

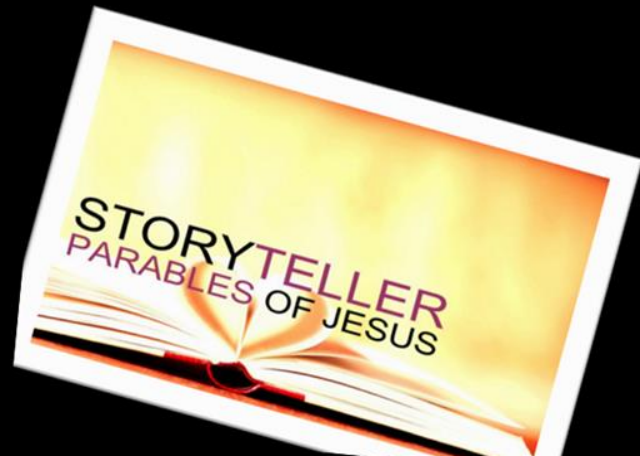
A Faith That Lasts



STORYTELLER
PARABLES OF JESUS

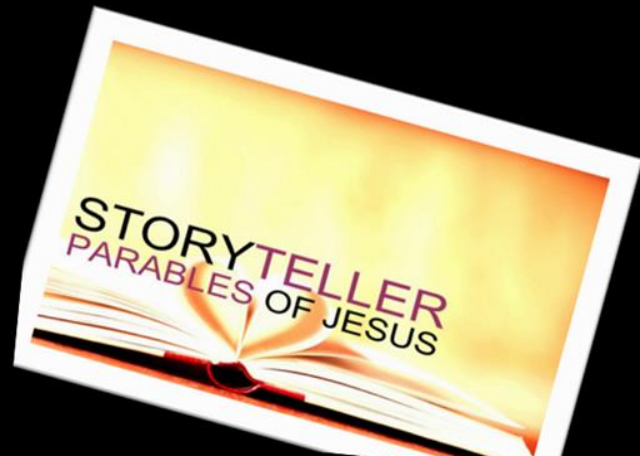
Then Jesus said to them, If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?

Mark 4:13 (NLT)

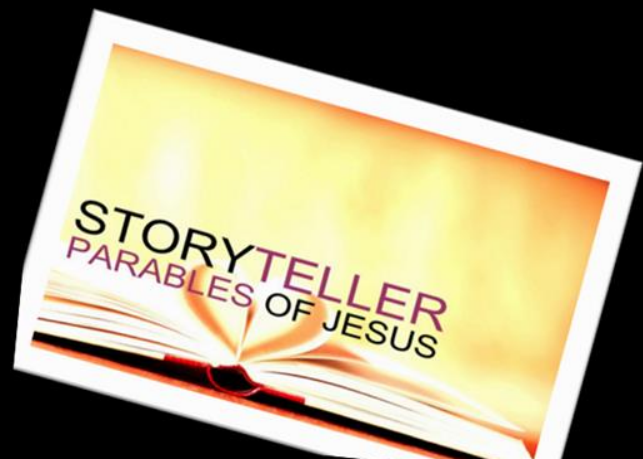


What does this story teach?

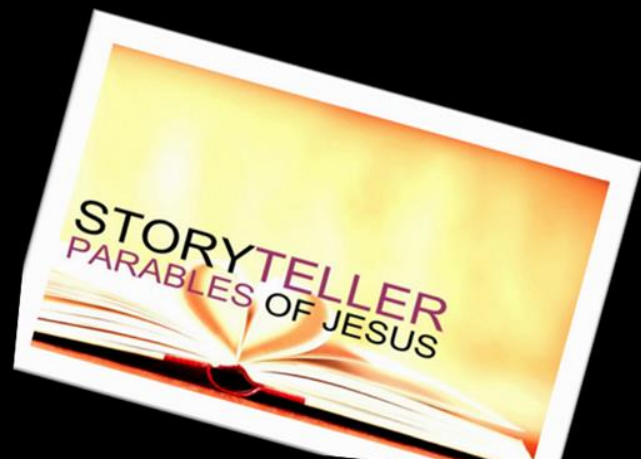
1. God wants everyone to hear the good news.



Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. ⁴ As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath... ⁵ Other seed fell on shallow soil ... ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns ... ⁸ Still other seeds fell on fertile soil...

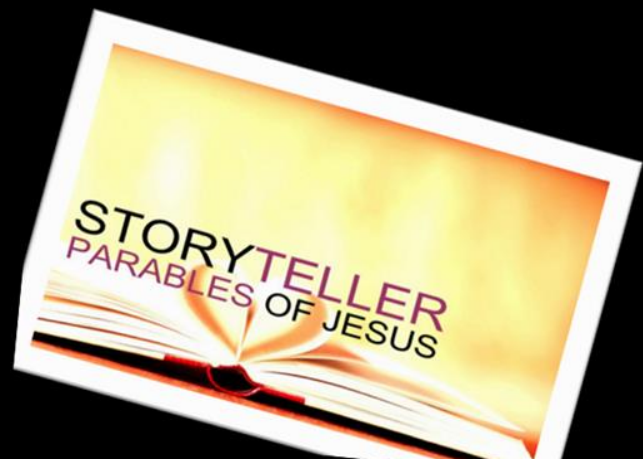


I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.



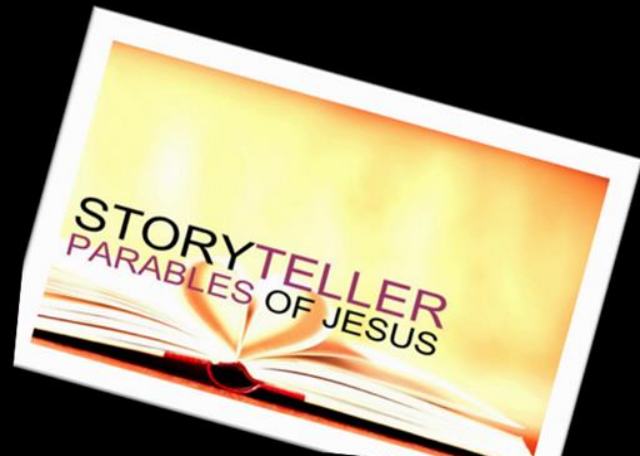
³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)

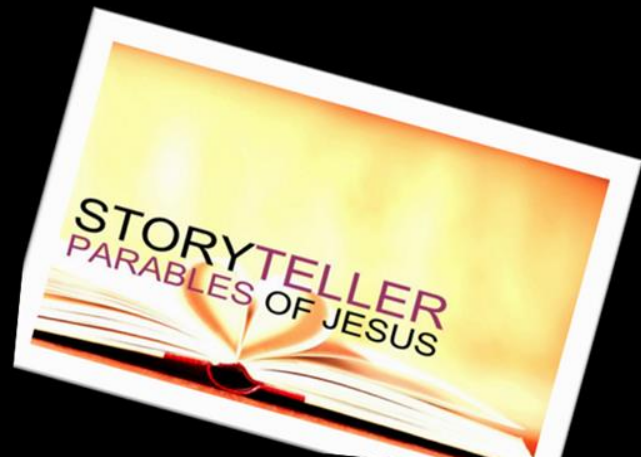


What does this story teach?

2. God wants everyone to enjoy a fruitful life.

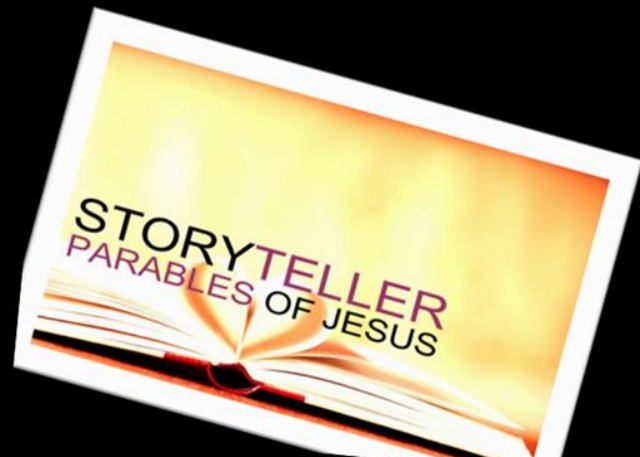


And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!



