



CHURCH@HOME

The Heart and the Seed (1)

Zechariah 8:10 (KJV)

"For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things"

Read **Mark 4:14-20; Luke 8:15; I Samuel 16:1-7**

(A) The HEART really matters to God! Besides the quality of a seed, the most important thing that determines what the seed produces, is its environment.

1. The Heart is the Environment of the seed.

- a. Your seed determines your harvest...
- b. The environment of your heart determines the fruitfulness of your seed...
- c. God makes decisions concerning your life based on the condition of your heart
- d. The heart is the seed bed of your life and every seed is first cultivated in your heart...
- e. Everything you produce in your life will be produced from your heart...

2. The Heart is the Center and the Core of your life.

- a. It is important to develop a strong heart...
- b. How strong your heart is determines how strong your life is...
- c. A weak heart will be poisoned by tribulation and affliction and will fade away...
- d. A strong heart cannot be poisoned by tribulation and affliction and will outlast every trial...

(B) The Different Conditions of the Heart

- a. The **Wayside** heart...[A heart that is weak and the Word of God is easily manipulated by the enemy]
- b. The **Stony** heart...[A heart that is hardened and unreceptive to the word of God]
- c. The **Shallow** heart...[A heart that initially appears to be producing fruit but cannot be trusted because it is not rooted in the Word, and everything it produces dies out quickly]

- d. The **Thorny** heart...[A heart that is distracted or divided. A heart that is constantly overwhelmed by the cares of this world, by the deceitfulness of riches, and by lust for worldly things]
- e. The **Good** heart...[A heart that takes hold of the Word of God and abides in it, and steadily brings forth fruit with patience even up to an hundred fold] (**Luke 8:15 AMP**)

(C) The Heart and the Harvest (Jeremiah 5:23, 24)

- a. The state of your heart is directly tied to your harvest...
- b. You will produce whatever fills your heart. Peace, joy, love, anger, hatred, etc...
- c. Your mouth is the spout of your heart and whatever comes out of your mouth is what is filling your heart. "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." (**Luke 6:43-45**)
- d. The evil heart produces a harvest of evil. However, the good heart produces a harvest of good...
- e. Guard your heart and keep careful watch over it, because Life flows from the heart...(Proverbs 4:23 AMP)

Suggestions for Open Discussion

1. *Proverbs 23:7 says as a man thinketh in his heart so is he. What does this mean?*
2. *Jesus said a good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good (Luke 6:45). Why is a believer's mouth so strongly connected to their heart?*
3. *In your own opinion, which of the heart conditions studied today do most believers struggle with the most? Suggest reasons why...*
4. *How can a believer guard their heart against corrupting influences around them?*