

Luke 8:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Analysis

Jesus explains the good soil: 'But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.' The 'honest and good heart' (Greek 'kalē kai agathē kardia,' καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ καρδίᾳ) describes receptive, prepared soil—humble, teachable, sincere. The progression is crucial: hear, keep (retain, obey), bring forth fruit. The phrase 'with patience' (Greek 'en hypomonē,' ἐν ὑπομονῇ) indicates fruit-bearing takes time, requiring endurance. Genuine faith perseveres, producing observable life change—fruit proving the reality of conversion.

Historical Context

The 'good ground' hearers contrast with the other three soils—path (word stolen by Satan, v. 12), rock (superficial faith without roots, v. 13), thorns (worldliness choking growth, v. 14). Jesus emphasizes that true disciples don't merely hear but retain and obey God's word, producing fruit over time. This fruit includes character transformation (Galatians 5:22-23), good works (Ephesians 2:10), and evangelistic results (bringing others to Christ). Patience is necessary because fruit doesn't appear immediately—spiritual growth requires time and endurance. This parable warns against false profession while encouraging genuine believers to persevere.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the progression of hearing, keeping, and bearing fruit teach about genuine versus superficial faith?
2. How does the phrase 'with patience' correct expectations of instant results and emphasize long-term faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

τὸ δὲ ἐν τῇ καλῇ γῇ οὗτοί εἰσιν οἵτινες ἐν
G3588 But in G3588 an honest ground they are which in
G1161 G1722 G2570 G1093 G3778 G1526 G3748 G1722

καρδίᾳ καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον
heart an honest and good having heard G3588 the word
G2588 G2570 G2532 G18 G191 G3056

κατέχουσιν καὶ καρποφοροῦσιν ἐν ὑπομονῇ
keep and bring forth fruit in patience
G2722 G2532 G2592 G1722 G5281

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:36 (Parallel theme): For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Luke 6:45 (Good): A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Colossians 1:10 (Good): That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 1:6 (Parallel theme): Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

1 John 2:3 (Word): And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

John 14:15 (Word): If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Luke 11:28 (Word): But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Romans 6:22 (Parallel theme): But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Romans 7:4 (Word): Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Matthew 24:13 (Parallel theme): But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.