

## The Sower

1 John 5:4 (NASB95)

- 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Hebrews 11:1–3 (NASB95)

### *The Triumphs of Faith*

- 1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- 2 For by it the men of old gained approval.
- 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Isaiah 55:9–11 (NASB95)

- 9 “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
- 10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
And do not return there without watering the earth  
And making it bear and sprout,  
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
- 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;  
It will not return to Me empty,  
Without accomplishing what I desire,  
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

*Parable of the Sower and Soils*

- 1 He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.
- 2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,
- 3 “Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow;
- 4 as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.
- 5 “Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil.
- 6 “And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.
- 7 “Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.
- 8 “Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”
- 9 And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
- 10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables.
- 11 And He was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables,
- 12 so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN.”

*Explanation*

- 13 And He \*said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?
- 14 “The sower sows the word.

- 15 “These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.
- 16 “In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky *places*, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;
- 17 and they have no *firm* root in themselves, but are *only* temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.
- 18 “And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,
- 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- 20 “And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

Matthew 4:1–11 (NASB95)

*The Temptation of Jesus*

- 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.
- 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”
- 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ”
- 5 Then the devil \*took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,
- 6 and \*said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,
- ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’;
- and
- ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,

SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’ ”

- 7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’ ”
- 8 Again, the devil \*took Him to a very high mountain and \*showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;
- 9 and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”
- 10 Then Jesus \*said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ ”
- 11 Then the devil \*left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.