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Learning to Live As God's Masterpiece

Part 3 Less Complacency and More Transformation

Luke 8:4

One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him:



"A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it.

Luke 8:6

Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture.

Luke 8:7

Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants.

Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

Luke 8:8b

When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."



His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

Luke 8:10a

He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so

that the Scriptures might be fulfilled, which say: 'When they look, they won't really see. When they hear, they won't understand.'

Luke 8:11 This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word.

Luke 8:12aThe seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away

from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.

lage 8:13aThe seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy.

Luke 8:13b

But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.

Luke 8:14aThe seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and

pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

Luke 8:15And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, goodhearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

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Jesus' Parables

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Parables tell a story using something we see every day, to help us understand a spiritual truth that we can not see with our natural eyes.

Jesus' Parables

Christ's parables are usually openended because they leave us with some profound questions to think about. They leave us with a truth to which we must respond, one way or another.

Jesus' Questions

- What is the condition of your heart regarding God's Word?
- What is going to happen to you when you die?
- What are you doing with your life? Are you producing fruit?

Receiving and believing in the truth of God's Word is more often than not a process.

The 3 Bad Soils The Footpath The Rocks The Thorns The 3 Enemies of the Gospel The Devil The World **Our Flesh**

The Footpath – The Devil They hear God's message of salvation but the Devil, the father of lies, swoops in and snatches the truth from their hearts, thereby preventing them from having continued belief.

The Rocks – The World They hear and receive God's message of salvation with joy, but because they are not deeply rooted in God's Word, they believe for a while but then they fall away.

The Thorns – The Flesh They hear God's message of salvation but their continued focus on the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life, prevents them from maturing in their belief. As a result, they do not produce spiritual fruit.

Receiving and believing in the truth of God's Word is more often than not a process.

Even as saved Christians, we are all constantly in the process of receiving or rejecting the truth of God's Word in our lives.

The only reason we were able to respond positively to the **Gospel message of Jesus Christ** is because God supernaturally transformed our hearts.

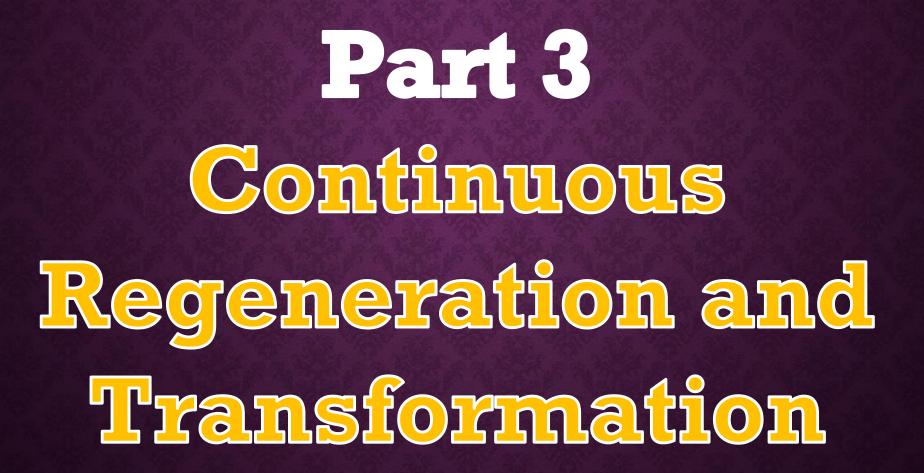
Believing in and accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is not the end of our spiritual journey. It is just the beginning!

Even as saved Christians, there is a whole lot more regeneration and transformation that God desires for our hearts.



God is in the business of constantly revealing, eliminating, and transforming the footpaths, the weeds, and the rocks that are in our hearts.

A heart, mind, and soul that has been transformed into good soil by God will almost always be evidenced by spiritual fruit that is plain to see.



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