

4. The Fruitful Heart: The Word Received, Kept, and Multiplied

Mark 4:20 (NKJV) But these are the ones sown on **good ground**, those who **hear** the word, **accept** it, and **bear** fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

The fruitful heart does not merely hear more; it responds better.

John 15:5 (NKJV) “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

James 1:22 (NKJV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:23 (NKJV) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

James 1:24 (NKJV) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

James 1:25 (NKJV) But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Measure spiritual growth by fruit, not merely exposure.

Mark 4:11 (NKJV) And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

Isaiah 55:10 (NKJV) “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.



The Mystery of the Kingdom Revealed

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Mark 4:1-12 (NKJV)

Mark 4:11 (NKJV) And He said to them, “**To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God**; but to those who are **outside**, all things come in **parables**,

1. The Hardened Heart: The Word Stolen Before It Enters (Indifferent Hearers)

Mark 4:13 (NKJV) And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? **How then will you understand** all the parables?

Mark 4:14 (NKJV) The sower **sows the word**.

Mark 4:15 (NKJV) And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. **When** they hear, **Satan comes immediately and takes away** the word that was sown in their hearts.

**Satan’s primary target is the Word,
because the Word is the seed of kingdom life**

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God**.

Hebrews 3:12 (NKJV) Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief** in **departing** from the living God;

Hebrews 3:13 (NKJV) but **exhort one another daily**, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you **be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin**.

Hebrews 3:14 (NKJV) For **we have become partakers of Christ if we hold** the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

Hebrews 3:15 (NKJV) while it is said: “**Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion.”

2 Corinthians 4:3 (NKJV) But even if **our gospel is veiled**, it is veiled to **those who are perishing**,

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV) whose **minds the god of this age has blinded**, who **do not believe**, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

**The faster you honor the Word,
the harder it becomes for the enemy to steal it**

2. The Shallow Heart: The Word Received with Joy but No Real Commitment

Mark 4:16 (NKJV) These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, **when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;**
Mark 4:17 (NKJV) and they **have no root in themselves**, and so **endure only for a time**. Afterward, when **tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake**, immediately they stumble.

Colossians 2:6 (NKJV) As you therefore have **received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,**
Colossians 2:7 (NKJV) **rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Psalms 1:1 (NKJV) **Blessed** is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
Psalms 1:2 (NKJV) But **his delight is in the law of the Lord**, And in His law **he meditates day and night**.
Psalms 1:3 (NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Hebrews 10:35 (NKJV) Therefore **do not cast away your confidence**, which has **great reward**.
Hebrews 10:36 (NKJV) For **you have need of endurance**, so that after you have **done the will of God**, you may receive the promise:
Hebrews 10:37 (NKJV) "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry."
Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV) Now **the just shall live by faith**; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."
Hebrews 10:39 (NKJV) But **we are not of those who draw back** to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

“Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.” -- Charles Spurgeon

**Do not build your spiritual life only on moments of inspiration.
Build Godly spiritual habits**

3. The Crowded Heart: The Word Choked by Competing Desires

Mark 4:18 (NKJV) Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,
Mark 4:19 (NKJV) and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

The crowded heart allows the Word to remain, but not to rule

1 John 2:15 (NKJV) Do not **love the world or the things in the world**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
1 John 2:17 (NKJV) And **the world is passing away**, and the lust of it; but **he who does the will of God abides forever**.

Matthew 6:24 (NKJV) **“No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon**.
Matthew 6:31 (NKJV) “Therefore **do not worry, saying**, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
Philippians 4:7 (NKJV) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside** every weight, and the sin which **so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**The Word can be present in a person's life and still be unfruitful
if the heart is overcrowded**

**The believer must refuse to let worry become meditation,
money become master, or desire become direction. What
occupies the heart consistently will eventually govern the life**

“The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.” -- D. L. Moody