

HOW'S YOUR HEART?

PRECEPT

Ezekiel 36:26

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

PROMISE

Did you know that in the Bible, the heart is represented as a soil where God's word is being planted? Heart check, what type of soil is your heart planted in? Matthew 13:1-8, The parable of the Sower, where the seed (the Word of God) falls on four types of ground: the path (eaten by birds), rocky ground (withers), thorns (choked), and good soil (produces a massive crop). The seed that fell on the hardened ground (a hardened heart), represents those who are uninterested. They don't understand because they aren't even trying to understand or receive the message. The rocky ground characterizes a shallow heart, where the seed sprouts too quickly but withers because it has no roots. It represents those who joyfully receive His word but easily fall away during trials because there was no growth and no fruit. While the thorny soil shows a distracted heart because your heart is thorny, you are easily overwhelmed by your worries in life. You start seeking solutions to your needs in your own ways; instead of seeking God first, you sought Him last. And last is the good soil; this is the best condition the heart can have because it doesn't just produce a fruit, but can even multiply. A fruitful harvest, representing those who hear, understand, and produce fruit. How to be a good soil?

To be a good soil is to truly hear God's word by giving Him your undivided attention. Train our ears to hear His word by increasing the amount of time we spend with Him, and to obey what we hear and read from His word. Matthew 13:23 says, "The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" And to be a good soil, we also need to understand God's word through prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help us grasp His word and wisdom. And when we truly hear and understand God's word, it will soften our hearts, deepen the roots of His word, and remove any distractions and worries in our lives. Psalm 119:11 tells, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I may not sin against you." It is possible to stop the sins that easily trample you; the key is to hide God's word in your heart. Our hearts can control our lives; our desires guide our actions and determine how we live our lives. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." Guard your heart and keep it fruitful. Make room for Jesus, allow Him to sit on the throne of your heart and surrender everything to Him. Be a good soil, and you will reap in abundance.

PRACTICE

- 1. Good.** Why is it important to know the condition of your heart? What soil is your heart planted on?
- 2. Heart check.** How's your Heart? What is God planting in your heart lately? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Giving

- May we selflessly and sacrificially give to those in need and underprivileged.

II. Health

- Let's ask for complete physical, emotional, and mental healing.

III. World

- Pray that God free our world from conflict and bring unity to all nations.

IV. Leaders

- Pray for protection and provision for our elders, leaders, and coordinators.

V. Disciples

- Pray that we will reflect God's love as we obey God in making disciples.

VI. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them and establish the work of their hands.

VII. Community

- Pray for safety and may His presence and love be felt in our communities.