

Growing by His word

GOOD GROUND

In our October and November letters, we were talking about the subject of our faith. We clearly defined that it must grow in us. Thankfully, grace and mercy covers us along the way as we grow and develop.

When believers struggle with their faith, the result of the struggle is from inconsistency. Everything in nature grows or it dies.

My wife and I took a vacation for two weeks and upon returning home she went right to the sink to draw water into a pitcher and proceeded to water the plants in our house. I noticed right away they looked all shriveled up and dying. She knew that the plants needed watering in order to continue the process of growth or they would die.

These plants started in seed form, were planted in good soil and maintained by her care. **1 John 5:4** (original text reads) "because everything having been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory overcoming the world, the faith of us."

1 John 3:9 clearly tells us we are born again as a result of His seed being planted in us grows because it overcomes sin in our life.

The seed is a reference to the word being planted in our spirit and grows to the point of being able to overcome the world. **1 John 4:4** "he who is greater" is referring to the life of God that was planted in you that has grown in your spirit. It has grown to the point of His life in you, overcoming the world by the faith that has been developed.

This clearly tells us that when the seed is planted it would remain or stays in place. **(1 John 3:9)** When a seed is planted in good ground then we can be assured it grows to its full potential, then we reap the fruit and all the benefits from it. **(Mark 4:28, 29)**

Then the question comes up: what are the signs of someone who is saying they are in faith, but you may discern they are not? We can know this by the type of or lack of fruit they bear. **Matt 7:16-20.**

The first area we must look at is what type of ground is the seed being planted? This will determine the outcome; if the seed will be able to take root and eventually bear its fruit. **(Mark 4:29)**

The heart reveals the ground that the seed goes into. **(Mark 4:15-19)** The first sign is being able to discern the heart of a person. Notice, Satan goes right to the heart, or the ground that the seed was planted in by the way we all hear. **(Verse 15: "when they hear")**

Ground #1 Stony Ground:

They were happy to hear the word and where it was going to profit it them personally. Satan knew tribulation or persecution would remove the seed. How? Seed does not take root in hard ground very well.

Ground #2 Thorny Ground:

cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, desires for other things entering in choke the word and it becomes unfruitful.

Notice the ground **#1** and **#2** give reference to our outward man. But the

good ground— #3 —, gives reference to our inner man, "our spirit". The full potential of the seed if planted in our inner man, will give way to the kingdom of God....growing in us to change our outward person.(ground)

Notice **Mark 4:21-23**. What are the signs of someone who say they are in faith and you know they are not? There are seven things that I take a look at.

- #1** People feel a need to prove themselves
- #2** They have a works mentality
- #3** They TRY to receive
- #4** They are poor listeners
- #5** Seem to apply faith only in unfavorable circumstances
- #6** No regular daily maintenance
- #7** They measure their faith by the size of their problem.

Next month we will explain all of these seven signs in detail. I pray you continue to water the seed of God in the good ground your heart so that it develops and remains to bear good fruit.

Love,

Pastor Jann



BASIC INFO

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning
10:30 AM

Wednesday Evening
7:00 PM

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a Word Connection group

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FACE TO FACE
true worship

**Smallgroups
Begin January 12th**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Bible Study | Starts January 7TH 10AM in the GRC

Men's Breakfast | January 11TH, Saturday 8:30AM in the GRC

Word Connection - FACE TO FACE | Begins January 12TH

Water Baptism | Sunday, January 19TH 10:30 AM

OFFICES CLOSED | January 20TH

All Church Prayer | Tuesday, January 21ST 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker TONY COOKE | January 29TH 10:30AM & 30TH 7PM



SPROUTS PRESCHOOL
+ **GROW KIDS**

Talk to a teacher or
leader to join the
team!

CULTIVATE YOUTH

The WKND
Conference 2020
March 7th & 8th
**Church on
Wednesdays**
@7PM in
GRC Sanctuary.