

You are the seed, but where do you fall?

When Jesus told the parable of The Sower of the Seed, He felt the frustration of planting seeds (teaching and preaching) and it never produced grain. There are times despite having true faith that we do not see the fruits of our labors. Yet you are assured that if the seed of your faith has deep roots and you nurture this faith, you will grow and flourish like the seed that fell on good soil. This parable has to do with a sower who scatters seeds and they fall on four different types of ground. Jesus' explanation of this parable provides four different responses to the Gospel. The seed represents the word of the kingdom of God. The hard ground "by the way side" prevents the seed from sprouting at all, and the seed becomes nothing more than bird food. This hard ground represents someone who is hardened by sin. He hears but does not understand the Word of God which prevents it from making any sort of impression. Because of this, Satan plucks the message away (just like the birds). The stony ground provides just enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because there is really no depth in the earth, the plants do not take root and are soon withered in the sun. The stony ground is like a person who on the outside appears to have delight in the Word of God, but their heart is not changed. Therefore, when trouble arises, his so-called faith quickly disappears. Next comes the thorny ground that allows the seed to grow, but the thorns choke the life out of the plants. The thorny ground depicts one who seems to receive the Word, but whose heart is full of riches, pleasures, and lusts. The material things of this world takes our attention away and ends up having no time for God. Last comes the good ground and it receives the seed and produces much fruit. The good ground portrays the one who hears, understands and receives the Word. He then allows the Word to flourish and flow through every aspect of their life. This parable urges us to examine ourselves and compels us to ask those hard questions: How sincere are we in our beliefs? Are our beliefs deep-rooted, shallow, real or something that only lives for the moment? *–Sherrie Clutts DRE*