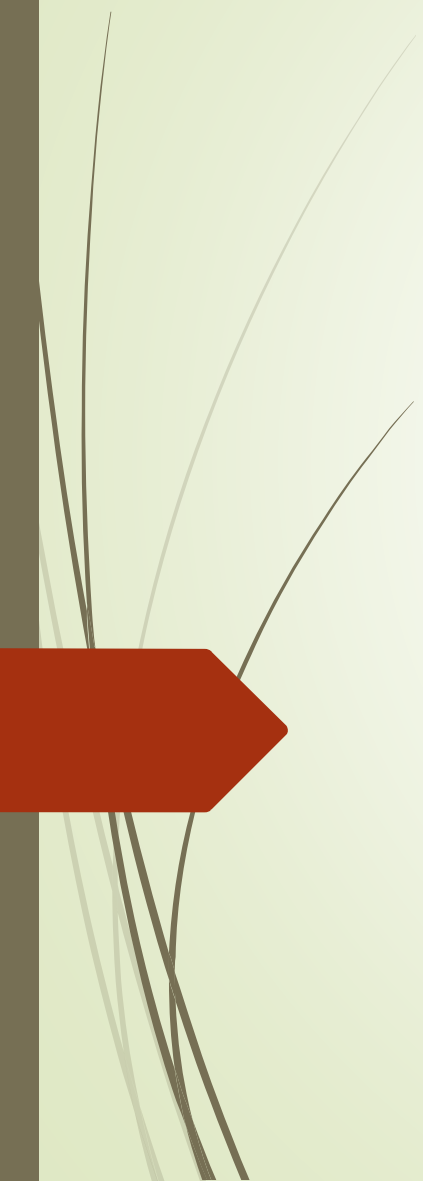




“The seed is the word of God.”
– Luke 8:11

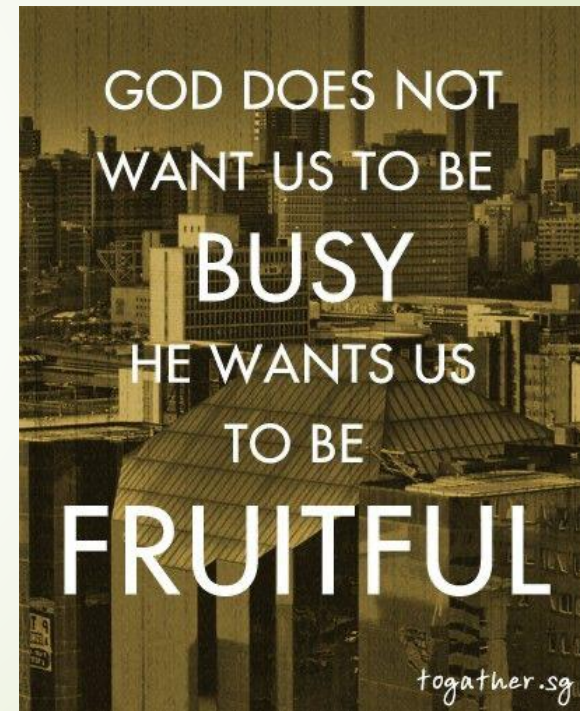


The Heart's Response to God's Word

1st Sunday of Hatour

The Necessity of Being Fruitful

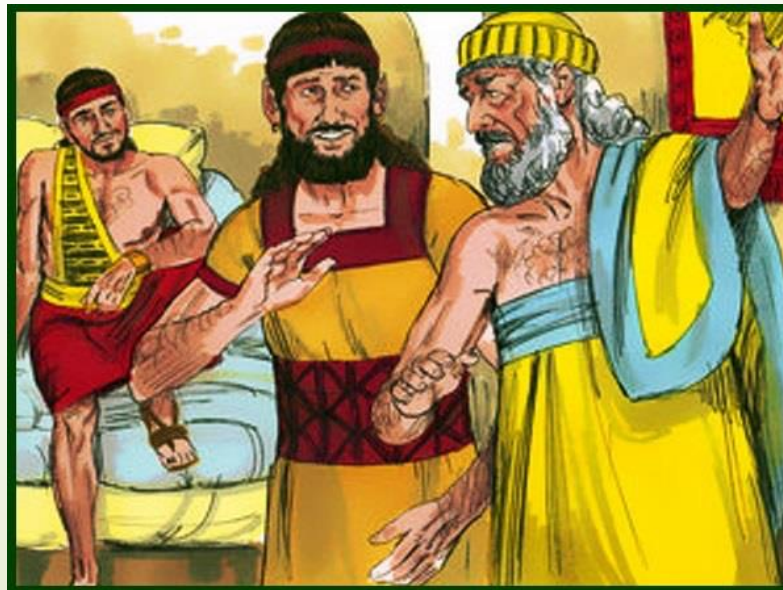
- Fruitless members are useless members.
- **“And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” (Lk. 3:9)**
- **“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” (Matt. 7:29-20)**



Hearts that limit growth...

