



PRACTICES: STUFF CHRISTIANS DO TO GROW

SERMON 3: HOPE FOR WITHERING FAITH

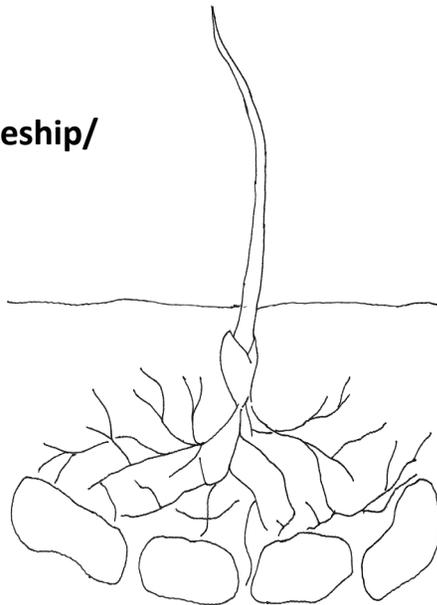
Wither: 1. (of a plant) become dry and shriveled. 2. cease to flourish; fall into decay or decline.

“Like the seeds in the parable, faith is dynamic, not static: it matures by hearing, receiving, and bearing fruit—or it withers and decays.”

~ Dr. James Edwards

Clarity: The Problem is the Rocks

Crossover: Agronomy to Discipleship/ Soil Care to Soul Care



"I believe; help my unbelief!"

~ A dad who needed Jesus' help (Mark 9:24)

Connection: Practices For a Flourishing Faith

Before

During

After

Going Deeper

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

(For individuals or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read Mark 4:1-20. Focus on the rocky soil. Write a sentence or two describing the problem facing the seed in the rocky soil.
2. Shallow could be a good word describe the problem of the seed. What does a shallow faith prevent a follower of Jesus from doing?
3. What do you think the immediately joyful believer was expecting life with Jesus to be like? What did they find? Has this happened to you before?
4. Read these three verses and explain how they relate to the rocky soil: 1 John 3:12-14; 1 Peter 4:12-16; John 16:33.
5. Spiritual Exercise: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any “rocks” that are hampering your faith from flourishing. If He shows you one, what must you do to dig it up and let your roots down deeper? You are not alone... who can help?