

Let's let Jesus define good soil, beginning with Matthew's account:

3 Luke 8:15

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, **keep it\*** and bear fruit with patience.

\*Greek *katecho* =  
κατέχω (kat-ekh'-o)

The word literally means to hold something down; in a positive sense it means to hold it tightly so as to protect it from being taken away.

### Match the Following Passages to the Numbered Statements

\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 11:2

\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 15:2

\_\_\_ Hebrews 10:23

- 3a. Our human role is to "hold fast" but the encouraging thing to know is that God's role is to remain faithful to the promises He has given us.
- 3b. Those who are truly saved will hold firmly to God's Word.
- 3c. It's a praiseworthy thing for believers to hold on to the teachings that have been passed on to them by the person who discipled them.

2 Mark 4:20

But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, **accept it\***, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

\*Greek *paradechomai* =  
παραδέχομαι (par-ad-ekh'-o-mi)

The word *dechomai* (receive) is intensified by the prefix *para* (near or by one's side), thus it conveys the idea of embracing.

### Match the Following Passages to the Numbered Statements

\_\_\_ Acts 15:4

\_\_\_ 1 Timothy 5:19

\_\_\_ Hebrews 12:6

- 2a. This word carries the idea of welcoming something or someone into one's presence—a warm and friendly reception.
- 2b. This word is also used to describe the act of adoption, when a father lovingly acknowledges a child as his own.
- 2c. This word is also used to describe the action of accepting something as being true and valid.

1 Matthew 13:23

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and **understands it\***, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

\*Greek *sunieimi* =  
συνίημι (soon-ee'-ay-mee)

The word literally means to send or bring together, thus in this case to mentally put things together so as to comprehend or make sense of it.

### Match the Following Passages to the Numbered Statements

\_\_\_ Matthew 13:19

\_\_\_ Luke 24:44-45

\_\_\_ Acts 28:26

\_\_\_ Acts 28:27

- 1a. Sometimes people hear and see but do not understand.
- 1b. Sometimes people with a lot of Bible knowledge do not understand it ("put it all together" so as to make clear sense).
- 1c. Sometimes lack of understanding is a "calloused or dull or hard heart" problem.
- 1d. People who hear but don't understand are spiritually vulnerable.