

# Imagine It... Live It

## Hearing God Speak

January 11, 2009

### 4 Sure Ways To Hear What God Says

from "The Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed" Luke 8:4-15

**Luke 8:4-8** One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

**The Farmer:** God

**The Seed:** His Word

**The Soil:** Those Who "Hear"

#### 1. BE OPEN FOR GOD TO SPEAK.

**Luke 8:5** ...some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it.

**Luke 8:12** The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.

#### 3 Cause for the "Hardened Soil"

Fear                  Pride                  Bitterness

**James 1:21** So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

#### 2. MAKE TIME TO LISTEN.

**Luke 8:6** Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture.

**Luke 8:13** The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.

#### The "Shallow Soil"

#### 3. GET RID OF DISTRACTIONS.

**Luke 8:7** Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants.

**Luke 8:14** The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

### **3 types of weeds in the “Thorny Soil”**

Worries

Riches

Pleasures

#### **4. CHOOSE TO OBEY WHAT HE SAYS TO YOU.**

**Luke 8:15** And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

**James 1:22** But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

#### **The “Good Soil”**

**My Decision(s) Today:**