

# The Parable of the Soils

Written by Dr. John E. Russell Sr - Last Updated Tuesday, 21 February 2017 00:04

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## Part I: The Pattern Parable Chapter 1

## Parable of the Soils

The Parable of the Soils/Notes on the Parables of Synoptic Gospels (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1968)

### The Story

The Parable of the Soils is sometimes called The Parable of the Sower. It deals with the inner transform

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he

The setting is a natural amphitheater. Jesus sat in a boat and the people sat on the shore. The water ca

### The Interpretation

*The First Soil Was Hard-* parable represented the person with a hardened heart. The Word of God did not pen

*The Second Soil Consisted of A Thin Layer of Soil Over A Solid Rock* , " a {mass

The Third Soil Was Good, But Was Infested with Thorns. The person represented here was a genuine C

The seed that fell among the thistles and thorns, but as they go on their way they are choked

Ralph Earle calls this troublesome trio, "Life's Three Greatest Thorns." *The Word of God* (Waco, TX: Spring

The hunger for riches and material "security" can be enslaving. Money and material things are

Pleasures can also be our enemies. The relentless pursuit of pleasure characterizes our age. Pleasures

*The Fourth Soil Was Good The Missing Element* represented here were Christians who opened their hearts to God

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*The Best Translation of the Bible  
Is A Human Being,  
Who has been transformed by God's Word.*

God abstracted his essential nature and placed it in a book (the Bible) as a means to reproduce himself

### A Christian Epistemology

the Parable of the Soils, ~~what~~ teaches the importance of ~~what~~ one hears. Using these scriptures along with o

Ideally, the whole Word ~~of God~~ would be received ~~into the heart~~ (see ~~Jesus said 4:24, New American~~

Another possibility would be the reception of the Word on a mere intellectual plane. The Word would sto

Some substitutes for the Word of God are mentioned in the Bible.

1. Human reason and mere sense perception. Reason and sense perception are both good. However, th

2. Traditions of men:

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus and asked, "Why do you do this, but

Many traditions that religious people have inherited are not scriptural. Their sources may be rationalistic

3. Philosophies of men:

See to it that no one take ~~(Colossians 2:8, New International Version)~~ philosophy, which depends on hum

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it

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"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the intelligence of the intelligent."

Where is the wise man and where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

We all have a guiding philosophy or theology. It may not be systematized and written in philosophical or

At the extreme end of the substitute spectrum is the position most opposed to the Word of God:

4. Doctrines of demons. The world is filled with many voices, religions, philosophies and ideologies. Some

The Spirit clearly says that in the last times, some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things

Keep in mind that some may have been brought up in beliefs that were inspired by demons, but who have

Probably the most common predicament of Christians today is the position of having a "curious mixture"

### Internalizing the Word of God

Here are nine practical steps to help internalize the Word of God:

1. The first step is to reestablish a right relationship with God. Confess all known sin to God. Then make

2. Pray in the Spirit in order that the heart might be further prepared to receive the Word.

3. Quiet the body and mind. Involved in this would be to perform all mundane duties possible so that the

4. Read the Word (Bible). It is good to read a small portion carefully. (There is a time to read large portions

5. Meditate. Christian meditation is not "emptying" the mind (to let the devil write on it), but rather it is filling

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6. Receive the Word into ~~our~~ heart. Some may ~~think~~ that they have done this when the Word is still on th

7. Think God's thoughts (Word) consciously as a practice.

8. Practice speaking God's thoughts consciously.

9. Practice acting out God's thoughts consciously.

**Central Truth** It is of utmost importance ~~that~~ we receive the Word ~~to~~ God's hearts.  
**Conclusion**

There is hope for us all. ~~If~~ we take care and ~~what~~ we hear

...the hard soil may again be soft on the Sabbath side of Capernaum. The soil beset with thorns clear. For the h

Taken from my book, *The Astonishing Parables of Jesus*  
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