

STEP 1 PREPARATION - CHAPTER 6 – THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Gospel - The Word (The Seed)

2. The Holy Spirit (The Worker)

3. Us (The Sower)



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Like growing grapes in a vineyard, God provides the rain, sun, and much more in order to develop and ripen the grapes. He uses men and women to help pick the grapes and maintain the vineyard; it is the same in finding the lost and helping them turn to Christ.

The Holy Spirit carries out His work of convicting, pursuing, and carrying out the new birth. We do our part by presenting the Gospel. We are co-laborers in the ministry of sharing the Gospel. The confusion regarding our separate and different responsibilities creates problems and fruitlessness. The Holy Spirit works on the unbeliever first and then leads the Christian to the individual.

The Gospel of Christ is a powerful instrument that brings those that are lost to Salvation. The Gospel is the tool whereby men, women, and children are saved. To get people saved, we must use the Gospel. No one will be saved without it.

There are three elements involved in the winning of souls:

1. There is the **Gospel**, which is the tool.
2. The **Holy Spirit** uses this tool (the Gospel) to bring conviction and draws souls to Christ.
3. There is the **Believer**, who has the responsibility of giving out the Gospel.



HERE ARE 3 FORCES INVOLVED IN REACHING LOST SOULS FOR CHRIST:

1. THE GOSPEL - THE WORD (THE SEED)

- It is the message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
- It is God who provided His son to die for us because of his amazing love for us.
- It is the awareness of redemption

through His shed blood.

- It is the understanding of His substitutionary death for us.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT (THE WORKER) ([John 16:8](#))

- He convicts the sinner, helping them realize their lost condition.
- He pursues and draws the sinner to Christ.
- He reveals and unveils Christ to their heart as Savior.
- He carries out the new birth.

"...because our Gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake" (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

3. US (SOWER) ([1 Corinthians 3:9](#))

- We are the sowers of the Gospel.
- We are the vessels through which God works and operates through.
- We are co-workers with Christ.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14).

We are the instrument that carries and proclaims the Gospel. We are often referred to as: witnesses, fishers of men, preachers, ambassadors, evangelists, messengers, soul-winners, and teachers. The Holy Spirit begins His task of conviction and drawing people near to Christ **after** we have shared the Gospel message and planted **the seed**. But the reality is that we must start the soul-winning effort by sowing the seed. Then the Holy

Spirit joins and goes along with the seed, convicting the sinner and drawing and pulling the lost to Christ. If lost souls are not being saved in our churches, it is not the Holy Spirit's fault nor the sinner's fault. Often it is **our** fault for not carrying out our responsibility for sowing the seed. (*Important to Pause and Reflect!*)



OUR RESPONSIBILITY / THE HOLY SPIRIT'S DUTY:

- We set out in the world to share the Gospel. *He accompanies us.*
- We pray. *He empowers.*
- We tell the story. *He brings conviction and draws people near.*
- We sow the seed. *He impregnates the heart.*
- We water the seed. *He gives life to the seed.*
- We fertilize the seed. *He causes it to grow.*

- We see the plant growing. *He ripens and prunes it.*
- We lift up Jesus. *He reveals Him in their hearts.*
- We ask for a decision. *He performs the Spiritual Birth.*

It is encouraging to know we are not alone in our endeavor to lead the unsaved to Christ. God knows every soul with an honest and sincere heart seeking Him. He will lead them to a Christian who is prepared to share and explain the Gospel message. Without a doubt, we are "*co-workers in God's service*" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

How useable we are to the Lord leads us to the second perspective for success in sharing the Gospel from [yesterday's study guide](#):

PRAYER IS THE "CATALYST" IN SOUL-WINNING.

- God is at work in those who are preparing to share the Gospel with others.
- And God is at work in those individuals who are searching for truth.

It should be easy to see that prayer would play an important and essential role in sharing the Gospel. In Cornelius's conversion and regeneration, his prayers caused God to take notice ([Acts 10:1-4](#)). And it was a man named Peter given to prayer that the Lord chose to use to reach Cornelius with the salvation message ([Acts 10:9-23](#)).



[PRAYER BOOKMARK IN SHARING THE GOSPEL](#) PDF

(Recommend Printing Bookmark PDF To Use In Your Bible Each Day.)



