

# Fertile Fields for Faith, Pt. 2

1 Thessalonians 4:8

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## 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. <sup>2</sup>For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. <sup>8</sup>So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.



Our hearts become hardened when we persist in sin.

A). How did we get here?

## Matthew 13:18-23

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. <sup>20</sup>The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

1. Distress
2. Distraction
3. Disobedience

These result in a drift from our relationship with Jesus.

B). How do we get out of here?

1. Recognize the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

## 2 Samuel 12:7

<sup>7</sup>Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.’”

## 2 Samuel 12:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup> Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.'" <sup>13</sup> Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. <sup>14</sup> However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

2. **Respond** with **sincere confession** to God.

## Psalm 51:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup> Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,

3. Be **restored** by the **mercy** of God.

## Psalm 51:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise. <sup>16</sup> For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

These result in **spiritual renewal** in our **relationship** with Jesus.

## Matthew 13:23

<sup>23</sup> And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

## Matthew 13:24-30

<sup>24</sup> Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. <sup>27</sup> The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves \*said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' <sup>29</sup> But he \*said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

- C.) Where do **we go** from here?

## Matthew 13:44-45

<sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

1. **Seek** the Lord with all your heart.
2. **Serve** the Lord with all your heart.

The **fruits of revival** for God's people are:

1. A clearer **connection** to Christ.
2. A clearer **call** from Christ.
3. A clearer **consecration** for Christ.