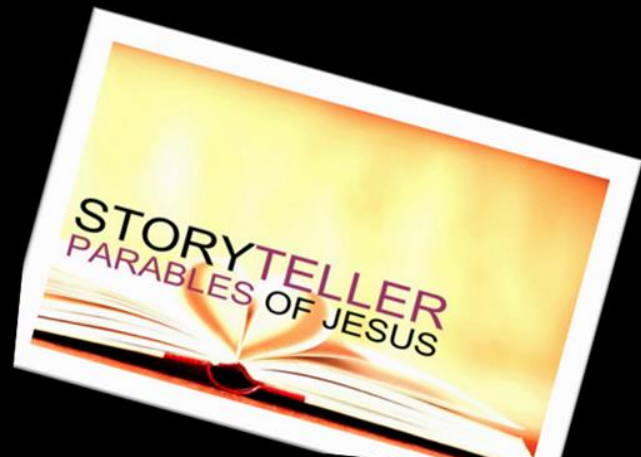
I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

John 15:1-2 (NIV)



My true disciples produce bountiful harvests. This brings great glory to my Father.

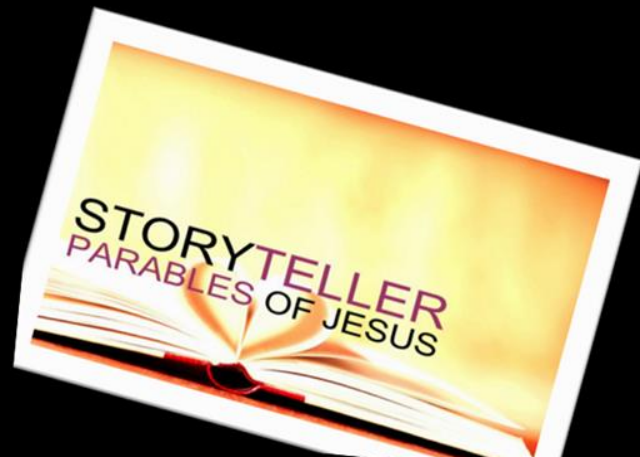
John 15:8 (TLB)



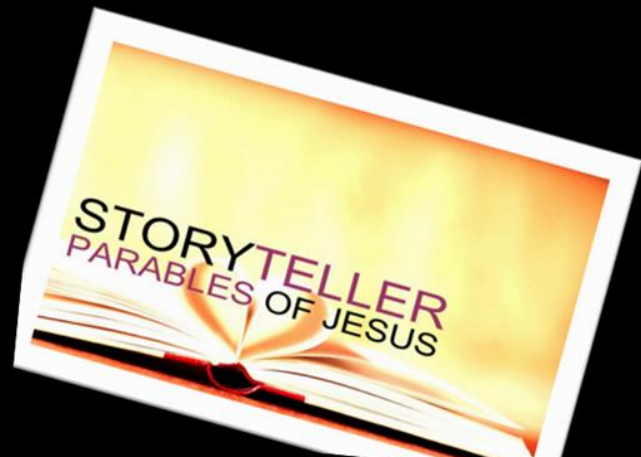
What does this story teach?

