

ROOTED IN CHRIST
Planting The Seed
Pastor Steve Reynolds

B. Don't be distracted by temptation.

¹³ *"But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away."* Luke 8:13

¹⁴ *"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."* James 1:14

C. Don't be distracted by the world.

¹⁴ *"Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."* Luke 8:14

¹⁵ *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* I John 2:15

IV. DO WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS

Jesus revealed the evidence of a "good heart" is fruitfulness and faithfulness.

¹⁵ *"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."* Luke 8:15

³¹ *"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word; you are My disciples indeed.'" Luke 8:31*

Introduction:

A. Let's deepen our roots in Christ! Let us obey Colossians 2:6-7a which says,

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith."

Deep spiritual roots will not and cannot happen by accident. They must be intentionally cultivated.

God is the divine gardener, who has our spiritual maturity as His ultimate goal. Jesus used agricultural imagery to describe this process.

B. Attend the Rooted In Christ Teaching Series to deepen your roots in Christ through planting, growing, pruning and harvesting. Discover a more fruitful and stronger kingdom life.

June 1	Planting The Seed
June 8	Growing In Maturity
June 15	Pruning Away Sin
June 22	Laboring In The Harvest

C. TEXT: Luke 8:4-18

Key Verse:

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." Luke 8:11

PLANT THE SEED OF THE WORD

HOW TO PLANT THE SEED

The Actors:

- The sower is God and anyone who distributes the Word of God.
- The seed is the Word of God.
- The soil is the human heart.

The Big Idea:

The seed of the Bible is available to all. It is sown generously no matter the heart condition of the individual. Its ability to take root and grow when planted is dependent on the condition of the “soil” of one’s heart. A life rooted in Christ maintains a “good heart” and obediently receives the planted Word.

I. PRIORITIZE TIME TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

A great multitude prioritized time to hear Jesus tell this story.

⁴ “*And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:*

⁵ *‘A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.*

⁶ *Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.*

⁷ *And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.*

⁸ *But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.’ When He had said these things He cried, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’”*
Luke 8:4-8

A. Prioritize time each day to hear God’s Word through a “quiet time.”

¹⁰ “*Be still, and know that I am God;*” Psalm 46:10a

B. Prioritize time each Sunday to hear God’s Word through a church service.

² “*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*” II Timothy 4:2

II. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF GOD’S WORD

Jesus told this story to provide understanding.

⁹ “*Then His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘What does this parable mean?’*

¹⁰ *And He said, ‘To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’”* Luke 8:9-10

A. God’s Word provides understanding into the “mysteries of the kingdom of God.”

¹³⁰ “*The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.*” Psalm 119:130

B. You must study God’s Word to determine the correct understanding.

¹⁵ “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” II Timothy 2:15

III. AVOID DISTRACTIONS FROM GOD’S WORD

Jesus said the Bible is the “seed” for spiritual growth.

A. Don’t be distracted by Satan.

¹² “*Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*” Luke 8:12

¹¹ “*lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*” II Corinthians 2:11