

## **7-Day Devotional: "Increase" Week 3**

**Theme Scripture:** *"But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."* (Matthew 13:8 NKJV)

### **Day 1: Where Is My Increase?**

**Scripture:** *"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."* (Galatians 6:9 NKJV)

#### **Devotional Thought:**

Have you ever felt like you're doing all the right things—praying, fasting, giving, and showing up to church—but still not seeing the results you've been waiting for? It's easy to feel discouraged when the harvest doesn't match the effort. But before we question God's promise, we need to examine the condition of our hearts. The seed of God's Word is always good, but the soil of our hearts determines whether it will grow.

#### **Reflection Question:**

What areas of your life might need preparation to receive God's Word?

#### **Prayer:**

Lord, help me to examine my heart and prepare it to receive Your Word. Teach me to trust Your timing and remain faithful as I wait for my increase. Amen.

### **Day 2: The Path – Distracted Hearts**

**Scripture:** *"And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them."* (Matthew 13:4 NKJV)

#### **Devotional Thought:**

Distractions are one of the enemy's greatest tools. A distracted heart is a defeated heart because it can't hold onto what God is trying to plant. Whether it's social media, worry, or the busyness of life, distractions steal our focus and prevent the Word from taking root. The enemy knows that if he can keep us distracted, he can keep us from growing.

#### **Reflection Question:**

What distractions are keeping you from fully focusing on God's Word?

#### **Prayer:**

Lord, help me to identify and remove the distractions in my life. Teach me to focus on You and protect the Word You've planted in my heart. Amen.

### **Day 3: The Rocky Places – Shallow Faith**

**Scripture:** *“Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.”* (Matthew 13:5 NKJV)

#### **Devotional Thought:**

Shallow faith looks good on the surface but lacks the depth to endure. It’s built on emotions rather than devotion. When trials come, it withers because it has no roots. James 1:22-24 reminds us to be doers of the Word, not just hearers. Faith grows when we go beyond Sunday inspiration and dig deeper into God’s Word during the week.

#### **Reflection Question:**

How can you deepen your faith this week?

#### **Prayer:**

Lord, I don’t want a surface-level faith. Help me to dig deeper into Your Word and develop roots that will sustain me through life’s challenges. Amen.

### **Day 4: The Thorns – Competing Priorities**

**Scripture:** *“And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.”* (Matthew 13:7 NKJV)

#### **Devotional Thought:**

Weeds grow faster than seeds because they require no cultivation. They represent the distractions, worries, and misplaced priorities that choke the life out of our faith. A weed is anything that grows in your life without intentional planting. Jesus came to give us abundant life, but weeds steal our focus, kill our joy, and destroy our ability to grow.

#### **Reflection Question:**

What “weeds” in your life are choking your faith, and how can you remove them?

#### **Prayer:**

Lord, help me to recognize the weeds in my life and remove anything that competes with You. Teach me to prioritize Your Word above all else. Amen.

### **Day 5: The Good Ground – Prepared Hearts**

**Scripture:** *“But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”* (Matthew 13:8 NKJV)

**Devotional Thought:**

Good ground doesn't happen by accident—it's cultivated through prayer, study, and obedience. Prayer tills the soil of our hearts, study plants the seed deep within us, and obedience waters the seed so it can grow. Without all three, the atmosphere isn't able to produce. When we prepare our hearts, we create an environment where not only we thrive, but our families, churches, and communities thrive as well.

**Reflection Question:**

How can you cultivate your heart to be good ground for God's Word?

**Prayer:**

Lord, I want to be good ground. Help me to cultivate my heart through prayer, study, and obedience so that Your Word can thrive in my life. Amen.

**Day 6: Four Things to Do for Increase**

**Scripture:** *“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”* (Proverbs 4:23 NKJV)

**Devotional Thought:**

If we want to see an increase, we need to:

1. **Guard our hearts** from distractions and negativity (Proverbs 4:23).
2. **Go deeper** by studying and meditating on God's Word (Colossians 2:7).
3. **Eliminate the weeds** by removing anything that competes with God's Word (Hebrews 12:1).
4. **Stay consistent** in prayer, worship, and obedience (Galatians 6:9).

These steps create an environment where God's Word can grow and produce a harvest in our lives.

**Reflection Question:**

Which of these four steps do you need to focus on this week?

**Prayer:**

Lord, show me how to guard my heart, go deeper in Your Word, eliminate the weeds in my life, and stay consistent in my walk with You. Amen.

## **Day 7: The Explanation of the Parable**

**Scripture:** *“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.”* (Matthew 13:23 NKJV)

### **Devotional Thought:**

Jesus explains that the seed is the Word of God, and the soil represents the condition of our hearts. The question isn't whether God's Word works—the question is whether we're creating the right conditions for it to grow.

If we want to see an increase, we need to stop blaming the seed and start examining the soil. God's Word is powerful, but it requires a heart that is ready to receive, apply, and steward it.

### **Reflection Question:**

What steps will you take to ensure your heart is good ground for God's Word?

### **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for the seed of Your Word. Help me to prepare my heart, protect the seed, and steward it well so that I can see the increase You've promised. Amen.