3. The condition of my heart
determines my response.

- The hard heart... (v.15)



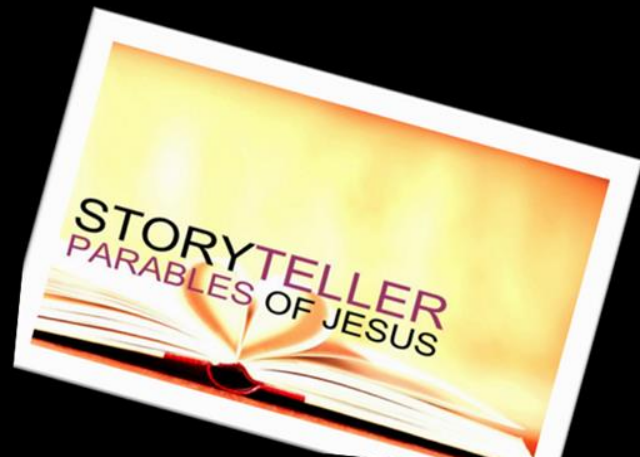
The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.



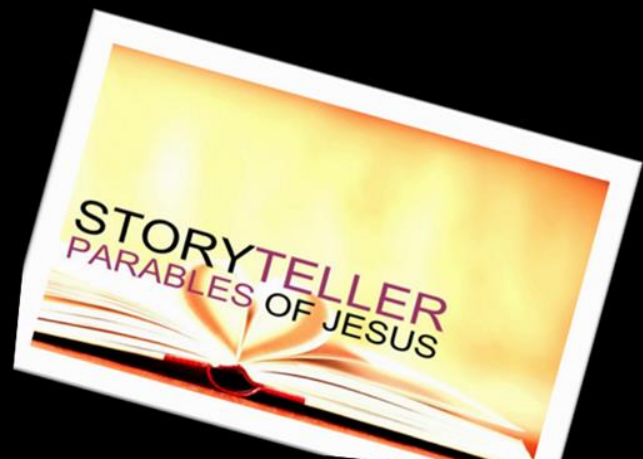
Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.

Proverbs 28:14 (NIV)

- The impulsive heart. (v.16-17)

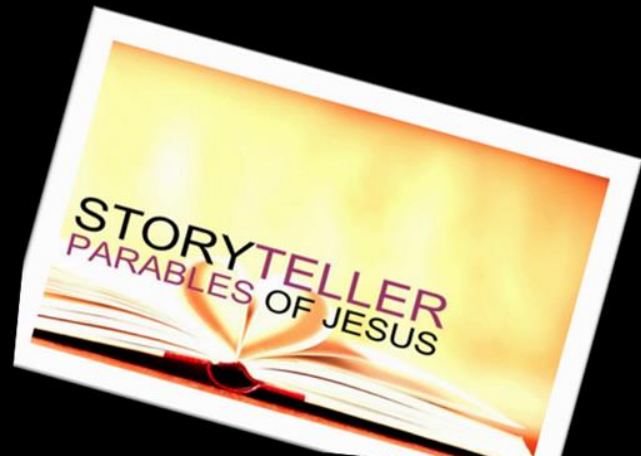


The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.



Getting excited about something without knowledge isn't good. It's even worse to be in a hurry and miss the way.

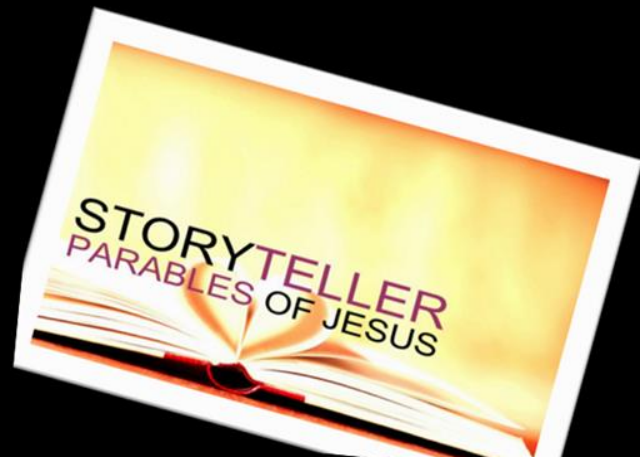
Proverbs 19:2 (NIRV)



