

# Are You Listening?

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“...when Jesus said this, He called out, **‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’**”  
(Luke 8:8b)

## FOUR WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR LISTENING SKILLS...

#1. \_\_\_\_\_ .

“...some seed fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.” (8:5)

“Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes along and takes away the word from their hearts, so they cannot believe and be saved.” (8:12)

The hardened path represents a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

There are three things that cause a person to close their heart so that they don't listen to what God is saying:

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

The tragedy of a hardened heart is that it is \_\_\_\_\_.

“Get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21)

#2. \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Other seed fell on shallow soil with rock beneath. This seed began to grow but soon withered and died for lack of moisture.” (Luke 8:6 LB)

“Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing, they fall away.” (8:13)

The shallow soil represents the \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

#3. \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Other seed fell among thorns which grew up with it and choked the plants.” (8:7)

“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go their way, they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they don't mature.” (8:14)

The soil with weeds represents the \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Gal. 5:22-23)

Why is it that so many Christians don't have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives?

Beware of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

What is a weed?

#4. \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” (Luke 8:8a)

“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.” (8:15)

The good soil represents a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!” (James 1:22)

**Question: How does God soften hard soil?**