

# 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,' καλὴ καὶ ἀγαθὴ καρδία) 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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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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

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τὸ	δε	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

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**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.