



JUST LIKE A TYRE GRIPS THE ROAD  
WE NEED TO GET A GRIP ON LIFE

GETTING A  
**GRIP**  
ON ~~THINGS~~  
our spiritual life



*“Before we can become what  
God wants us to become **we**  
**have to grow spiritually.**”*

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## **TEXT: Luke 8:1; 4-15** (niv)

Jesus once told a story to a crowd of people who gathered to listen to Him. In the story Jesus identifies three barriers that prevent us from growing spiritually. In the same story, Jesus also presents us with three antidotes to grow spiritually.

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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

# 1. Decide to be *responsive* to God.

**Luke 8:5** (nlt) *A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it.*



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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

1. Decide to be *responsive* to God.

**Luke 8:12** (tlb) *The hard path where some seed fell represents the hard hearts of those who hear the words of God, but then the devil comes and steals the words away and prevents people from believing and being saved.*



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# Three causes that contribute to developing a closed mind.

**FEAR**

**BITTERNESS**

**PRIDE**

**James 1:21** (gw) *So get rid of all immoral behavior and all the wicked things you do. Humbly accept the Word that God has placed in you. This Word can save you.*

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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

## 2. Decide to *grow* spiritually.

**Luke 8:6 (tlb)** *Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. This seed began to grow, but soon it withered and died for lack of moisture.*

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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

## 2. Decide to *grow* spiritually God.

Jesus says this shallow soil represents a *shallow* commitment to Him and to His Word.

**Luke 8:13** (gw) *Some people are like the seeds on rocky soil. They welcome the Word with joy, whenever they hear it, but they don't develop any roots. They believe for a while, but when their faith is tested, they abandon it.*



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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

2. Decide to **grow** spiritually God.

**Matthew 7:26** (niv)

**James 1:22** (ph) says; *Don't only hear the message but put it into practice. Otherwise you're merely deluding (cheating) yourself.*

**1 Timothy 4:7** (ph) *Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.*



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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

2. Decide to *grow* spiritually God.

### Four Commitments for Spiritual Growth

- i. Commit to spending *time* with other people who want to grow spiritually too.
  
- ii. Commit to *developing* spiritual disciplines to become spiritually fit.



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## Four Commitments for Spiritual Growth

iii. Commit to *using* our God-given abilities in serving God to help other people.

iv. Commit to *sharing* our experience-journeying with God.



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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

### **3. Get rid of any unnecessary *distractions.***

**Luke 8:7** (ncv) *Some seed fell among thorny weeds, but the weeds grew up with it and choked the good plants.*

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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

3. Get rid of any unnecessary *distractions*.

**Luke 8:14 (nlt)** *The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.*

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If we want to grow spiritually we must ...

3. Get rid of any unnecessary *distractions*.

Jesus is saying this soil is full of *weeds*.

This is the third barrier that keeps us from growing spiritually - an *overcrowded* life.



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In Luke 8:14 (niv) Jesus points out three kinds of distractions (*weeds*) ...

i. The ***cares*** of life.

ii. ***Riches*** can choke our vitality.

iii. ***Pleasures*** can be a weed.



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**Luke 8:15** (nlt) *And the seed that fell on the good ground is like those who hear God's teaching with good, honest hearts and obey it and patiently produce good fruit.*

When it comes to spiritual growth, the heart of the matter is really a matter of the heart. What does your heart reveal?



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## Application

Think of one thing in your life that's pulling you away from God. It may be good but it is a negative distraction.



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