

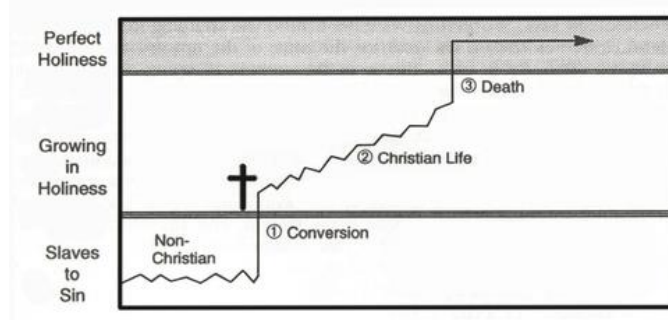
The Parable of The Soils (pt. 2)

INTRODUCTION

- **(Francis Schaeffer)** – www.covenantseminary.edu/francis-schaeffer-the-man-and-his-message/
- **IMPLICATIONS of the Parable of the Sower...**
 - Not Everyone who Appears to be a Genuine Christian is One...
 - Spiritual Fruit and Endurance are Marks of a Genuine Christian...

I. FRUIT

- a. **(Luke 8:15)** – As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and **bear fruit with patience**. (see Matt. 13:22)
- b. **FRUIT – Perceivable evidence of Sanctification...work of the Holy Spirit.**
 - i. Both ATTITUDES & BEHAVIORS...(Internal Fruit which produced External Fruit)
- c. **Jesus Talked About This Often...**
 - i. (Matt. 3:8) (Matt. 7:19-20) (Matt. 12:33) (John 15:16) (John 15:1-2)
- d. **Biblical Context**
 - i. (Psalm 1:1-2) (Rom 7:4) (Col 1:10)
- e. **When we REPENT, BELIEVE, & TRUST JESUS For Salvation...a TRANSFORMATION Happens...**
 - i. Our SINS are Forgiven...
 - ii. We are Given a NEW BEGINNING...we are BORN AGAIN...
 - iii. Our DESIRES are Redeemed – We WANT Things we Didn't Want Before...
 - iv. The HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS Us – Convicts us of Sin & Draws us to Confession & Repentance...
 - v. The RESULT of All This is a LIFE That BEARS SPIRITUAL FRUIT...
- f. **Biblical EXAMPLES of SPIRITUAL FRUIT...**
 - i. FRUIT of the SPIRIT - (Gal. 5:22ff)
 - ii. ADDITIONAL FRUIT – (2 Peter 1:5-8)
 - iii. LOVE for CHRIST...
 - iv. LOVE for the BODY of CHRIST...(1 Jn. 4:7-8, 12-13)
 - v. LOVE for the WORD of GOD...(Psalm 1:1-2)
- g. **2 NOTES – Very Important...**
 - i. This Transformation Happens OVER TIME...Not INSTANT!
 1. We Don't INSTANTLY Become Christlike...INSTANTLY Shed SINFUL HABITS...
 2. (2 Cor. 3:18)
 3. Along the Path of Growth, there are SEASONS of Fast Growth & SPIRITUAL SETBACKS..
 4. We Do Not Evaluate Our Faith in A PARTICULAR MOMENT & Draw Conclusions...
 5. We Look For TRANSFORMATION OVER TIME...



ii. This Transformation Happens To DIFFERENT DEGREES in Different People...

1. MATTHEW & MARK – Good Soil Bears Fruit, Some **100-fold, 60-fold, 30-fold**...
2. SOME True Christians are Not As Fruitful as OTHER Christians...but
 - a. EVERY True Believer bears Some Fruit...
3. It's POINTLESS to COMPARE Ourselves with the Growth of Other Believers...
4. We COMPARE Ourselves to CHRIST & Ask The Question...
 - a. *“Do I See Evidence that I’m Being Transformed Into the Image of Jesus?”*
 - b. *“Am I More Christlike Today, than I was 5,10,15 Years Ago?”*

h. Bottom Line – A “Christian” Life that DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT...is NOT CHRISTIAN...

- i. (James 2:14-20) Faith w/o works is DEAD & CANNOT SAVE...
 1. (2:17) – So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- ii. **OBJECTION** – Paul Says Salvation is by GRACE, through Faith, NOT By Works...
 1. (Eph 2:8-9) – For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 2. How Does this Square-Up with JESUS & JAMES?
- iii. **ANSWER** – Paul is talking about JUSTIFICATION...
 1. JAMES/JESUS are talking about SANCTIFICATION...
 2. Paul is talking about the MOMENT We are CONVERTED...
 3. James/Jesus are talking about the PROCESS that Begins at That Moment...

Justification	Sanctification
Legal Standing	Internal Condition
Once for all time	Continuous throughout life
Entirely God’s work	We cooperate
Perfect in this life	Not perfect in this life
The same in all Christians	Greater in some than in others

iv. Therefore, We Can SAY that Genuine Christians are:

1. NOT Saved BY Good Works...but they ARE...Saved FOR Good Works...
2. Our Works DO NOT Contribute to our JUSTIFICATION...
3. They DO Contribute to our SANCTIFICATION...

i. Despite What Those in Modern HYPERGRACE Movements Teach...

