With love,

*Pastor Jann*

JAN  
2018

# Living by His word

## UPCOMINGEVENTS

Men's Breakfast | Sat. Jan. 13th 8:30 AM in GRC

Women's Bible Study | Tuesday's 10 AM in the GRC

Creative MeetUp | Sunday 1:30 PM at

Office Closed - MLK Day | Monday, January 15th

Corporate Prayer | Tuesday 6:30-8 PM in the Main Sanctuary

## LivingLife

**Christmas Giving Tree** Another successful year where we, as a church give to families connected with us during the Christmas season. This year we were able to give gifts for 35 children with stockings

and gift bags. The department heads and spouses

all enjoyed wrapping the gifts and filling the stockings for these families during their Christmas party this year.

**Word Connection** We will begin a new series titled "Now What?" You can register for this series starting in late December, early January. We appreciate the opportunity the hosts create for us to connect with the word of God and each other.

**THE WKND MMXVII** Every year, Cultivate goes to Seattle for a youth conference held at Churchome (formerly The City Church). We stay at a nearby hotel and are always blessed by the worship and speakers who deliver impactful messages for this generation.

**Word Connection begins on January 14th. Join a group today! Call the office and we'll help.**

## FLOURISH GENERATIONMINISTRIES

**Cultivate:** ONE HIT WONDERS - Hear your youth leaders and fellow students share what God has been speaking in their hearts.

**Cultivate Youth meets Wednesday @7pm**  
**Junior High Vines meets Sunday @10:30am**

**Grow Kids: Center Stage** Learn the heart of worshipping God. Make a joyful noise!

**CULTIVATE** The WKND is coming soon!  
Save money and sign up! March 2-3

### BASICINFO

#### SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM

#### CONTACT

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#### SOCIAL

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