[PRAYER GUIDE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL](#) PDF

THE POWER, INFLUENCE, AND IMPORTANCE ARE IN THE SEED (WORD)

The Word of God (*The Bible*) can influence and guide people, accomplishing the desired purpose ([Isaiah 55:10-11](#)). [Hebrews 4:12](#): it is both "*alive and active*." This is most DEFINITELY true of the Gospel of Christ, the "*. . . power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile*." ([Romans 1:16](#)).

If people are going to be converted and changed, it will certainly not be through smooth and slick speech or elegant presentations using "*hi-tech*" equipment but through the life-changing truth of the Gospel. Yes, we can surely use modern-day aids to help us present the Gospel. Nevertheless, we must ensure that we faithfully and consistently communicate the Word of God.

Genuine conversion (*consisting of a spiritual rebirth*) will only occur if we plant and sow the correct "seed." We need to plant the right seed, even if we do not see the desired results. We must maintain the proper perspective, attitude, and mindset.



"PARABLE OF THE SOWER" ([Luke 8:4-8](#)) and ([Luke 8:11-15](#)) (*Please read first*) From the "*Parable of the Sower*," we learn how important it is to maintain a level of excitement and determination in reaching the lost. It removes the discouragement and frustration and avoids the apathy that paralyzes many today. And it instills enthusiasm and eagerness in serving as laborers in the vineyard of the Lord. The "*parable of the*

sower" is found in [Luke 8:4-8](#), and the explanation is found in [Luke 8:11-15](#). (*Please check it out.*)

The first thing we learn from this parable is that **THE TYPE OF SOIL DETERMINES THE OUTCOME!** ([Luke 8:4-8](#)) We see that in the "*Parable of the Sower*," the same seed, when planted and sown, produced and generated four different results:

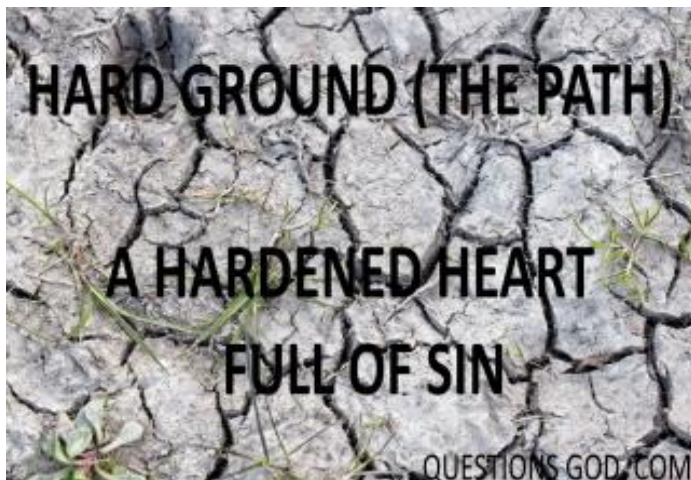
1. The first was that there was *no response* whatsoever, as seen in verse 5: "*Some fell on the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up*." The seed could not grow and sprout up on the **hard ground (the path)** and was immediately snatched away. **Critical** for you to discern that not everyone will welcome your witness or message.
2. Second, the seed only had *temporary growth* on **stony ground**, as seen in verse 6: "*some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture*." The seed was planted and grew, but its roots were not deep enough and the seed withered in the sun.

3. The third result was *short-lived* as the **thorns and weeds** overtook the seed, as shown in verse 7: *"other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants."* The seed was planted, and it grew, but it could not compete with the number of **thorns** that overtook it. Over time, the cares of this world, its pleasures, and desires made the seed useless and unprofitable. Mark 4:7 states, *"It yielded no fruit."*
4. Next, the seed grew, *bearing and producing fruit*, as seen in verse 8: *"Still, other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."* The ground contained **good soil** for the seed to be planted deep enough to allow it to grow strong and produce much fruit.

THE TYPE OF SOIL THAT DETERMINES THE OUTCOME

([Luke 8:11-15](#)) (Please Read First)

Jesus told the Parable of the Sower in order to reveal and illustrate to His followers and disciples how there are different responses and reactions to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as in verse 11: *"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God."* **The seed is the Gospel – The Word of God.**

