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A Heart Condition: We All Have One

⁴ One day Jesus told a story to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: ⁵ “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. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ 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!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.” ⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ 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: ‘When they look, they won’t really see. When they hear, they won’t understand.’”

Luke 8:4-10 (NLT)

Take Heed What You Hear

Hearing Requirements

1. A receptive _____
2. Listening with a _____ understanding
3. Understanding that leads to _____

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Romans 10:17 (NLT)

²² But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Four Types of Soil

1. Roadside / _____ soil
2. Rocky / _____ soil
3. Weed infested / _____ soil
4. Fertile / _____ soil

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. ¹² The 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. ¹³ The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. ¹⁴ The 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. ¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

Luke 8:11-15 (NLT)

Heart Conditions

1. The _____ heart
2. The _____ heart

3. The _____ heart

4. The _____ heart

Heed the Word

1. Don't _____

Leads to: Doubting
Disbelieving
Disobedience

2. Be _____

Hear and heed God's Word

Study it

Trust it

Obey it

⁷That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice, ⁸don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness. ⁹There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years. ¹⁰So I was angry with them, and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.' ¹¹So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'" ¹²Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. ¹³You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. ¹⁴For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. ¹⁵Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled."
Hebrews 3:7-15 (NLT)

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Meditate on Hebrews 3:7-15
- Examine my life asking, "Have I opened my heart to any influences and/or people that bring hardness to my heart?"
- Identify any barriers to fruitfulness in my walk with the Lord.
- Repent from any drifting, doubting, disbelieving or disobedience in my heart.