



## Good Soil

*He (Jesus) told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”*

*Matt. 13:3 – 8*

Soil = Heart, the condition of the soil represents the condition of our heart

*Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unending love and break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord. Hosea 10:12 (NIV)*

### Four Soil/Heart Conditions

**Good Soil** – A broken, receptive heart, ready to receive God’s word

- Softened, broken up, watered, productive
- Where we act on the Word, and produce fruit

**Foot Path** – Heart once soft, now hardened

- Areas have become hardened over time
- “Systematic Desensitization”
- Compromise

**Thorns/Weeds** – Things that distract us from pursuing God

- Deceitfulness of Riches
- Worries of the World
- Desire for Other Things

**Rocky, Shallow Soil** – Shallow heart with hard spots

- Habits
- Secret sins
- Damage, scars, our past
- Friends
- Generational issues

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:6-7 NKJV

**Sin** – an act of transgression, a choice, visible, known,

**Iniquity** – a propensity, unknown, hidden

Things like:

- Jealousy,
- Fear,
- Perversion,
- Pride,
- Heaviness

Usually we just think “that’s just the way I am”, or “all the men in my family act that way”.

**Iniquity is that indwelling, residual, driving force within the life of an individual that causes sin.**

## Steps to Freedom –

- **Agree with God.** What does the Word say? Get His word on it.
- **Ask God where it started,** what is the genesis. Is this something I've opened the door to? Is this something generational?
- **Ask forgiveness,** repent for yourself and your part in the sin or iniquity.
  - Also, repent on behalf of your ancestors. Release your father and grandfather for passing it on.
- **Place the cross** between yourself and your generation and subsequent generations and release the curse to the cross.
- **Acknowledge** that even though you may have inherited his iniquity, it is manifesting in your life.
- **Renounce the Iniquity** – break it's hold. “Throw out the chair.”
- **Release a Blessing** – speak the Word. Over yourself, your children, and your children's children.

*“He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”* Isaiah 53:5

There were two injuries inflicted. There were two prices paid.

- **Wounds** – piercing, wounding for our sin. An outward manifestation of damage for our outward manifestation of sin. Our transgressions.
- **Bruises** – internal damage, not necessarily visible. For our iniquities. The hidden things. Deep inside of us. Passed on through the generations.

**Jesus Blood paid the price for it all!!**

GATHER, GROW and GO with us!

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## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

Ask God if there is any area of your life that not receptive to His Word. Are there any 'blind spots' that God is pointing out to you? Is there any generational iniquity that you need to deal with?

## **QUICK REVIEW**

Review and pray through the Steps to Freedom. Apply the Blood of Jesus and the cross to any sin and/or iniquity that God brings to your attention.

## **MOVING FORWARD**

As you go about your daily life, practice recognizing things that trigger you. They may be indications of something in your life or generations that need rooted out so you can produce the fruit God created you to produce.