

Hebrews 3:12-14; Luke 8:4-15

January 28, 2024

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Luke 8:4 And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸ And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. 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.

CONNECTION

- What are some activities in life that require consistent work and effort to achieve success?
- What areas of your spiritual life do you find it hard to remain consistently faithful in?

OBSERVATION

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ HEBREWS 3:12-14.

- Have you ever had an accountability partner or group? If so, how did that person or group help you grow spiritually?
- What warning does this passage give to believers? What safeguards do these verses mention to keep this from happening in our lives?
- What role can this LifeGroup play in helping each other remain firm in our faith/confidence until the end?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 8:4-18.

- **What is the main message that Jesus is teaching in this parable?**
- **What are the different things mentioned in this parable that keep believers from growing spiritually?**
- **What are the consistent practices of those who bear fruit in verse 15? How can we help each other in this area?**

RESPONSE

- **What is an area in your spiritual growth that you need some accountability in?**
- **Personal Reflection: Do you take God's warnings seriously? Is there any sin in your life you are refusing to give up? Are you running the risk of developing a sinful, unbelieving heart? If you answered yes, what steps do you need to take to develop accountability in your life?**