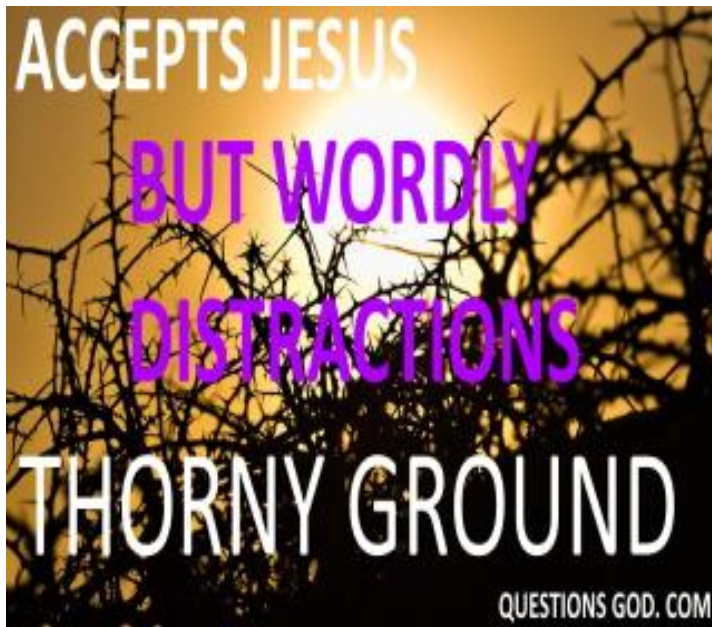


The First Explanation is the **Hard Ground (The Path)** that represents and illustrates someone with a hardened heart full of sin who hears the Word of God. Satan is in a position to try to keep this individual from growing and flourishing. However, they do not accept and recognize it as in verse 12: *"Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved."* We continue to share with the lost

so they never can say they didn't have an opportunity to learn the Gospel message.



The Second Explanation is the **rocky ground** that represents a person who shows curiosity and interest in the Gospel, as in verse 13: *"Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing, they fall away."* But their heart is not convinced, so their faith and conviction are not powerful enough to endure and stand when problems and difficulties arise.



The Third Explanation is the **thorny ground** that portrays an individual who receives and accepts the Gospel but has plenty of worldly distractions that they are more focused on, as in verse 14: *"The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures, and they do not mature."*

These distractions take over their mind, thoughts, and heart, and they cannot grow and mature in the truth of God's Word.



The Fourth Explanation is the **good soil** that illustrates somebody who has heard, discovered, received, accepted, and experienced the Word of God. This individual represents and shows the true Salvation that develops and produces excellent and desirable fruit.

He or she is a co-worker with Christ, a vessel God uses to bring many to God's saving Grace and Mercy. They allow the Word to take root and grow and flourish within their life, producing a desire to

share the Gospel with others to see many souls come to Christ, as in verse 15: *"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."*

Jesus told us the *"Parable of the Sower"* to instruct and guide us on how important the state of our heart is to receive and encounter the Gospel and exactly how our Salvation is verified and demonstrated through our choices, decisions, and actions after hearing the Gospel message. After hearing and accepting the Gospel message, it is now our responsibility to share the Word of God with others.

The sower must fulfill their responsibility and obligation by sowing the seed ([Ezekiel 3:17-19](#)). If ever the **soil** (non-believer) rejects the seed, the soil (unbeliever) is accountable; the sower should not feel responsible. ([Acts 13:44-46](#)).

The practical implication is that *we are certainly successful each time we sow the seed! If an individual rejects it, we have not fallen short and failed; they have!* (*Pause and Reflect.*)

But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28)

THE JOY OF SHARING THE GOSPEL

It is crucial to discover the **joy** of sharing the Word (*the Gospel*) for its own sake! There is such joy in sharing Christ (the *Good News*) with other people. We are thrilled and grateful when people believe and accept Jesus as the Lord of their lives. We are happy and pleased to serve our Lord this way, whether or not people accept Him.



However, when a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, we should consider it the "**icing on the cake.**" Even though we don't get to experience the "**icing**," each time we share, we can continue to enjoy the "**cake!**"

Even the very faithful soul-winners may find themselves in circumstances and situations like Jesus, Apostle Paul, Jeremiah, and many other prophets where they come across very few people who actually paid attention and

took to heart their message. Do we count them failures? No! Instead, we count them FAITHFUL in SOWING the SEED! *There is an eternal reward for our faithfulness.*

Yet another essential aspect of all of this is that God also uses "*flawed*" people/seed-throwers. ([Philippians 1:15-18](#)). Not just flawed in **motive**, but also in practical experience! Because the power is actually in the seed, not the sower!

THE CONCEPT OF SOWING AND REAPING

In 2 Corinthians 9:6, *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* We find this fundamental concept explained, and it is quickly seen in various aspects of life. In sales, the success ratio is often one sale out of ten calls. One real estate person said it sometimes takes up to 20 to 50 showings to sell a home. Large companies receive at least 200 resumes for one job opening. In the "*Parable of The Sower*," one out of four produced favorable results, which is very encouraging in the big picture of sowing and reaping.