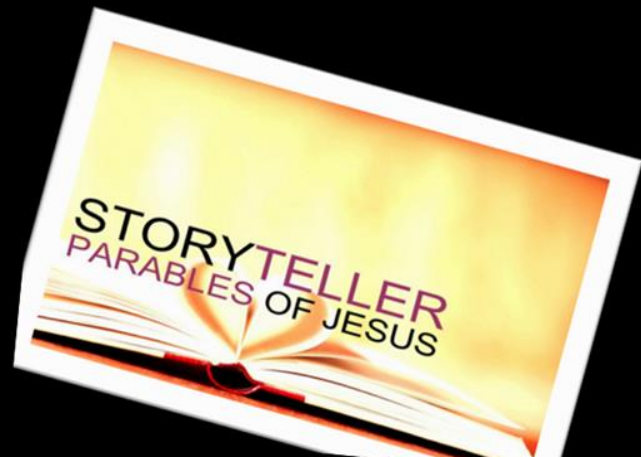
For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him.

Philippians 1:29 (NIV)

- The divided heart. (v.18-19)

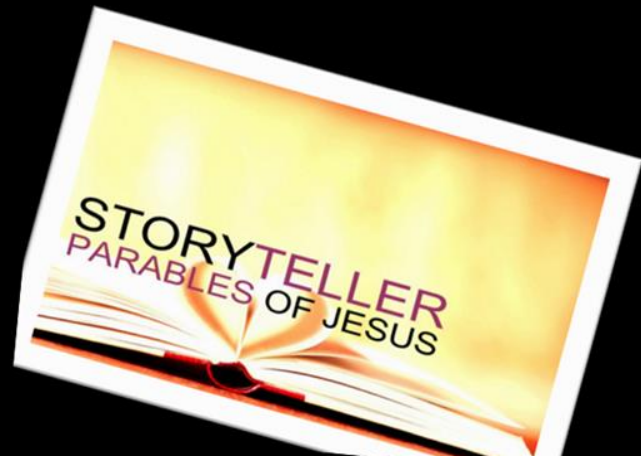


The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, ¹⁹ but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.



*Do your best to come to me quickly,
10 for Demas, because he loved this
world, has deserted me and has gone
to Thessalonica.*

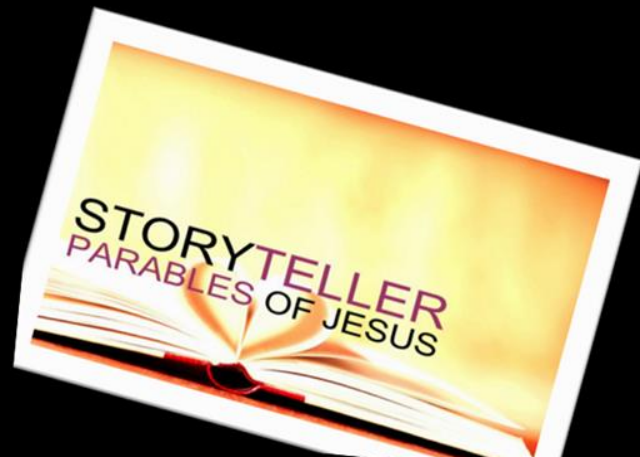
2 Timothy 2:3-4a (NIV)



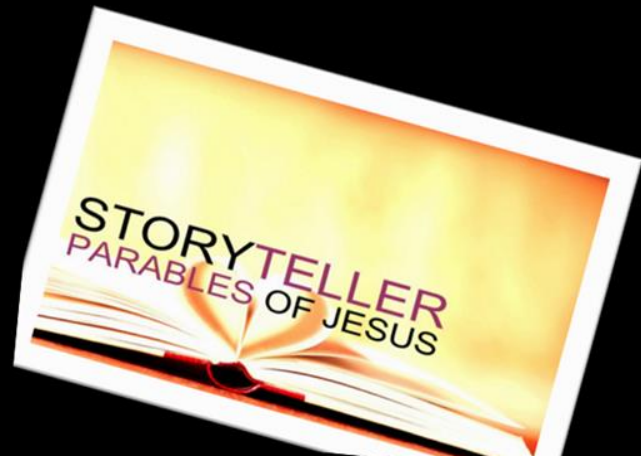
If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.

