

## Worldly Faith Versus Biblical, Spiritual, Faith

Let us look at the explanation, of the parable of the sower, as defined by Jesus in each book it is mentioned:

- Mt 13:19-22; 19 "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."
- Mr 4:14-19; 14 "The sower soweth the word. 15 And these are they by the wayside, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."
- Lu 8:11-14; 11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."
- Mt 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."
- Mr 4:20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred."
- Lu 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

I have heard several interpretations of the parable of the sower. As I have continued to study upon faith this parable came to me. I want to point out some things, which have opened to my mind, which point out faith, and what it is for us. As we begin this study, remember what we are told in each occurrence of the parable, "**A sower went out to sow his seed:**" seen in:

- **Mt 13:3 "Behold, a sower went forth to sow;"**
- **Mr 4:3 "Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow;"**
- **Lu 8:5 "A sower went out to sow his seed;"**

This is a single sower, which indicates to us that Jesus (the Holy Spirit, who was sent to take Jesus's place on earth in time) is the sower. Notice also; it is the sower's seed, "***The seed is the word of God.***" which tells us the seed is the bible, and the gospel truth, found in the King James bible.

Next, I point out; there is only one group that gets seed that brings forth fruit, which is the seed sown in good ground. This groups, all the other groups (wayside, stony or rock, thorns) mentioned, into one category. How do we know this?

- Those by the wayside, and those on stony ground, are connected as seen in: **Mt 13:20 "But he that received the seed into stony places,"** by the contrast word "But" which simply demonstrates that the way the seed was treated is different. Then they are connected in **Mr 4:16 "And these are they likewise."** "And" is the connector, and "likewise" refers us to the previous group, thus they are conjoined.
- The stony places, and the thorns, are conjoined in **Mt 13:22 "He also that received seed among the thorns"** by "He also," in **Mr 4:18 "And these are they which are sown among thorns;"** by the conjunction "And;" and in **Lu 8:14 "And that which fell among thorns are they,"** by the conjunction "And." Wherefore, we understand; each of these groups received seed, however, how the seed was dealt with is the difference between them.

Remember, also, there are only two kinds of people in the world: Those who are not saved by the grace of God, and those who are saved by the grace of God. Those who believe God and those who do not believe. Those who have faith in God and those who do not have faith in God.

What does this parable have to do with "**Worldly Faith or Biblical Faith?**" Remember in our previous message "**Understanding Faith And The Bible;**" biblical or spiritual faith is trusting, and believing the Words of God, and Christ, as the established and concrete truth, which is found in the King James bible. This parable demonstrates how much the Word of God means to you, and it demonstrates the difference of worldly, or head, knowledge, versus biblical, or heart, knowledge.

- Those persons in the first three groups (wayside, rocky, and thorny ground) are those who have only worldly, or head, knowledge. Notice what they did with the truth of the gospel, the word of God. The wayside group heard the word, but not having biblical faith, they did nothing with it, and the devil quickly convinced them the word of God had no value, thus snatching it away from them.
- The stony ground group heard and received the seed with joy. However, they did not have biblical knowledge, only the head knowledge, and when the devil tempts them with the present joys of the temptations of lust, the seed not rooted in their heart, but in the head, they turn from the word of God to their own lust and idolatry.
- The thorny ground group heard and received the seed, with head knowledge, as the other groups did, but their fruit did not come to maturity as seen in: **Lu 8:14 "and bring no fruit to perfection."** The devil blasted them with the temptations as seen in: **1Jo 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."** The word of God is unfruitful in this group because the thorns keep them from coming to maturity and bearing fruit.

Considering all these groups; we understand that they are spiritually and biblically unfruitful. Thus, we understand that they represent the unsaved group of people in the world.

Now let us consider the last group where the seed fell on good ground. The place where the seed fell in every group is the heart. So why did it not bring forth fruit in every group? The difference is the

condition of the heart and the head. In the first three groups, the devil came and took the sown seed from the heart, thus, they are left with only head knowledge to work with. What is the difference in worldly, or head, knowledge and biblical, or heart knowledge?

