

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, you have called the church into being and have gathered us into one family. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to live in love and peace with one another. Open our hearts to the sowing of your Word. May our hearts be good soil where love can grow. May our actions today be fruit of Your love in our neighborhood. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SOWING THE SEED

The Parable of the Sower

The kingdom of God begins with the proclamation of God's Word; the sowing of the seed in the hearts of people.

The Parable of the Sower

The seed is the Word of God

The soils represent four types of people and their responses to the Word that was sowed.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of Your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and
peace is understood.

When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.
When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The Word of God is proclaimed and causes different responses among those who hear; God's people receives the Word, understand it and obediently fulfill it. Others fail to listen because of a hardened heart, a basic superficiality or a vested interest in riches and possessions.

However, the parable of the sower is good news. God promises us through the parable that the faithful proclamation of His Word will never fail to bring forth fruit, "and producing a crop – thirty, sixty or even a hundred time what was sown."