1 John 2:15 (NIV)

- The receptive heart. (v.20)

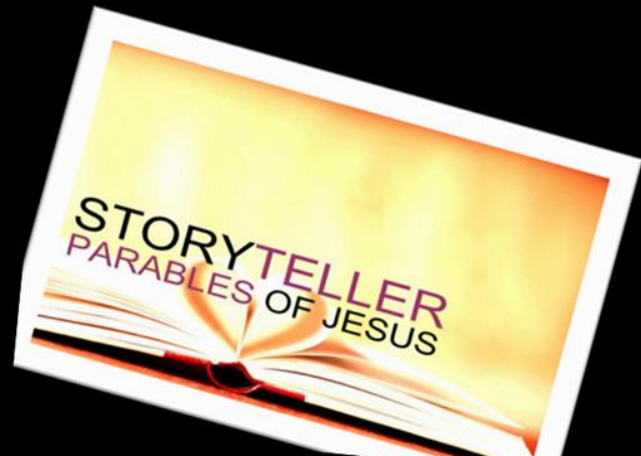


And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"



But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:15 (NIV)

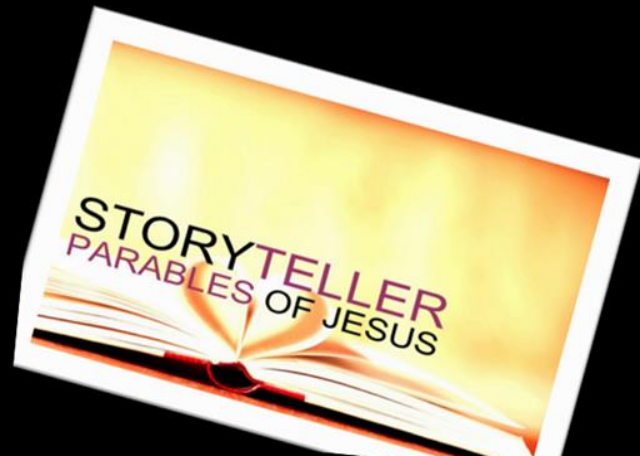


What does this story teach?

4. I'm responsible for maintaining
a receptive heart.

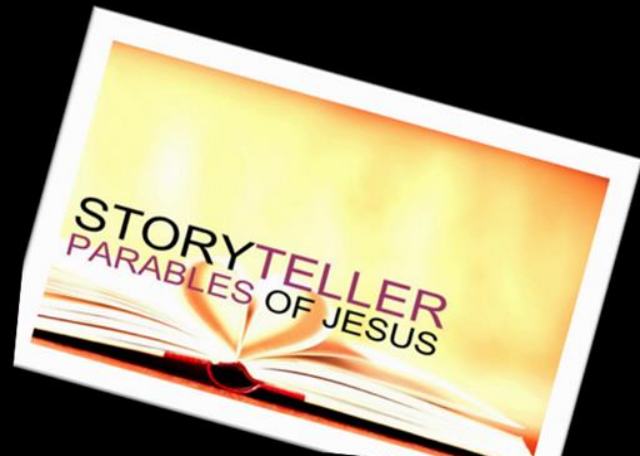
*Are you listening to this? Really
listening?*

Mark 4:9 (MSG)



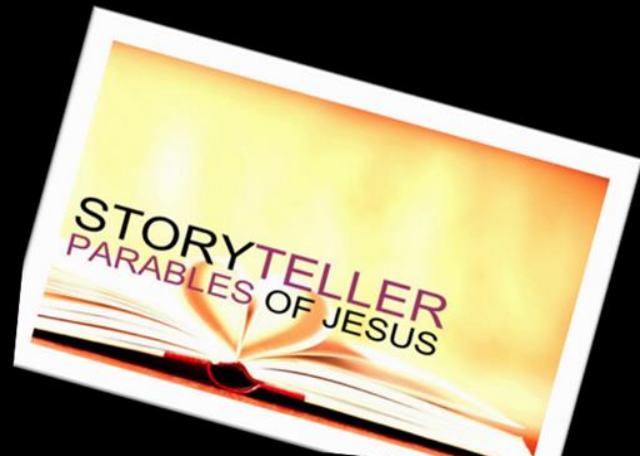
*Let your roots grow down into him
and draw up nourishment from him.
See that you go on growing in the
Lord, and become strong and
vigorous in the truth you were
taught.*

