



## FEARLESS: TRUSTING GOD FOR BREAKTHROUGH

MARCH 22ND, 2020  
PREPARING THE HEART TO TRUST GOD

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(discuss one question at a time, not by paragraph; give space for people to reflect re: answers)

**Discuss my experience of the digital service** — what are my thoughts? feedback?

Read Luke 24:25; Romans 10:8-10

- where is the locus of my faith primarily located? from where does my trust emanate?
- did this insight surprise me? how so?
- what is the role of both the mind and God's revelation, in my trusting God?

In **Matthew 13**, **Mark 4** and **Luke 8**, Jesus gives a parable to teach about people's inner responsiveness to God and His Word — **the parable of the "soils"**. This parable has obvious application to our response in becoming Christians, but there is also room for application to believers in our journey of faith. (**Read Matthew 13:1-9**).

As Jesus then interprets the parable, He reveals that the soils represent the state of our hearts and how it affects our trust in God and His Word. The first three responses seem to reveal heart-conditions that *hinder* our trust in God.

**Read Matthew 13:19**. Gerry taught that my trust in God is hindered...

### **1. When My Heart is Closed**

- what other words describe a heart that is "closed" to trusting God?
- what other influence accompanies people's hard hearts that are closed to trusting God?

**Read Matthew 13:20,21**. My trust in God can also be hindered...

### **2. When My Heart is Withered**

- what two main causes did Jesus give that can leave my heart shallow and vulnerable instead of being deepened in faith?
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ in life
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_ b/c of the Word
- these may result in doubt, fear or disappointment
- Have I experienced either significant tribulation or persecution? how did they affect the condition of my heart? did it affect my trust in God?



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**Read Matthew 13:22.** My trust in God can also be hindered...

### **3. When My Heart is Distracted**

Notice that the soil is sufficient to growing healthy plants. However, weeds come into the mix. The following can take over my heart, choking faith's vitality, leaving an inability to trust God:

a) *the cares of the world*

- what are some of the worries of the world? do any distract my heart?

b) *the deceitfulness of riches*

- what messages does my culture espouse re: wealth and how are they "deceitful"?
- when am I drawn into believing them?
- how hard is it to remain committed to serving Christ instead of what Jesus calls "Mammon"?

c) *the pursuit of worldly pleasures* (Luke's, "other things")

- can I identify any pursuit that has a particular pull on my heart? how does it distract me?

### **The Gospel in this Story that results in Good News for our lives...**

(proactive application section)

**Read Luke 8:15.** Jesus teaches about a *cultivated heart-condition*: My trust in God *grows...*

#### ● **When My Heart is Devoted**

(i) **I invite the Holy Spirit to soften/open my heart**, enabling me to chose to trust God again

- would I describe my heart as being very soft, open to trusting God?
- would I like to ask My group to pray for a new and fresh filling of the Holy Spirit tonight?

(ii) **I deepen my heart**, removing "rocks" and enhancing the health of my soul to trust God

- what unprocessed hurts, broken relationships or spiritual bondages need removal in me?
- what spiritual practices will I implement in order to grow the spiritual vitality of my heart?

(iii) **I focus my heart**, eliminating distracting weeds of worry, money's lies and worldly lusts

- what earthly worry, riches deceit or worldly desire would I like to dethrone in my heart?
- is there a particular godly spiritual hunger I would like to see developed in my heart?

**What fruit would I like Jesus to produce in/thru me** by His Spirit for the Father's glory?