

Harvest Time

Ponder: What harvest comes from your heart?

Scripture: “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and god heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15, NKJV).

A credit card company keeps asking, “What’s in your wallet?” I have a better question: What’s in your heart?

Jesus compared people’s hearts to various types of soil into which the seed of God’s word is planted (Luke 8:4-15). Some hearts are hard, like soil that has been tramped down around the edges of a field (verse 5). God’s word lies dormant in hard hearts; Satan finally take the word away, just as a bird would eat exposed seed (verse 12).

Other hearts are shallow, like a thin layer of soil covering a rock ledge (verse 6). Such people are happy enough to hear and believe God’s word (verse 13), but when trials come upon them, they fall away. Just as shallow soil cannot hold enough water to sustain a young seedling in the hot sunlight, a shallow heart will not grow a faith that can endure life’s trials.

Still other hearts are contaminated, like soil that is infested with thorns and thistles (verse 7). God’s word takes root in these hearts also (verse 14), but it is soon choked out. Thorns and thistles rob nutrients, water, and sunlight from good plants. Likewise, worldly cares, pursuit of riches, and devotion to the pleasures of life rob God’s word of the time, attention, and enthusiasm needed to grow a strong, healthy, productive faith.

Finally, however, some hearts are like good soil (verse 8). In such hearts, God’s word thrives and brings forth a harvest. Just as fertile, well-watered and tended soil produces a good crop of grain, so the noble and good heart brings forth the strong and obedient faith that glorifies the Lord (verse 15).

Fortunately, your heart can change. If your heart is hard, you don’t have to stay that way. If you heart is preoccupied with chasing money, pleasures, and such like, you can choose to change. Yes, it will take God’s help! But He has invited you: “Whoever wishes, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17).

What’s in your heart?