**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr September 24, 2023**

**The Components For Spiritual Growth**

Matthew 13:1-23

**Key Truth**: The condition of a person’s heart determines their receptivity to the gospel.

**The Key Components For Spiritual Growth:**

1. The Sower is the one God uses to plant the seed in your life.

2. The Seed is the Word of God.

3. The Soil is your heart.

**Identifying The Soil:**

1. The hard heart; is seed sown along path is those that hear but

 don’t understand the Word.

2. The shallow heart; is seed sown on rocky ground receives the

 Word with joy but have no depth of conviction.

3. The crowded heart; is seed sown among thorns hears the

 Word, but their love for things of the world stifles the Word

 from taking root their heart.

4. The good heart; is seed sown on good soil is receptive to the

 Word, bears fruit and yields a harvest.

**What We Learn:**

1. When you identify the soil, you are able to adjust your level of

 expectations.

2. Hearing isn’t the same as listening.

3. You must determine what type of soil you are going to be in

 order to experience spiritual growth.

4. God expects every Christian to multiply and bear fruit.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray that God would give us eyes to see and ears to hear the glorious truth of the gospel. Pray that God’s Word would take deep root in our hearts such that it produces faithful obedience and visible fruit.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Can you think of a recent example when you wish you had listened to more closely to something that was said? What happened? Why didn’t you listen more closely?

What is the difference between hearing something and listening to something?

Do you know people represented by each of these soils? What kind of “soil” best represents you now? Five years ago?

When we share our faith with others, we are the farmer spreading the seed. What help do you get from this parable about sharing your faith?

According to verse 15, what are the characteristics of a person who has been born again?

Read James 1:22-25: Why is it not enough to just hear the word of God? What does putting it into practice reveal about our commitment to Him?

What active ways can we till the soil of our hearts to make us ready to receive the word of God? Before worship? Before our group? Before our personal time with God?