Colossians 2:7 (TLB)



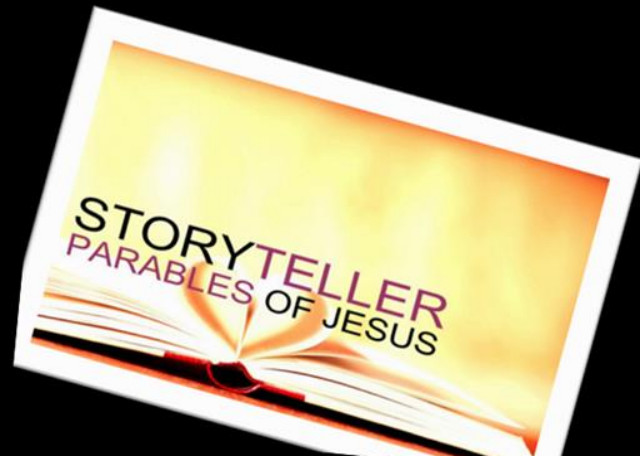
How do I maintain a receptive heart?

1. I open my heart to God's Word.



*Blessed is the one...² whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season...*

Psalms 1:1-3 (NIV)

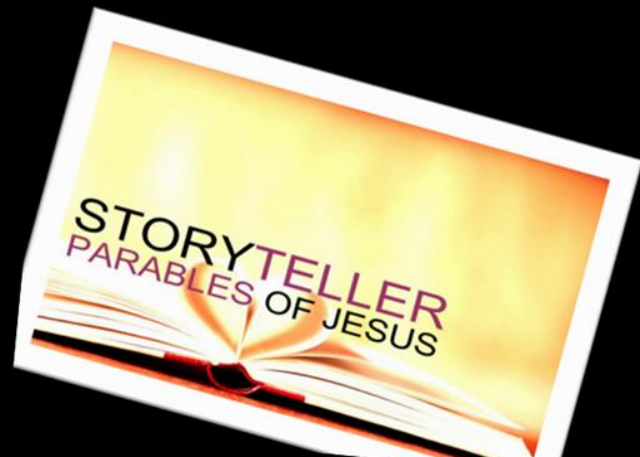


How do I maintain a receptive heart?

2. I let godly people help me.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

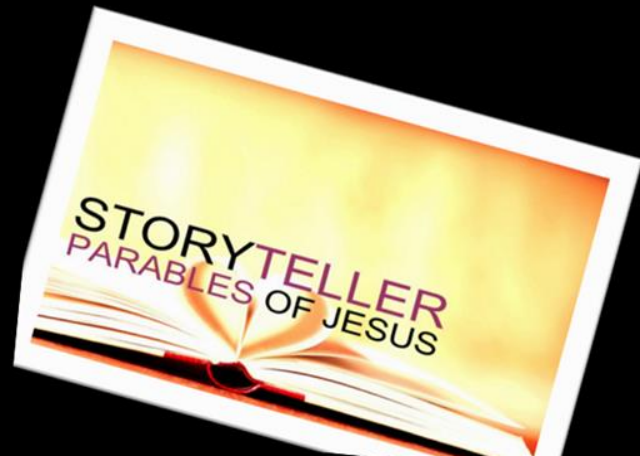


How do I maintain a receptive heart?

3. I surrender my heart to God.

Submit to God and accept the word that he plants in your hearts.

James 1:27 (GNT)



*I give new life to those who are
humble and to those whose hearts
are broken.*

Isaiah 57:15 (NCV)