- **Head knowledge**, worldly faith, is the knowledge you have that is learned by natural study and logical application of one's brain. Head knowledge is the knowledge we have of the things of this world, which have no spiritual application. Head knowledge is the ability to read and even memorize the bible, but not understand that it is the testimony of Christ Jesus, and of God. Head knowledge does not recognize the bible as God's word of truth. It is what can be taught to you by men without Holy Spirit application in your life.
- **Heart, spiritual or biblical, knowledge, spiritual faith**, is that knowledge you have when you have been born again by the Holy Spirit power. Heart knowledge reveals Jesus from the scriptures, both Old and New Testaments. Heart knowledge takes your mind beyond those things you have by head knowledge. Heart knowledge is believing in God, in Christ Jesus, and the King James bible, when your head knowledge cannot reason it out, but you just know it is the truth. Heart knowledge is the understanding you are given when you come to know that Christ is your own personal Saviour. It is when you understand; you have a peace in your heart that passes all the mind's logical understanding, as seen in: ***Php 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*** This peace is recognized by the indwelling Holy Spirit in the heart, mind, and soul, of the born-again child of God.

I heard a biblical demonstration, by Elder Tim McCool, on the difference of head and heart knowledge, seen in: ***Lu 1:41 "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:*** This is when Mary, the mother of Jesus, met Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both are children in the womb and have no worldly, or head knowledge. Yet, John, who was already born again by the Holy Spirit, seen in: ***Lu 1:15 "and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."*** had heart knowledge of Jesus. He recognized the one true Christ. How can this be you ask? The Holy Spirit in John the Baptist, in the womb, knew exactly who Jesus, in the womb, was. This is exactly the same in every born-again child of God. The Holy Spirit presence residing in you knows who Jesus is, even though your logical head knowledge will not recognize him.

Did the leadership of Israel recognize Jesus as the Christ? No! Why? They only had their logical head knowledge to identify him, seen in: ***Mt 13:55 "Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?"***

Did you notice in the parable the phrase "***good ground?***" Jesus tells us there is none good but God, therefore, it is only the heart that is changed from nature to grace that is "***good ground.***" The hard and stony heart has been changed to good ground, which is ready to receive the sown seed, the Word of God, and having received the seed the "***good ground***" will bring forth good fruit. Remember, the good ground is in possession of the Holy Spirit of God, and the devil cannot take the sown seed away. Thus, the sown seed in good ground brings to maturity good fruit.

Well, you ask; what has this to do with the church? The visible church, on earth, has always been, and will continue to be, infiltrated by those who are of the first three groups. How do we know this? Remember, Jesus chose the twelve disciples, and one of them was a devil. So, the devil has been in the church from its very roots. Today, there are those who join in moments of fleshly feelings and with

head knowledge only. These have not been born again. They may seem to bring forth fruit for a while, but their fruit does not come to maturity. Scripture testifies of this in: ***Lu 6:43-45; 43 "For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.***"

Wherefore, we can understand; the parable of the sower demonstrates the difference in worldly faith, and biblical, or spiritual, faith. We can add to this another scripture, found in: ***Mt 15:13 "But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."*** The unfruitful seed, of the first three groups, had no root in the heart. It was rooted in worldly, logical head, knowledge. The seed that is rooted in worldly, logical head, knowledge will be rooted up by the devil. How do we know this for sure? Because the Holy Spirit presence is not there to keep it in place.

The seed, which is rooted in good ground, is rooted in biblical, spiritual, knowledge. How do we know this? Where did this faith come from? ***Ga 5:22-26; 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."*** When you were born-again by the Holy Spirit power, you inherited eternal life by being indwelt with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit provides the faith in the word of God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit knows them to be truth, and needs no rational, or logical, cognizance to understand. This is why you have faith in God, in Christ Jesus, and in the King James bible.

One last consideration: when born-again, you inherit those spiritual gifts mentioned above. However, it is what you do as a Christian that determines if each of these gifts will be fruitful. Remember, children of God can and do make mistakes which makes them unfruitful in some gifts. King David was a man after God's own heart, yet he fell in sin. God did not lose him, but he did punish him severely. True Christians can be unlovable, unjoyful, not longsuffering, (anger comes with haste) ungentle, high minded, and so forth. Yet, they are still God's children, because the devil cannot remove the Holy Spirit presence from their heart. Also, they will come to repentance before death.

Again, we iterate; the seed, in the born-again heart which is "***good ground***," brings forth fruit, because it has the eternal Holy Spirit presence, which keeps the devil from uprooting it. It is firmly rooted in the heart of the born-again believer. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for true, biblical, spiritual, heart faith, and the ability to believe in God, in Jesus, and the King James bible. Praises to our Saviour Jesus Christ, for his finished work, and the eternal security, of the born-again children of God. Hallelujah! Amen!