In conclusion, we desire to reap even more and must be willing to sow much more! Some folks fail in this area of soul-winning because they "*sow sparingly*" and get disheartened by the meager and unfruitful results. Successful salespeople recognize that

the secret to success and achieving results is to increase the number of their contacts and put in more time and effort. When we expand and improve upon the level of sowing, the amount of reaping will increase proportionately. This is a necessary attitude for success in soul-winning.



One person sows, and another reaps. ([John 4:35-38](#)).

Winning souls involves both "*sowing*" and "*reaping*." Precisely what is the difference between "*sowing*" and "*reaping*?" Sowing (*planting*) is the work required to reap a harvest at some point. In farming, sowing includes preparing the soil, planting the seed, and developing it to maturity. Sowing to those lost similarly entails planning, preparing, planting, developing the

relationship, and introducing them to the Gospel.

Reaping is actually the "*harvesting*" of what has been sown. In farming, reaping is the collection of the fruits and vegetables produced by the sowing. In winning lost souls, reaping is harvesting which takes place when individuals who have had the Word implanted in their hearts decide to obey it! Jesus said in John 4:37, "*Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.*"

The crucial point to remember is that sharing the Gospel entails both "*sowing*" and "*reaping*." Sometimes what you sow will be reaped by somebody else. Allow this to be an encouragement and motivation when it seems that you are not reaping as you would expect. We are a team together. Thousands of testimonies can speak of this truth. A native man who shared the Gospel gave me a Bible over 50 years ago. We had a 90-minute conversation, and this man does not know what his sowing reaped to this day.

You, in many cases, will never know what your sowing has done until you get to heaven. God, in His Grace, plans and orchestrates certain people to cross our paths so that we can contribute a part for a soul to be saved. Even when we go through difficult circumstances or if severe tests come our way, it helps open the door for us to relate and share with individuals who are going through something similar. Our witnessing is vital in God's economy of bringing that soul to Salvation. Keep on sharing the Gospel.

FINAL THOUGHT

A crucial aspect of success in sharing the Gospel is persistence, dedication, sincerity, and warmth with a kind of stick-to-itiveness always keeping your eye on the prize. Those individuals who persist in sowing the seed sooner or later produce fruit. The issue

with some individuals is incorrect perspectives and harmful attitudes and mindsets that can cause failure. Hopefully, the above points can help us maintain the positive attitude necessary to see many come to our Lord and Savior. Pray you will have the right mindset when sharing the Gospel.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- The **three forces** involved in the Gospel (The Word), The Holy Spirit, and Us.
- Parable of the Sower - **4 Seeds** - Reaching lost souls for Christ!
Hard Ground (Path) | Rocky Ground | Among Thorns | Good Soil
- Quite often—"*One Sows and another Reaps.*"



SPIRITUAL BIRTH

The Apostle Paul says that the Gospel is God's power or dynamite that brings men and women to Salvation. If it is the Gospel the Holy Spirit uses to lead folks to Salvation, then it is not our eloquence or illustrations. It is not our large church buildings, stained-glass windows, our "gift of gab," or our awesome personalities.

It is God's message of love for sinners in giving His Son to die on the cross at Calvary,

resurrected on the third day, and seated at the right hand of God. The Holy Spirit begins His work of convicting and drawing the unsaved. Praise God!

A baby cannot even start forming until the sperm or seed is germinated with the egg. There can be no spiritual birth apart from the Gospel seed germinating (growing) in the sinner's heart. Then the Holy Spirit can begin His work of convicting, drawing, and saving that soul (*giving birth.*)

Friend, it is encouraging to know that when we share the Gospel, the Holy Spirit begins His work in the sinner's heart. Now or somewhere down the road, perhaps that individual will come to Christ.

PRAYER: "*Lord Bless And Use The Sower's And The Reaper's As The Time Is Short!*"

Next Study Guide - Chapter 7 THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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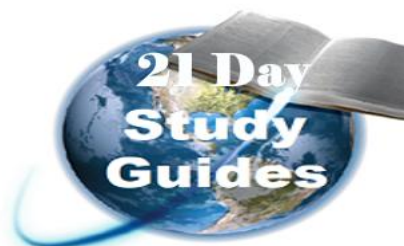
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