- i. **SANCTIFICATION** is a Process in which BOTH GOD & MAN Have a Role...
- ii. **GOD’S Role**
 1. The HOLY SPIRIT, in particular, Produces Sanctification in us...
 2. (1 Thes. 5:23) (2 Thes. 2:13b) (Galatians 5:22) (1 Peter 1:2)

iii. MAN's Role

1. **(Heb 12:14)** – **Strive for** peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
2. **(2 Pet 1:5-6)** – For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith
3. **(1 Jn 3:3)** – And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself** as he is pure.
4. **(Col. 3:5)** – **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you...
5. All the Other IMPERATIVES of the NT...

iv. Bringing These TOGETHER...

1. **(Phil 2:12-13)** – Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
2. **The Philippians** are Called to **WORK AT** Sanctification with Fear/Reverence...
3. At the SAME TIME, **God** is **WORKING IN Them** Empowering Their PROGRESS...
4. Nobody is DOING The WORK FOR Them...They are Responsible...
5. Yet, GOD is WORKING IN Them BOTH...
 - a. To DESIRE to Do It...and...
 - b. The ABILITY to Do It Successfully...

II. ENDURANCE

- a. **(Luke 8:15)** – As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience
 - i. The **GOOD SOIL** is Evidenced by the Fact that **it ENDURES...**
 1. It Does NOT CRUMBLE in the Face of **TESTING, TROUBLE, SUFFERING...**
 2. It Is NOT CHOKED OUT by **WORLDLY PURSUITS/PLEASURES...**
- b. **GENUINE, SAVING FAITH Endures...Does NOT Withers...Is NOT Choked Out...**
 - i. **ENDURE** – Faith that sustains through both **EXTERNAL pressure & INTERNAL temptation...**
 - ii. A Faith that **DOESN'T ENDURE** is **NOT SAVING FAITH...** Plain & Simple...
- c. **Biblical Context**
 - i. **(Matt. 10:22)** - "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.
 - ii. (Matt. 24:13) (1 Jn. 2:19) (Col. 1:21-23) (Heb 3:14)
- d. **Genuine Believers Ultimately ENDURE Because God KEEPS THEM To The End...**
 - i. **NOT Because of THEIR OWN ABILITY to Endure...**
 1. **(Jn 10:27-28)** – My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
 2. **(Eph 1:13-14)** – In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance...
 - a. At Conversion...we are **SEALED with the Holy Spirit...**
 - b. He INDWELLS Us...

- c. GUARANTEES Our Inheritance...Makes Sure We Get To Our INHERITANCE...
- ii. **My Ability to Make it To The End of My Life with My FAITH INTACT...**
 - 1. Is NOT Ultimately Dependent on MY ABILITY to Hold Onto God...rather
 - 2. It IS Ultimately Dependent on HIS ABILITY to Hold Onto ME...
- iii. **However, That DOES NOT MEAN I Have NO RESPONSIBILITY & Am Completely PASSIVE...**
 - 1. I am Still Called To ACTIVELY ENDURE In My Faith...
 - 2. **(Col 1:22)** – if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel
 - 3. **(Heb 3:14)** – if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end...
 - 4. Just as with SANCTIFICATION/FRUIT BEARING...
 - a. God is the One who is ULTIMATELY Driving the Train...
 - b. However, I am a REAL & ACTIVE Participant...RESPONSIBLE For Action
- e. **Genuine Believers May REGRESS (Backslide) for a Season...but...**
 - i. They WILL NOT Permanently Fall Away...
- f. **What Happens to Genuine Believers when they REGRESS in Their Walk...?**
 - i. **God Pursues Them...and Brings Them Back...**
 - 1. **(Matt 18:12-13)** – What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?...
 - ii. **God Disciplines Them...to Bring Them to Repentance...**
 - 1. **(Heb 12:5-6, 10)** – For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."...he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
- g. **DISCIPLINE...**
 - i. **(Jonah)**
 - ii. **(Prodigal Son)**
 - 1. He Pursues Pleasure & All The Things the World Values...
 - 2. **God TURNS UP the HEAT...**
 - a. The Money Runs Out...The Friends Disappear...God Brings a Famine...
 - 3. **Finally, we are told..."HE Came To Himself..."**
 - a. **(Lk 15:17)** – But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger...
 - iii. Correlation Between the **STUBBORNNESS of Our Rebellion & HEAT of The DISCIPLINE...**
 - 1. **(Swindoll)** – No will can be more stubborn than God's will. You can't out-stubborn God.
- h. **TRUE CHRISTIANS May Have SEASONS of DOUBT...of TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL SETBACK...but**
 - i. They DO NOT FULLY & FINALLY FALL AWAY...
 - ii. They DO NOT ABANDON The FAITH...
 - iii. **Bottom Line** – A "Christian" Life that DOES NOT ENDURE...is **NOT CHRISTIAN**...