

# “The good soil”

“But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” Mark 4:20 ESV

# Main Truth- the Parable of the Sower-

The proclamation of God's message of salvation--in Jesus Christ and through Jesus Christ--will yield a certain, unexpected, abundant harvest in God's time.

--Yet not all who hear that message will accept it.

“Parables are a system of instruction designed to sift the wheat from the chaff among his hearers. His parables are designed to test rather than to illuminate, and to test—not the intelligence—but the responsiveness of his hearers. Only the Holy Spirit can open our spiritual eyes, blind by nature, to the truth of God.”

R. Alan Cole- commentary on Mark

# Axioms, or Principles of the Sower, the Seed, the Good Soil, and Spiritual Fruit

## 1<sup>st</sup> Axiom-

With our participation, God brings about spiritual growth or spiritual decay.

[28] So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29] For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30] And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Matthew 25:28–30 ESV**

So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

**John 7:16–17 ESV**

# Axioms, or Principles of the Sower, the Seed, the Good Soil, and Spiritual Fruit

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Axiom-

The harvest of new believers in Christ is not only at the end of the age, but also now!

# Axioms, or Principles of the Sower, the Seed, the Good Soil, and Spiritual Fruit

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Axiom-

Jesus tells us to pray for God to send workers for the harvest.

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

**Matt. 9:37-38 ESV**



# Axioms, or Principles of the Sower, the Seed, the Good Soil, and Spiritual Fruit

## 4<sup>th</sup> Axiom-

We bear fruit by depending on God;s Spirit, offering ourselves to Him, and waiting in His time.



Lego Fruit Bowl

Real Fruit Salad



I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

**John 15:5-8 ESV**

# Axioms, or Principles of the Sower, the Seed, the Good Soil, and Spiritual Fruit

## 5<sup>th</sup> Axiom-

In the process of growth, God uses each of us--in different ways—in each other's lives. The Fruit—which is in God's control—will be will be more beautiful than any of our own goals or expectations.

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:5–9 ESV

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**Galatians 6:8–10 ESV**

[13] Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

[17] But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

[18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**James 3:13, 17-18 ESV**