Careless heart

- Lot's sons-in-law
- So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. (Gen. 19:14)



Hearts that limit growth...

Careless heart

- Indifference is carelessness
- *“We must therefore not scorn the divine gifts, but rather set great store by what we have from God; the gift will be pleased to dwell in us when we show interest. If, by contrast, we prove indifferent and remiss about it, it will completely take its leave.” (St. Cyril of Alexandria)*



Hearts that limit growth...

Superficial heart

- EX: Lot's wife
- The roots are shallow



Hearts that limit growth...

Preoccupied heart

- *"I have not time."*
- The Rich Young Ruler
- Parable of the Great Supper
 - **"For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper."**
(Lk. 16:24)



A Heart Prepared for Growth

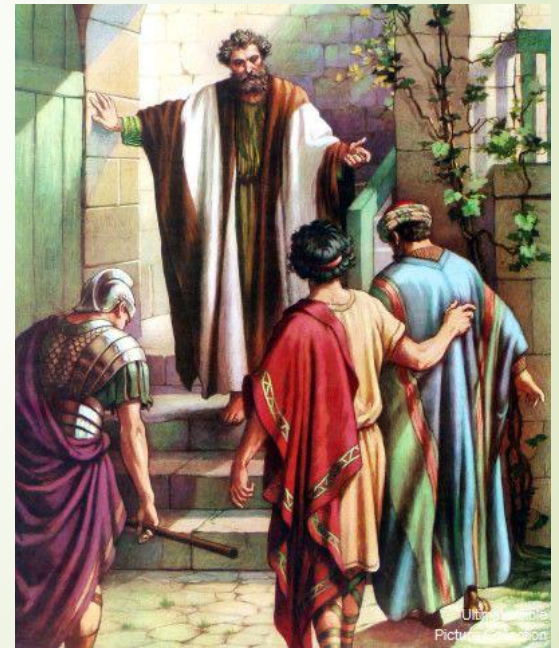
- ▶ Ethiopian Eunuch
 - ▶ **“How can I, unless someone guides me?”**
(Acts 8:31)
 - ▶ **Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”** (Acts 8:36)



A Heart Prepared for Growth

► Cornelius

- **“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.” (Acts 10:1-2)**





A Heart Prepared for Growth

1. Receive the Word
2. Understand the Word
 - **“...understanding is good to all who do according to it.” (Ps. 110:10 LXX)**



A Heart Prepared for Growth

3. Retain the Word

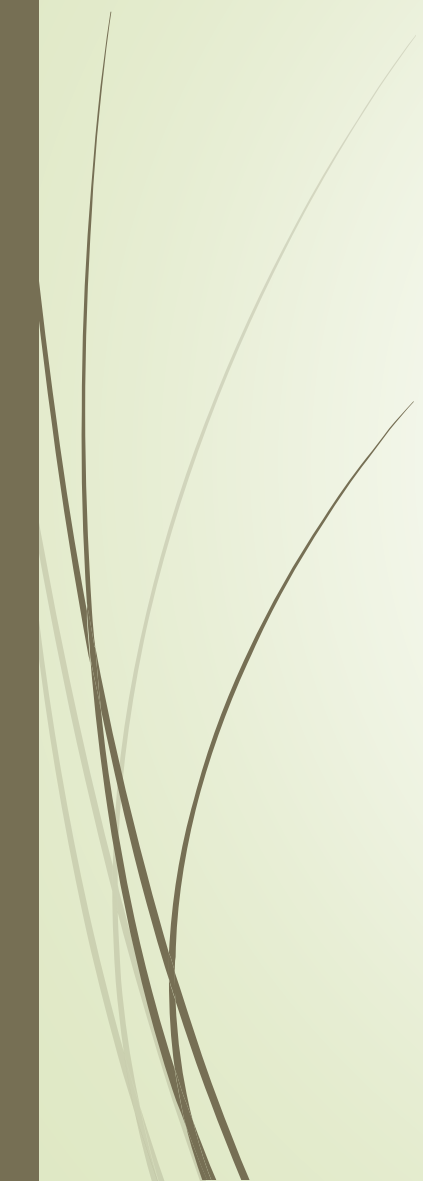
- **“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (Jam. 1:25)**

4. Practice the Word

- **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (Jam. 1:22)**
- EX: The Pharisees



Summary



- Hearts that limit growth
 - Careless heart
 - Superficial heart
 - Preoccupied
- The Heart that is prepared for growth
 - Receive the Word
 - Understand the Word
 - Retain the Word
 - Practice the Word