

THE SOIL



When we look at the soil it looks very uninteresting and dead. We may not notice that it is rocky, hard, and soft or has color to it. We may not even be aware that there are many different kinds of soil and each one is different from the others. Despite all of this, what happens when you put a seed into the soil and pour a little water on it? Suddenly this dead soil gives life to the seed and the young plant that grows from it.

The soil which seems so lifeless is really home to many millions of insects, burrowing animals, plants and bacteria (microscopic life). If we could see all the life in the soil we would be amazed at this miracle of creation.

What can we learn from God's creation of the soil?

Before God gave us faith in Jesus as His Son and our Savior, we were like the lifeless soil. We seemed to be lifeless and, in fact, we were. Without Jesus we do not have eternal life and are dead even while we are alive. With Jesus we are alive even if we die because we have eternal life thanks to what Jesus did for us on the cross. Jesus taught us this when he said in John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." What Jesus is teaching us here is that whether we are alive or if we die, if we believe that Jesus is our Savior from our sins, we will live forever in heaven. We will not die forever but will live forever with God in heaven.

We are like lifeless soil until faith is planted in us by God. With the living water which is what Jesus is called in the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, that seed of faith will grow and become a beautiful thing for all to see. Our faith in Jesus gives us great joy and beauty in our lives. Others who see how our faith works in our lives will also be encouraged just like when you see someone else's garden flowers and enjoy them just like they were your own flowers. When other people who do not believe in Jesus see your faith working in your life, they may be jealous of your joy and ask about why you believe in Jesus. From the lifeless soil that is made alive in Jesus, others may come to believe in Jesus also.

God uses the soil to teach us that Jesus lived a perfect life and then gave his life to save us from our sins. Jesus died on the cross and was buried. The grave could not hold Jesus and He rose again from the dead. This lesson is like planting a seed that grows up from the soil and is alive for all to enjoy. When we believe that Jesus is our Savior the Bible

teaches us that our sinful nature died and was buried with Jesus but like Jesus, we are made alive again and will live forever in heaven. In Colossians 2:12-13 we learn, "We have been made clean in God's sight having been buried with him (Jesus) in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins."

God also teaches us that His holy word (the Bible), like the soil, gives life to many. Just as the soil gives a home and life to many living things, God's holy word brings us to faith and an eternal home in heaven. The Bible teaches us in Romans 10:17, "Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ." The Bible is not just a book; it has the power to give us faith in Jesus because it is God's words that we read. Like the "lifeless" soil that gives life to many creatures, the "lifeless" book, the Bible, gives faith and eternal life to many.

Jesus uses the different types of soil to give us a picture of the different types of people who hear His message of salvation in Matthew 13:18-23. When we see the soil, we are reminded of God's lesson to teach us to be good soil, ready for planting and producing a good crop of faith and the willingness to serve God. God's word is like the nutrients that make the soil good and fertile and producing good things.

It seems that there is much God wants us to learn from the soil.

